

# 1st Seder Weekly Divrei Torah

A BAIS MEDRASH PROGRAM FOR MEN

**FIRST SEDER BAIS MEDRASH** established in 2012 by Rabbi Uri Greenspan, provides a unique learning program for men with diverse schedules, ages, and backgrounds. Since its inception, the daily learning programs of Gemara, Mishnayos, Tanach, Halacha, and Jewish ethics, have provided hundreds of First Seder participants with a rich, challenging, and authentic Bais Medrash experience. The wide range of subjects and the varying levels of difficulty allow for the participants to choose which learning track best fits their individual needs, enabling them to truly take their learning to the next level.

## DAILY SCHEDULE:

9-11:30am: Gemara in-depth and B'Chavrusa

9:10am-1pm: Classroom Learning

Monday 9-9:45pm: Dirshu Mishna Berura Shiur

Tuesday 8:45-9:45pm: Daf HaShovua Gemara Shiur

**TO JOIN:** Contact Rabbi Uri Greenspan at 732.407.3178  
Office@FirstSeder.org, Lower Merion Synagogue

## PARSHAS ACHAREI MOS-KEDOSHIM – KIDS ARE PEOPLE TOO

Rabbi Shlomo Caplan

“You shall reprove your fellow [Jew], but do not bear a sin because of him” (Vayikra 19:17). The Gemara (Arachin 16b) explains, “Do not bear a sin when you reprove him by embarrassing him.” Rav Avraham Pam observes that many parents seem to be under the impression that this prohibition does not apply to children. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed, the Rambam (Hilchos Dai'os 6:8) writes, “From here we derive that it is forbidden to embarrass a Yisrael, and certainly in public...Therefore a person should be careful in this matter not to embarrass his fellow in public whether he is a child or an adult.”

Rav Pam relates a story that demonstrates how careful one must be not to embarrass a child – even one's own children. When his mother was nine years old she wanted to fast on a particular fast day. Since she knew that her parents would disapprove, she went to a friend's house and remained out of sight the whole day. At night, when she came home for supper, a certain rabbi who was visiting remarked that she should be taught a lesson by giving her a good *potch*. However, her father totally ignored this comment. When she went to bed, her father followed her to her room. He took

her into his arms and said, “My dear child you wanted to fast just like your parents. However, when one is exempt from fasting he does not get a Mitzvah for fasting. On the contrary, the Mitzvah is to guard your health by not fasting. When you become twelve, you will be obligated to fast and then it will be a Mitzvah. Now, good night and sleep well.” Rav Pam notes that these words were very soothing to his mother. She told him this story when she was close to ninety years old. Although they were said when she was only nine, they were indelibly inscribed on her heart.

Similarly, we must infer that the opposite is also very true. A harsh word or demeaning rebuke can stay with a child for a lifetime. Who knows what the effect of just one negative word, or the cumulative effect of many such words, can have on a person for the rest of his life?

During the period of Sefira we mourn the loss of Rabbi Akiva's 24,000 students. They were punished for not showing proper *kavod* to each other. Although their failing was certainly very slight, they were held to a higher standard in their *bein adam lechaveiro* because of their great Torah erudition. Rav Pam relates an incident

involving a contemporary Gadol Hador who obviously had learned from the mistake of Rabbi Akiva's students, and was very sensitive in this area. Rav Isser Zalman Meltzer was testing a young boy on the Gemara that he had learned. However, the child did not really understand the topic at all. When Rav Isser Zalman attempted to correct him, the boy stood his ground insisting that he was correct. Additional attempts to explain the Gemara to him met with the same result. At that point Rav Isser Zalman left the room and began pacing back and forth. He was overheard saying, “Let your fellow's honor be as dear to you as your own” (Avos 2:10). He applied the level of *kavod* due to himself to a mere child.

Although the Torah exempts children from Mitzvos, there is no exemption for adults in their *bein adam lechaveiro* obligations to children. Just as we are forbidden to cause them physical harm, we are forbidden to cause them emotional pain. Indeed, *V'ahavta lerei'acha kamocho* applies to all our fellow Yidden, even little children.

You can bring a *zechus refua shelaima* for Sandy Bruck - Shalom ben Tila Leah – and for all who need a *refuah sheleima* by signing up for a weekly erev Shabbos contribution at <https://pay.banquest.com/lightuptheworld> and by joining the 2-3 minute daily shiur on the writings of the Chofetz Chaim.

## SHABBOS VIDEO FOOTAGE

Questions for discussion at your Shabbos table by Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

Parshas Kedoshim talks about the mitzvah of Shabbos. This brings us to the following true story.

