

בשלח Simple Faith

וירא ישראל את-היד הגדלה אשר עשה ה' במצרים וייראו העם את-ה' ויאמינו בה' ובמשה עבדו

And when Israel saw the wondrous power which the Hashem had wielded against the Egyptians, the people feared Hashem; they had faith in the Hashem and His servant Moshe.

ואמר רבי חנינא הכל בידי שמים חוץ מיראת שמים

And Rabbi Hanina said: Everything is in the hands of Heaven, except for fear of Heaven.

-Brachos 33b

There are no tricks in plain and simple faith

-William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar Act 4, Scene 2

The *Ramba"m* in the *sefer Hamitzvos* lists the *mitzvos* in order of priority, the earlier *mitzvos* more central to the tenets of faith and religion. The first *mitzvah* that the *Ramba"m* lists is *Anochi Hashem Elokecha*, the *mitzvah* to believe in G-d. In truth, belief in G-d is the core tenet of Judaism. Everything else stems from there. In fact, Rav Yosef Albo, in the *sefer Haikarim*, reduces the core beliefs of Judaism to three basic principles: One, that there is a G-d, two, that Torah is *min HaShomayim*, from Heaven, and three, that G-d takes interest in human action. Everything begins with simple faith, and simple faith is under attack.

Sociologist Jean M. Twenge recently published a book, *iGen*, detailing the far-reaching effects on society of the smartphone and internet. Her focus, specifically, is on children who have come of age in the super-connected world of smart phone saturation. One of the most provocative of her findings is the erosion of faith among those who have grown up in the smartphone era. In very large, and very noticeable numbers, children who have grown up in the post-smartphone world are far less likely to be involved in organized religion, to attend religious services, or to have religious faith as part of their lives. And, while we like to think that we, in the Torah community, are immune from larger sociological trends, the unfortunate truth is that we're not.

The same factors that are eroding religious faith in broader society exist in our world as well. The constant distraction, the easy (and often incorrect) answers to all questions, and the illusion that technology and science can solve all problems eat away at the faith of our youth as well. And, even if we are fortunate enough to avoid those pitfalls, the broader attitudes and perspectives of the overall society impact our thinking too. There was a time when faith was a given, where the only question was how that faith manifested in religious practice.

In that past world, steeped in faith, we engaged in debate and discussion about the value of our religious practice over others (see, for example, *sefer HaKuzari*, or *Moreh Hanevuchim*). Today, religious faith is quickly disappearing in broader society and that disappearance is bringing down the faith of our youth with it.

There is a lot to be lost with the erosion of religious faith. If we teach our children rote practice without underlying faith, that practice is empty, meaningless, and unfulfilling. It is only when that practice is seen as a means to the end of connection to the Creator that it infuses life with meaning and purpose. Only when we have clear, strong and unwavering faith in Hashem, can that faith sustain us through the challenges and difficulties of life.

How do we teach faith in Hashem in a way that's meaningful and durable? Like most aspects of parenting it begins with ourselves. Do we convey an attitude of faith in our day-to-day life? Do we pepper our speech with phrases like "*Baruch Hashem*," "*im yirtzeh Hashem*," and "*B'ezeras Hashem*" and sound like we mean it?

Do we teach our children that everything that happens comes from Hashem? Do we teach our children to accept the things that life throws their way as the *ratzon Hashem*?

There really are no tricks in plain and simple faith. If we truly believe that everything comes from Hashem, that all that He does is for the good, and we conduct ourselves based on that belief, then we have developed the framework for imparting *emunah* to our children.

*Good Shabbos,
Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
Principal*



*On behalf of the entire Yeshiva,
we would like to wish a hartzige
Mazel Tou to the S'gan Rosh
Yeshiva Rabbi & Mrs. Brodie,
Mendi Brodie and the extended
Brodie family on Mendi & Adina's
Chasuna!*



פרשת בשלח
שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום



This week's program שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום
is sponsored by



Most פרשיות of this year

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Monthly (4 weeks) sponsorship: \$275

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To sponsor a פרשה please contact Rabbi Plotzker.
bplotzker@ohrreuven.com

First

Last

Name of תלמיד (Please Print Clearly)

Class: (Please Check One)

- ☐ 1st Grade – 5 פסוקים
- ☐ 2nd Grade – 10 פסוקים
- ☐ 3rd Grade – 15 פסוקים
- ☐ 4th Grade – 20 פסוקים
- ☐ 5th Grade – 25 פסוקים
- ☐ 6th Grade – 30 פסוקים
- ☐ 7th Grade – 40 פסוקים
- ☐ 8th Grade – The whole פרשה

My son completed שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום for
this פרשה in the amount specified for his class.

Parent's signature



בס"ד



QUESTION OF THE DAY

ONE RAFFLE TICKET PER QUESTION ANSWERED!

Answers should be written on Q.O.D. cards and placed in mailbox outside office.

QUESTIONS ON פרשת בשלח

- 1) Which day of פסח did ים סוף take place?
- 2) Who was the only מצרי to survive ים סוף?
- 3) Who was the 1st person to go into the ים סוף (before it split)?
- 4) What is the name we give to the special song that משה and the בני ישראל sang, thanking ה' for saving them?
- 5) Who led the women in their special song of praise?
- 6) Why is there a custom to put out bread (before שבת) for the birds on this שבת?

RAFFLE WINNERS FROM פרשת בא

YEHUDA GAMZEH AVI NOAM DEMBITZER

C.T. EISENSTADT SHALOM SAPERSTEIN

YOSEF FRIEDMAN (5th)

107

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Machzikei Torah
Zichron Yitzhak



מחזיקי תורה
זכרון יצחק

LEARNING PROGRAM

Erev Shabbos & Shabbos



ALL
LEARNING
COUNTS!

שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום

Raffle

Grades 1-2: Until שני
Grades 3-4: Until שלישי
Grades 5-6: Until רביעי
Grades 7-8: Whole פרשה

לז"נ הרב ירחמיאל שלום
משה בן הרב ישראל זצ"ל
מגיד שיעור - ישיבה דרך חיים

GRAND RAFFLE
ON MARCH 26

IN ADDITION THERE WILL BE A
WEEKLY RAFFLE
FOR A \$25 GIFT CARD

שבת פרשת

Name _____

Yeshiva _____ Grade _____

Phone _____ Parent's Signature _____

Please fill in the information below clearly:

☐ Learned 15 minutes
on Erev Shabbos

☐ Learned on Shabbos
(Grades 1-4) 15 minutes / (Grades 5-8) 30 minutes

☐ Learned on Motzei Shabbos
(Grades 1-4) 15 minutes / (Grades 5-8) 30 minutes

☐ Learned שנים מקרא
ואחד תרגום

First time participants should also fill out the information below:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Completed forms must be received by March 16th to be included in the raffle.

Completed forms should be faxed to 646-595-2402 or emailed to egoldberg417@gmail.com.

Grand raffle will take place on Thursday, March 26

50 PRIZES WILL BE RAFFLED OFF!!

For more information or for sponsorship opportunities please call
Rabbi Eliyohu Goldberg 347.420.0906 or email egoldberg417@gmail.com

LAST WEEK'S WINNER:

פרשת בא
YAAKOV COHEN
YBH OF PASSAIC NJ