

AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

A PROJECT
OF THE
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פרשת יתרו
כ' שבט תשפ"ג
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RABBI YITZCHOK
HISIGER, EDITOR
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WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

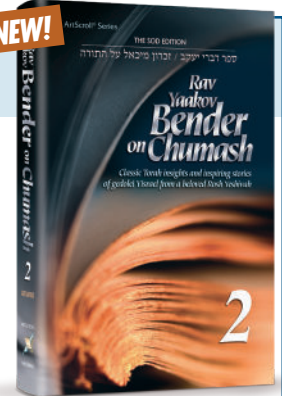
PROJECT DEDICATED BY MENACHEM AND BINAH BRAUNSTEIN AND FAMILY
L'ILLUI NISHMAS RAV MOSHE BEN RAV YISSOCHOR BERISH AND MARAS YENTA BAS YISROEL CHAIM

PARASHAH

THE FOUNDATION OF EVERYTHING

Rav Yaakov Bender On Chumash 2

NEW!



כְּבֹד אֶת אֲבִיךָ וְאֶת אִמְךָ.

Honor your father and your mother (20:12).

The *Aseres HaDibros* are generally divided into two sections, the first five considered to be *mitzvos bein adam laMakom* and the second five *bein adam lachaveiro*.

The fifth commandment, that of *kibbud av va'eim*, is not about the *bein adam lachaveiro* inherent in it, but the *bein adam laMakom* component, being a person who acknowledges and honors those who came before him.

This leads a person to honor the Creator.

The *Sefer HaChinuch* (Mitzvah 33) writes: "Among the reasons for the *mitzvah*...a person should take to heart that his parents are the cause of his being in this world, and it is fitting to offer them honor whenever possible, since they have struggled on his behalf since he arrived in this world.

"When this trait is firmly instilled in a person," continues the *Chinuch*, "he will grow to recognize and appreciate the kindness of the Creator, the cause of all fathers..."

Kibbud av va'eim is the foundation of everything.

Though the *dinim* and particulars of the *mitzvah* are important, sometimes when we focus on the action alone, we can lose the "heart" of the *mitzvah*, which is to bring joy to one's parents. Yes, it's important to put up the succah for your father and crucial that you help your mother set the table, but it's not just about checking off the boxes.

Just like *avodas Hashem* is not just about the *halachos*, but also about the emotion and passion that ac-

company the action, so too, this relationship, a microcosm of that one, is about the way your parents will feel.

I learned this not from hearing it, but from seeing it. When my eldest sister was getting married, my *zeide* announced that he was coming from Eretz Yisrael for the *simchah*. How my father, his only child, rejoiced!



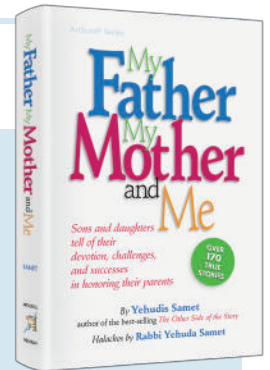
The Boyaner Rebbe

**WE MUST
IMMERSE
OURSELVES IN IT.**

The furniture in our home was old, likely purchased secondhand, but my father polished it weeks before the *zeide's* arrival in anticipation. He spoke about the visit with growing enthusiasm, and as the day approached, his excitement reached a peak. He left *yeshivah* early that day, something very unusual, and we all accompanied him to the airport, resplendent in our *Shabbos* clothing. We craned our necks and strained our eyes watching as the plane approached and landed, and then the flow of passengers coming off started. Though they were too far away to hear us, when my *zeide* finally

came off, my father — a forty-eight-year-old man and respected *mechanech* and *talmid chacham* — began to jump up and down and shout, "Papa, Papa, Papa!"

