

# Let My People Shmooz

Interactive Questions to Spark Your Shabbos Table Discussions



ISSUE 15

SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYISHLACH 5785

We'd love to hear your feedback, stories, and ideas. Email us at [aderaba@cchfglobal.org](mailto:aderaba@cchfglobal.org)

## When the Store Is Expensive

**N**atalie is new in the neighborhood. I saw her unloading shopping bags from Shopluxe, the most expensive supermarket in town! I would like to give her some tips about where to shop so that she can save money.

**Am I allowed to?**

— Ruthie



## What's the Psak?

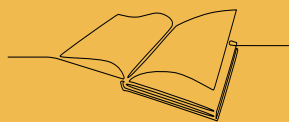
Can you guess the halachah?

- A **No**, it is loшон hora, and your advice will take away business from that store.
- B **Yes**, it will save Natalie hundreds of dollars over the years.
- C **Only** if Natalie asks you.

## The Halachah

The answer is B.

Yes – but the way Ruthie phrases it is important.



1- Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv (Bakesh Shalom, pg 28)  
2- Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora 101, note 6

## The Way to Say It

Saving Natalie money is a *to'eles*. But there is a way that Ruthie can convey the required information without denigrating the expensive store.<sup>1</sup> Instead of saying, “Store A is expensive,” which is a criticism of the store, Ruthie could say: “Store B’s and C’s prices are cheaper,” or “Store A’s prices are not the cheapest,” or “I shop at Store B because it’s much cheaper.”<sup>2</sup>

Reviewed by Rav Moshe Mordechai Lowy.

Rav Avraham Yaakov Pam *zt”l* advised great caution when presenting halachic scenarios to the public, as each situation is unique. This *she’eilah* is for discussion only; actual halachic decisions should be made by a rav or halachic expert on a case-by-case basis.

The Shmiras Haloshon Shailah Hotline: 718-951-3696 2-3PM / 9-10:30 PM

## Correct Comparisons

**M**ake sure you’re comparing apples to apples. Some stores are more expensive because they offer better service, better brands, or a better shopping experience. The person giving the information could mention that “Store A is more expensive but that’s because they provide exceptional service. The question is if you’re willing to pay extra for that.”

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שגרה מעלת חבריו

## "Why Should They Miss Out?"

Rachel's\* neighbors felt their friend's terrible pain. Rachel, a young wife and mother, had just lost her husband and was still sitting *shivah*. How would she manage with a houseful of children to care for alone?

Her friends jumped right into action, cooking meals and helping take care

of Rachel's children during that first difficult

week. But they all knew things were only going to get harder when the visitors stopped coming and reality set in.

"Just tell us what you need, and we'll take care of it," offered her friend, Malka.

"There's a whole



\*All names have been changed

crew of us ready to pitch in."

"I'm sure with Hashem's help things will fall into place," Rachel answered. "I have teenage girls, don't forget, and I can really depend on them. The only thing is... the cooking."

"Don't worry, we've got your meals covered for the next three weeks," said Malka.

"No, not my

cooking," Rachel said. "I mean the meals I make for Chai Lifeline families. I'm probably not going to be able to start up again for a while, but why should they suffer? It would be a huge help to me if you would look in my freezer and see how I prepare the meals. If you split them up, it will just be a meal or two for each of you, and that will fill the gap."

What Rachel "needed" most from her friends was that her *chesed* wouldn't stop—that the families who depended on her meals wouldn't miss out. Although her heart was broken over her loss, it still beat with care and love for her fellow Jews.

## Take It to the Table

How do you think Rachel's continued commitment to helping others through Chai Lifeline impacted her ability to cope with her own tragedy?

What's  
the real  
story?

הי דין לך זכות



## Think Before You Jump

Rabbi Cohen's\* phone rarely stopped ringing. As the director of Camp Ruach, he was the address for pretty much anyone and anything to do with the camp. One day he got a call that was way out of the ordinary.

It was from the mother of a boy who had been in camp for the first trip.

"My son was very quiet when he came home," she told Rabbi Cohen. "I knew something was bothering him, but he wouldn't open up. After I convinced him that whatever he had to say wouldn't be *loshon hora*, he came out with it.

"Duvi Fliger, a boy in my bunk, played video games under his blanket on Shabbos! Every Shabbos!" he cried out.

"Rabbi Cohen, I was sure you'd want to know," the mother trailed off.

The camp director was shocked. He thanked her for calling, hung



up the phone, and paced back and forth. "What should I do with this information? Confront Duvi? Call his parents?" He knew he couldn't keep the boy in camp if he was being *mechalel* Shabbos!

On the other hand, it just didn't add up. He wasn't a rabble-rouser by any stretch of the imagination, and his counselors only had nice things to say about him. He seemed like a sweet, innocent kid. But still, you never really know.

## Can you Crack the case?

The explanation hit Rabbi Cohen like a ton of bricks. "Duvi is diabetic!" he suddenly remembered. "The 'video game' must be his insulin pump! Baruch Hashem I didn't take this any further!"

\*All names have been changed.

Adapted from *Stories that Unite Our Hearts* by Rabbi Binyamin Pruzansky, with permission from Mesorah Publications.

DEDICATIONS

Dedicated by John Hunter

Dedicated anonymously

As a *zechus* for the Sasson family