

## אמור

### The Affluenza Vaccine

בסכת תשבו שבעת ימים כל האזרח בישראל ישבו בסכת למען ידעו דרתיכם כי בסכות הושבתי את בני ישראל בהוציא אותם מארץ מצרים

You shall live in booths seven days; all citizens in Israel shall live in booths, in order that future generations may know that I made the Israelite people live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt

אמנם המדות הם - שיהיה האדם זוכר ימי הרעה בימי הטובה בעבור שירבה להודות לאלוק ושילמד מדת ענוה ושפלות ויאכל 'מצה ומרור' - לזכור מה שארע לנו; וכן יצא מן הבתים לשכון בסוכות כמו שיעשו השרויים בצער שוכני המדברות - לזכור שכן היה ענינו בתחילה "כי בסוכות הושבתי את בני ישראל וגו'". ונעתקנו מן הענין ההוא לשכון בבתים המצויים במקום הטוב שבארץ והשמן שבה בחסד

The moral lessons derived from these feasts is this: man ought to remember his evil days in his days of prosperity. He will thereby be induced to thank Hashem repeatedly, to lead a modest and humble life. We eat, therefore, unleavened bread and bitter herbs on Passover in memory of what has happened unto us, and leave [on Succoth] our houses in order to dwell in tabernacles, as inhabitants of deserts do that are in want of comfort. We shall thereby remember that this has once been our condition; "I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths" (Lev. 23:43); although we dwell now in elegant houses, in the best and most fertile land, by the kindness of Hashem

-Moreh Hanevuchim 3:43

The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you can see.

-Winston Churchill

**affluenza** *noun* \ a-( )flü- 'en-zə \ the unhealthy and unwelcome psychological and social effects of affluence regarded especially as a widespread societal problem: such as:

a : feelings of guilt, lack of motivation, and social isolation experienced by wealthy people

b : extreme materialism and consumerism associated with the pursuit of wealth and success and resulting in a life of chronic dissatisfaction, debt, overwork, stress, and impaired relationships

American society has recently coined a new term, affluenza, which appears in the dictionary, as you can see above. In fact, there was a rather famous and outrageous case in Texas where a teenage boy from an extremely wealthy family killed four people in a drunken driving incident. In that case, the teenager's lawyer argued that the boy could not be held responsible for his actions because he suffered from affluenza, whereby his dysfunctional relationship with his wealthy parents made him incapable of developing a sense of responsibility. And, while the public was rightly outraged at the brazenness of the lawyer's defense, that defense brought to light the very real problem of affluenza that has gripped American youth.

We are blessed to live in the freest, most comfortable, and most affluent society in the history of the world. Even the relatively poor in American society live better than kings would have lived a mere couple of centuries ago. We have all the modern comforts and conveniences and we don't need to leave our homes to enjoy them. We have all of the information gathered by all of humanity throughout all of history available at our fingertips. And, we are the most depressed and mentally unhealthy society in the history of the world as well. It is not a coincidence.

The ready availability of all that we want leaves us bereft of the drive and pursuit of our elusive yearnings and dreams.

We believe that we will be happy when we have what we want. We don't realize that we will be happy when we want what we have.

The Ramba"m, in the *Moreh Hanevuchim* tells us that the antidote for affluenza is the observance of the *yomim tovim* and the values they convey. When we are wealthy, comfortable, and successful, it is vital that we take the time to consider and relive the experience of where we came from. We sit in the *Succah*, we eat *Matza* and *Marror*, and we realize just how fortunate we are to enjoy the luxuries we have. Affluenza is the result of never stepping out of our affluence and comfort. Taking the time to step away from it is the cure.

How does this impact us as parents? Our children are raised in various levels of affluence, but a common denominator is that our children are generally growing up far more comfortable and well off than we did. Many of them are free of the myriad household responsibilities and chores that we may have been tasked with in our youth. Many have the luxury of household cleaning help to pick up after them, regular travel and access to a wealth of toys and games at will. They are often not asked to do basic household chores and work. How can we expect them to take responsibility if we never give them any? They are at serious risk for affluenza.

We need to inoculate them from the risk by

following the Torah's prescription. We need to give them responsibility, we need to find opportunities for them to rough it. We need to pull them out of their comfort for regular intervals so that they can appreciate and value what they have. If they do, then they, and we, will have what we want because we will want what we have.

*Good Shabbos,  
Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb  
Principal*

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פרשת אֶמּוּר  
שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום



This weeks program שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום is sponsored in honor of the

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[bplotzker@ohrreuven.com](mailto:bplotzker@ohrreuven.com)

First

Last

Name of תלמיד (Please Print Clearly)

Class: (Please Check One)

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

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

Parent's signature

\_\_\_\_\_



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# 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  
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מגיד שיעור - ישיבה דרך חיים

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IN ADDITION THERE WILL BE A  
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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/Friday Night

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

☐ Learned שנים מקרא  
ואחד תרגום

☐ Bonus

You can do any or all of the above options, if you do all three options please mark a check in the bonus box.

First time participants should also fill out the information below:

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Completed forms must be received by June 14th to be included in the raffle.

Completed forms should be faxed to 646-595-2402 or emailed to [egoldberg417@gmail.com](mailto:egoldberg417@gmail.com).

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**EVERY DAY** to be entered to win amazing prizes!

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WEEK OF \_\_\_\_\_

		SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES.	THURS.	FRIDAY
SET #1	CODE #1						
	CODE #2						
	CODE #3						
	CODE #4						
	CODE #5						
SET #2	CODE #1						
	CODE #2						
	CODE #3						
	CODE #4						
	CODE #5						