We, the children, were terribly embarrassed by our father screaming, "Papa, Papa, Papa," but when we saw our grandfather smiling and enjoying his son, we understood very well the concept of *kibbud av va'eim*. His father came closer, and as he approached customs, there was just a glass pane separating us *continued on page 2*



חייב אדם לעמוד מפני אביו.

Children are obligated to stand for parents (Shulchan Aruch 240:7).

I was at a fundraising dinner for Yeshivas Torah Ore. There were many familiar faces, but as it turned out, seated next to me at the table was someone I had never met before. Yitzchak Goodman introduced himself, and in the course of our conversation, he mentioned that he was scheduled to speak the next night at an NCSY convention, where he'd been asked to give an inspirational talk on overcoming disabilities.

It was a long evening, and we had plenty of time to talk. It was an unforgettable one, because that night, Yitzchak, a double amputee, told me his story.

"In 2005, I was in a horrific car crash. I was driving my Mitsubishi

and was hit head-on. My car was thrown off the road into a ditch.

"I was knocked unconscious. I had to be cut out of the car. I was rushed to the hospital, fighting for my life. Much later, when the police showed us pictures of the wreck, it was impossible to imagine anyone surviving.

"I NEED THEM FOR ONLY ONE THING."

Miraculously, I did survive, but my legs didn't.

"I spent six weeks in the ICU and then another eight months in the hospital for continued treatment. It was a long haul.

"A year after the accident, I

was fitted for prosthetics. It wasn't going well. There were infections, chafing, and I almost gave up. At first, I didn't want them. I knew I would be spending most of my time in a wheelchair, since the effort to walk was sapping my strength. In the end, I reconsidered and took the prosthetics."

I'm sitting next to Yitzchak, and there were no prosthetics in sight. I guess he must have read my thoughts, because he said to me, "They're in the car. I only use them occasionally."

When is that? I was thinking.

"I need them for only one thing. I use them to stand up for my parents." 📖

THE FOUNDATION OF EVERYTHING

continued from page 1

from the *zeide*. My father began to tap on the glass and jump, and at that point the *zeide* noticed. He looked up and saw us, and instantly I understood the depth of *kibbud av*, what it means not just to serve and obey a parent, but to give one's all in order to bring them joy.

My grandfather's face lit up, his eyes growing wide with pleasure, as he saw his only child and his grandchildren.

After the *zeide* returned to Eretz Yisrael, my father found so many ways to transmit this lesson. Telephone calls were too expensive back then, but my father sent the *zeide* four letters each week, updating him and filling him in on every detail of our lives.

The impression this made taught us what *kibbud av va'eim* means, and how to best do it.

The current Boyaner Rebbe of Yerushalayim is a

respected leader. When the Rebbe's parents moved to Yerushalayim in their final years, the Rebbe attended to them personally whenever he could, unwilling to give up the *zechus*.

One *Erev Yom Kippur*, as the day wound down, the *gabbai* was worried. The Rebbe had not gone to the *mikveh* before *Kol Nidrei* as he usually does, though he had gone several times over the course of the day.

Finally, the *gabbai* approached the Rebbe to tell him that the sun was starting to go down and there would not be much time for the *tevilah*.

The Rebbe, who was engaged in taking care of his father, looked up and said, "Now, I am being *toivel* in the *mitzvah* of *kibbud av va'eim*."

To do it right, we must be "*toivel*" in it, immerse ourselves not just in what we do, but in how we do it — with love, dedication, and true desire. 📖

THIS WEEK'S DAF YOMI SCHEDULE:

FEBRUARY / שבט

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
11 כ	12 בא	13 בב	14 בג	15 בד	16 בה	17 בו
Nazir 19	Nazir 20	Nazir 21	Nazir 22	Nazir 23	Nazir 24	Nazir 25

THIS WEEK'S MISHNAH YOMI SCHEDULE:

FEBRUARY / שבט

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
11 כ	12 בא	13 בב	14 בג	15 בד	16 בה	17 בו
Eruvin 4:8-9	Eruvin 4:10-11	Eruvin 5:1-2	Eruvin 5:3-4	Eruvin 5:5-6	Eruvin 5:7-8	Eruvin 5:9-6:1

NEW!

