

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



**Parshas Bo**  
**January 23, 2026 / 5 Shevat 5786**  
Volume 31, Issue 15  
Candlelighting: 5:13 pm

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

## Friday, January 23

5:13pm Candlelighting  
5:15pm Mincha  
8:30pm **Parsha Shiur**  
@ R. Nisenbaum

## Shabbos, January 24

8:45am Shacharis  
*Kiddush is sponsored by  
Ahron Grosman upon the  
shloshim of his father.*  
5:05pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos  
6:22pm Maariv

## Sunday, January 25

9:15am **Parsha Class**  
(R. Nisenbaum)  
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"  
(R. Stoll)

## Monday, January 26

8:00pm Mitzvos and Meaning:  
Shabbos (R. Nisenbaum)

## Tuesday, January 27

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

## Wednesday, January 28

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

## Thursday, January 29

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](http://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: Bo

The last three of the ten plagues that were inflicted upon the Egyptians were locusts, darkness and the Plague of the Firstborn.

The locust destroyed any vegetation in Egypt that had survived the previous plague of hail. The plague of darkness came in two stages. The first three days of the plague brought pitch-black darkness to the Egyptians, where they could not see anything at all. During the following three days, the darkness intensified so much that the Egyptians were actually frozen into position, unable to move. The Jews, however, had light and were able to move about freely.

The last plague was the Plague of the Firstborn, where every Egyptian firstborn child and animal died at midnight. This was the first time that Pharaoh felt his own life in danger, as he was also a firstborn, and he finally let the Jews go free.

The Jews were instructed to sacrifice a lamb, the god of the Egyptian nation, for the Paschal sacrifice. Slaughtering their taskmasters' god in front of their eyes without fear of repercussion instilled a sense of fearlessness and pride in the

Jews. Each family had their own sacrifice to be eaten together.

The people were ordered to take some of the blood from the sacrifice and smear it on their doorposts. With this show of solidarity and trust, the Jews would be protected from the Plague of the Firstborn.

The people were also given the mitzvah of sanctifying the

new moon. The court would sanctify the beginning of each month after witnessing the new moon. Time itself would thus be elevated into something holy. The first month to be sanctified was Nissan, the month of the exodus from Egypt. This represents the birth of the Jewish nation and marks the beginning of the Jewish year. (Although Rosh Hashana marks the anniversary of Creation, the months are counted from Nissan, the month of the Exodus.)

Because of the salvation of the firstborn Jews in Egypt, there is a special holiness associated with the firstborn. Thus, the firstborn of the flocks was given to the kohain, and the firstborn of the human is redeemed from the kohain.

## Insights: Bo

**...Hashem put the favor of the people in the eyes of the Egyptians, and they emptied out the land... (Ex 12:36)** It seems incomprehensible that the Egyptians who had hated the Children of Israel for all the plagues they had brought upon them, should suddenly love them so much that they gave them all their valuables. Rav Reuven Karlenstein points out that finding favor in the eyes of others is a gift of G-d, and really has no bearing on one's behavior. He once saw a young man buying a new hat, The fellow was preening himself in front of a mirror for two hours to see how the hat fit. He explained that he was beginning to date and he wanted to make a good impression on the young woman. Rav Karlenstein told the fellow that if G-d wanted him to find favor in the woman's eyes, it would happen even if he wore the hat backwards. Wasting time to make a good impression does not really accomplish anything.

## Did You Know?

Kiddush Levana, sanctifying the new moon, is compared to receiving the Divine Presence. The Midrash says that one who recites Kiddush Levana receives a special protection against calamity. It is recited between the third and fifteenth day of the month, and should be recited after nightfall, not during twilight. Preferably Kiddush Levana is recited after Shabbos, when one is clothed nicely, and with a minyan (quorum), although if one is concerned that he will miss the proper time he may recite other nights, and by himself. It should also be recited under the sky, not in a house and while standing with one's feet together, as during the Amidah. According to Kabbalah, one should not stare at the moon, rather he should glance at it and then recite the blessing.

**Thought for the Week: One of man's greatest sources of moral energy is a guilty conscience.**  
(A Candle By Day)