

Just a Story...

5-min Investment

by Rabbi Mendel Weinbach zt"l



Walking along a street in Tel Aviv an observant Jew decided to try his luck at bringing a secular resident of the bustling metropolis closer to his Jewish roots. He courteously stopped a passerby and offered to study some Torah with him for five minutes. To his pleasant surprise the fellow responded that he was interested in the offer and even invited him into his nearby home. Together they learned some Chumash, and when the five minutes were up our hero got up to leave.

"Wait", said his host. "If we already studied together I would like you to give your blessing to me and my wife who have been married many years and have not yet been blessed with children."

"Who am I to give you a blessing which will bring you the fulfillment of your wish!" was the humble response. "But what I can do is give you a suggestion that will help. Invite some of your neighbors and friends to participate in a weekly Torah shiur in your home and I will supply the teachers. In the merit of such an initiative you will be blessed."

The offer was accepted, the shiur became a regular event for many years and the hosting couple was soon blessed with their first child.

[Source: Ohr Somayach Institutions www.ohr.edu . Printed with permission]

Hints & Answers* **SHABBOS SHAILA:** *Sefer Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa* (28:92) writes: "It is permitted to learn on Shabbos even those [Torah] topics that one needs to know for after Shabbos (e.g., for a test that will take place after Shabbos). And one does not violate through this the prohibition of preparing on Shabbos for a weekday." (see footnotes 220 and 221 *ibid.* for the reason, and also a discussion about learning secular topics for a test on Shabbos.) **RHYME:** "above" **RIDDLE:** The four directions of the world. Each one is mentioned in Lech Lecha (13:14). In the Tanach, we find that the north has one name - Tzafon, while the other three directions have two names: west: *ma'arav* & *yam*; east: *mizrach* & *kedem*; south: *darom* & *negev*. || Note: Menucha's answer are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha, but rather as a springboard for discussions, further study.

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Menucha

בס"ד
A Shabbos table companion
for the whole family

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן שלמון ז"ל

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Halacha Challenge



Studying for a Test on Shabbos



"Where are you going, Rivky?" asked her sister Miriam on a Shabbos afternoon.

"I am going to my friend, Chana," answered Rivky.

"But why are you bringing a Chumash with you?!" asked Miriam.

"Because we have a Chumash test on Sunday. And I want to study for the test together with Chana," explained Rivky.

"But it's Shabbos today! How can you study for a test now?!" asked Miriam.

"But it's Torah. What? I can't learn Torah on Shabbos?!" asked Rivky.

Question: Can Rivky study for a Chumash test today?

(The "Hints & Answers" section is on page 4)

Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel

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Parsha Pearls

When is the first time in Rashi's commentary on the Torah do we see a description of a Torah abiding Jew? In this week's parsha. Based on the Midrash, Rashi writes:

“אֲשֶׁר־עָשׂוּ בְּחָרָן - שֶׁהִכְנִיסָן תַּחַת כַּנְפֵי הַשְּׁכִינָה, אַבְרָהָם מִגֵּייר אֶת הָאֲנָשִׁים, וְשָׂרָה מִגֵּיירַת הַנָּשִׁים, (פִּירוּשׁ רַשִּׁי בְּרֵאשִׁית יב:ה)

“and the souls they had acquired in Haran” - *whom he had brought under the wings of the Shechinah. Abraham would convert the men, and Sarah would convert the women* (Rashi's commentary to Bereishis 12:5)

Rashi describes the converts that Avraham and Sarah converted in Charan as “those whom they brought under the wings of the Shechina (Divine Presence).

What message is Rashi/Midrash trying to convey to us by describing the converts in such a way?

The message is that a Torah abiding Jew is someone who is under the wings of the *Shechina*.

Remember this when you wake up each morning. As you open your eye and say Mode Ani, think to yourself for a moment, “I am a Jew and I keep the Torah! That means that I am always under the wings of the *Shechina*!”



Rhymes for Kids



אֵל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֲרָאָה...

This Land is my home, this Land is my love.
A gift from our Father in Heavens _____.

“In order to make the Land dear in Avraham's eyes, Hashem did not reveal the Land to Avraham immediately.” (Peirush Rashi to Bereishis 12:1). We inherited the intrinsic love for Eretz Yisroel from Avraham Avinu.



Parsha Riddle



“...raise your eyes and look...”. Four of us are found in this verse that in parshas Lech Lecha you will see. Three of us have 2 names in the Torah. But one of us has only one name. What are we?

Haftorah Insights

In this week's Haftorah portion we read a powerful line from Yishayahu's prophecy (40:31):

יְקִיץ ה' יִחְלִיפוּ כָחַ יְעָלֻ אַבְרַ כְּנָשִׁרִים יְרוּצוּ וְלֹא יִיגָעוּ יֵלְכוּ וְלֹא יִיָּעֲפוּ.

But those who put their hope in Hashem shall renew [their] strength, they will grow wings like eagles; they shall run and not weary, they shall walk and not tire.

The classic *peirush* Metzudas David writes the following explanation on the first part of this verse: “Those who put their hope in Hashem, renew their strength at all times.” Hence from this verse, we learn an important fundamental life lesson: When you don't give up hope and look forward to Hashem's help, you always get new strength from Above that enables you to keep going forward!