EMPOWERING PARENTS

Forever a Talmid – The Chinuch Legacy of Rabbi Chanina Herzberg by Rabbi Yitzchok Herzberg

In a journal ad in memory of Rabbi Chanina Herzberg, one couple wrote, “R’ Herzberg had a unique ability to empower parents in a way that made us feel like the *yeshiva* was a real partner in our son’s *chinuch*. We sent our son to Yeshiva of South Shore because of our initial meeting with R’ Herzberg and the way he communicated the mutual trust he had with the parent body in bringing up all his students. Once we met with him, we didn’t need to look elsewhere.”

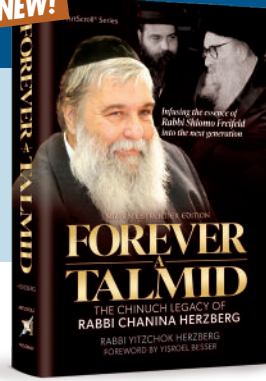


Rabbi Chanina Herzberg with a talmid

“CHINUCH IS 90 PERCENT PARENTS AND 10 PERCENT THE YESHIVA.”

The parents walked out of that interview empowered and confident in their role as parents. As one would expect, they decided to send their child to Yeshiva Toras Chaim.

Just as he made himself approachable with regard to the *talmidim* of the *yeshiva*, R’ Chanina made himself approachable with regard to their parents. In the words of Rabbi Yaakov Bender, “R’ Chanina was *mechadesh* a very big *yesod*. Parents aren’t crazy. They are talking about their child. Listen to them...”



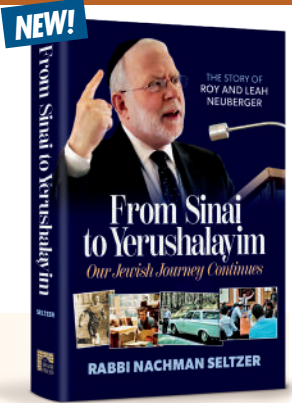
R’ Chanina gave parents confidence in their abilities to be *mechanech* their children and make proper decisions. He once told a parent, “*Chinuch* is 90 percent parents and 10 percent the *yeshiva*.”

One parent conveyed, “We went to Yeshiva Toras Chaim for an interview. Everything was going well when we asked R’ Herzberg a controversial question. ‘What is your *shitah* in regard to rules for the parents? Can we send our child to a coed school or coed camp?’ We had no intention of doing so, but the answer would tell something about the *yeshiva*.”

“R’ Herzberg looked at us, made a face, and kind of laughed. But his response was incredibly powerful. ‘You trust us with your children for eight hours a day, and we’re not going to trust you with your own children at home?!’”

THE SCREEN

From Sinai to Yerushalayim – Our Jewish Journey Continues
The Story of Roy and Leah Neuberger
by Rabbi Nachman Seltzer



At the start of their journey to Yiddishkeit, Yisroel and Leah Neuberger used to enjoy the occasional Motza’ei Shabbos movie with their children. They particularly enjoyed the old-time Disney films. At one point, Yisroel decided that they might as well buy a bigger screen. One day, he walked into an electronics store in Boro Park, and a salesman with long peyos asked what he needed.

“I want to buy a big screen,” he told the man.

“Do you know what size?”

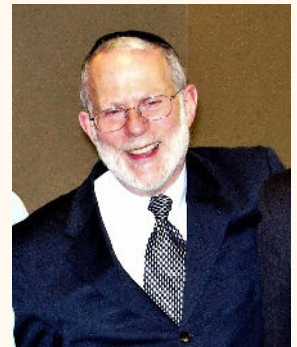
“Not really. I just want something bigger than what I have at home.”

