

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Re'eh / Mev HaChodesh
August 22, 2025 / 28 Av 5785
Volume 30, Issue 42
Candlelighting: 7:58 pm

Waxman Torah Center · 2195 S. Green Road · University Heights, OH 44121 · (216) 691-3837 · www.clevelandjlc.com

Friday, August 22

6:35pm Early mincha
7:58pm Candlelighting
8:00pm Mincha

Shabbos, August 23

8:45am Shacharis - @ YAVNE
*Kiddush is sponsored by
the Raheer family in honor
of Akiva's Bar Mitzvah*

6:50pm Pirke Avos
7:50pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
9:04pm Maariv

Sunday, August 24 Rosh Chodesh

10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"
(R. Stoll)

Monday, August 25 Rosh Chodesh

8:00pm *Maimonides Laws of
Repentance*
(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, August 26

8:00pm Tanna d'vei Eliyahu
(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, August 27

8:00pm Nach Still Speaks –
MISHLEI (R. Stoll)

Thursday, August 28

8:00pm Sefer HaChinuch: R. Stoll
10:15pm Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)

Torah Podcast

Listen to Rabbi Nisenbaum's
"Torah Podcast" at Spotify, Apple
Podcasts, iHeartRadio, and more,
or download at
www.maverickpodcasting.com

Weekday Minyanim

7:00am Shacharis (M-F)
8:00am Shacharis (Sun)
10:00pm Maariv (Sun-Th)

Class Connection

R. Nisenbaum:
425-436-6200 #352171

"The Torah Podcast" weekly
at all podcast locations

R. Stoll:
Zoom: 876-619-3551
Audio: 669-900-9128

Parsha: Re'eh

Moshe warned the nation that the Promised Land would be given to them on the condition that they remain faithful to G-d, and that they not follow the ways of the earlier inhabitants who had all been idolaters. They were instructed upon entering the land to totally destroy all the idols and altars from the earlier inhabitants, in order to eradicate any memory of idolatry. Even the names of the idols were to be destroyed. Instead of their proper names they should be referred to by derogatory nicknames.

Although this may seem to be somewhat extreme, the Torah recognizes the powerful lure of alien forms of worship. In order to prevent one from being attracted to heresy it is not enough to present philosophical arguments or even hard evidence. A person must be psychologically repelled from it too. This can only be accomplished by viewing idolatry as a total non-entity or as something ridiculous.

Because of the severity of idolatry, the Torah is extremely harsh in dealing with a person who tries to entice others to serve idolatry. Although he may not have been successful in his efforts, this person is put to death to serve as a deterrent to others. Similarly, if a city in Israel is enticed to follow idolatry, the people are all put to death and the city is destroyed. Even the

homes and belongings are burnt. The city may not be rebuilt, and the rubble stands as a warning to others.

The people were also instructed regarding the sacrificial order. Service of G-d differs from that of idolatry. Sacrifices could only be brought to the place that G-d designated for them to be brought. Once the Temple was built, people could not offer sacrifices wherever they wanted. Likewise, sacred foods could only be eaten in the area of the Temple.

The Torah cautions the Jew not to be callous to his fellow's needs and to open his hand generously to offer assistance to those in need. We must understand that G-d divided the wealth of the world disproportionately for this very purpose, to allow some people to help others. The money one gives to the poor was not meant for the donor to

keep; it was merely entrusted to him to allocate to others. This is the meaning of the word *tzedakah*, which literally means justice, meaning that one gives that which is justly meant to belong to the poor.

However, the Torah also instructs us to be sensitive to the needs of the individual. The obligation to help is expressed as lending the poor. Even if one knows that the recipient cannot repay a loan, it should still be "lent" to him in order to preserve his dignity. True *tzedakah* assists the benefactor as much as it does the recipient.

Mazel Tov
Yehoshua & Leah Raheer upon the Bar
Mitzvah of Akiva.
**Shabbos minyan at Yavne
in the auditorium.**

**Maimonides Laws of
Repentance**
Mondays at 8pm beginning August 25th

Insights: Re'eh

You are children to Hashem, your G-d... (Devarim.14:1) A yeshiva once discovered that a student's parents who claimed they could not afford their child's tuition were actually quite affluent; they just did not want to pay the school. The school pondered whether they should refuse to allow the student to remain in the school. They posed the question to Rav Moshe Feinstein who ruled unequivocally that they must let the child remain. He explained, "Although the parents did not behave properly, the student is a child of G-d too. Why should he suffer because of his parents' improper behavior?"

Did You Know?

A person should give a tenth of his income to charity. There are different opinions among the authorities whether fringe benefits one receives from his employer, such as medical insurance, are considered income to determine the tenth. If the employer owes the employee money, and he pays the employee's insurance with that money, it is definitely considered part of the income. Although one must also tithe from a gift of money, most authorities do not require a person to tithe from non-monetary gifts.

Thought for the Week: Don't sell yourself short—or buy yourself long! (A Candle By Day)