Daniel was the president of a shul in Baltimore. His shul had recently received a government grant to enhance security due to a rise in anti-Semitic attacks across the United States. As a result, numerous security cameras were installed throughout the premises, including several that provided a clear view of the bimah and the interior of the shul.

Daniel was responsible for allocating aliyos and tracking the pledges associated with each. He usually kept a

record of these details on an index card box. But one week he misplaced the index card box. He distributed the aliyos and hoped to try to remember who got which aliya and how much they pledged. However, after Shabbos, Daniel struggled to recall which congregant received which aliya and the corresponding pledges.

But then Daniel had an idea. He wondered if he could use the security footage recorded on Shabbos to help him recall the information. The recordings captured both audio and video, making it possible to see and hear the aliyos and pledges. However, he

was uncertain whether it would be appropriate to use the footage for such a purpose.

On one hand, the security cameras were installed and videoed on Shabbos due to a potentially life-threatening situation (pikuach nefesh) and may not be intended for more trivial matters. On the other hand, one could argue that since the footage already exists, it is permissible to use it for more mundane purposes, such as tracking aliyos and pledges. What do you think? This question was asked to Rav Tzvi Berkowitz.

## ONE KIDDUSH OR TWO?

One of Rav Shimshon Pincus's daughters was born less than two weeks before her brother's bar mitzvah. Rav Shimshon debated whether or not to make a kiddush immediately that week because he was hosting a huge kiddush the following week in honor of the bar mitzvah. If he would wait, he could make a double kiddush, a kiddush in honor of the double simchah, the bar mitzvah and his daughter's birth.

Rav Pincus recalled: "I almost decided not to make the kiddush, but on second

thought determined that just because her brother's bar mitzvah fell two weeks later, who was I to deny my newborn daughter hundreds of brachos that would be designated exclusively for her? Who knows what these brachos would do for her throughout her life, so lo and behold, we hosted two consecutive kiddushes, one week after the next!"

Indeed, time would reveal how desperately that girl would need those heartfelt brachos one day. Many years

later, following a tragic accident that claimed the lives of both her parents and sister, this daughter's life hung in the balance for many months. Yet, through prayers, miracles, and presumably the blessings she received as an infant, she emerged from danger and made a full recovery.

From The Life of Rav Shimshon Dovid Pincus, Published By Feldheim, Reprinted With Permission From Table Talk.

### Daf HaShavua


Chabura is learning Kesubos Daf א"ב

The Mussar shiur is currently learning the sefer Pele Yoetz on the timely topic of Ahavas Re'im. You can join the internationally enjoyed shiur either via WhatsApp or podcast. Please contact Rabbi Greenspan for more information.

## 1st Seder

A BAIS MEDRASH PROGRAM FOR MEN

### First Seder Weekly Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Morning Track 1: Shiurim					
9:20 AM – 9:55 AM	Mishnayos Tevul Yom <i>(R' Chesky Weiss)</i>	Mishnayos Tevul Yom <i>(R' Chesky Weiss)</i>	Mishnayos Tevul Yom <i>(R' Chesky Weiss)</i>	Mishnayos Tevul Yom <i>(R' Chesky Weiss)</i>	Parsha HaShevua <i>(R' Yehoshua Levy)</i>
10:00 AM – 10:40 AM	Gemara Gittin <i>(R' Daniel Baltuch)</i>	Gemara Gittin <i>(R' Daniel Baltuch)</i>	Gemara Gittin <i>(R' Daniel Baltuch)</i>	Gemara Gittin <i>(R' Daniel Baltuch)</i>	Gemara Gittin <i>(R' Daniel Baltuch)</i>
10:45 AM – 11:25 AM	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i>	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i>	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i>	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i>	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i>
11:30 AM – 12:10 PM	Practical Timely Halacha <i>(R' Mordechai Shain)</i>	The Life and Torah of our Leaders <i>(R' David Gross)</i>	Biur Tefilla <i>(R' Yoel Zeffren)</i>	Sefer Tehillim <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i>	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i>
12:15 PM – 1:00 PM	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i>	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i>	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i>	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i>	

### *Sifrai Chofetz Chaim*

Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim. Have you joined the daily shiur? You can listen via WhatsApp, podcast or online! You can also listen to archived shiurim from the Sefarim of the Chofetz Chaim of Ahavas Yisroel, Kavod Shamayim, Sfas Tamim, Zechor L'Miriam.

To sponsor the 1<sup>st</sup> Seder Weekly, please contact [office@firstseder.org](mailto:office@firstseder.org). For more information or to register for First Seder, contact [RabbiGreenspan@FirstSeder.org](mailto:RabbiGreenspan@FirstSeder.org) or 732-407-3178.

## Good Shabbos!