The salesman looked at him, then asked him a question.

“How big do you want the yetzer hara to be when he’s dancing across your screen?”

The moment he grasped what the man was saying, Yisroel practically ran out of the store, all thoughts of purchasing a new screen forgotten.

It turned out that the salesman wasn’t much of a salesman, but there’s no question that he was very much a caring Yid!

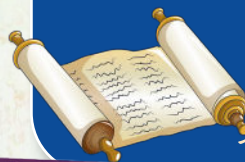


Yisroel (Roy) Neuberger

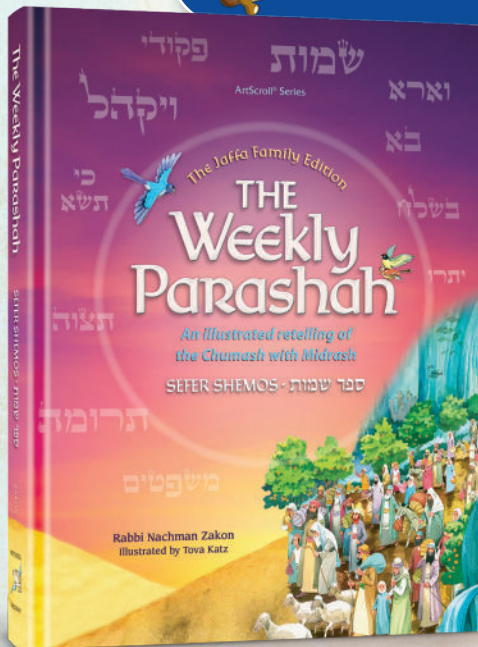
This week’s Yerushalmi Yomi schedule:

FEBRUARY /
שבט

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
11 א Berachos 90	12 ב Berachos 91	13 ג Berachos 92	14 ד Berachos 93	15 ה Berachos 94	16 ו Berachos 95	17 ז Berachos 96



Parashah for Children



פרשת יתרו

Silence

Moshe comes down the mountain. He tells all the Jews that Hashem sent him down to warn them once again not to go near Har Sinai.

Eliezer suddenly hears ... nothing. A deep silence falls upon the world. The birds are quiet, there is no roar of the ocean's waves. All the animals stand still. No purring, no roaring, no growling. Not one word is spoken. The world is absolutely silent.

Hashem is about to speak.



Hashem Speaks

When Hashem said His first command, "I am Hashem, your G-d," it was so powerful that the Jews moved back about eight miles, and their souls actually left their bodies. Hashem sent a special dew to fall on their bodies. The dew brought them back to life, and angels brought them back to Har Sinai.

The powerful voice of Hashem was heard again. It was the second command, "You must not have any other god." The same thing happened to the Jews that happened to them the first time.

Worried to Death

After their souls left their bodies twice, the Jews were terrified. When they were brought back to Har Sinai again by the angels, they begged Moshe, "You speak to us, and we will hear what Hashem has to say from you. We are afraid that if Hashem continues to speak to us we will die."

"Hashem doesn't want you to die," Moshe said. "He spoke to you to make you famous, as the only nation that Hashem ever talked to. Also, after seeing how powerful and awesome Hashem is, you will be afraid of Him and won't sin."

WIN A \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD!

THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Yisro:

Why did Hashem tell Moshe to speak to the women first?

Kids, please ask your parents to email the answer to shabbosquestion@artscroll.com by this Wednesday to be entered into a weekly raffle to win a \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD! Be sure to include your full name, city, and contact info. Names of winners will appear in a future edition. HINT: The answer can be found in *The Jaffa Family Edition Weekly Parashah*.



The winner of the Parshas Va'eira question is: AVI SCHWARTZ, Passaic, NJ

The question was: Each of the makkos lasted for seven days, except for two. Which ones? And for how long did they last?
The answer is: Makkas Choshech lasted six days and Makkas Bechoros lasted one night.

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