

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Emor
May 1, 2026 / 14 Iyar 5786
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Candlelighting: 8:06 pm

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

Friday, May 1

6:40pm Early Mincha / Maariv
8:06pm Candlelighting
8:10pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, May 2

8:45am Shacharis
*Kiddush is sponsored by
Leibel Preyger*
7:00pm Pirke Avos
8:00pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
9:15pm Maariv

Sunday, May 3

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

Monday, May 4

8:00pm A Taste of Mussar and
Chassidus – Baal Shem
Tov (R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, May 5

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

Wednesday, May 6

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

Thursday, May 7

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: Emor

G-d endowed certain people with special responsibilities. The kohain, or priest, was given the task of serving in the Temple. The importance of his service and his position required him to live by a higher standard. Things that were permitted to the rest of the nation were prohibited for him. For example, the kohain could not defile himself by coming in contact with a corpse of any person outside of his close family members. The Kohain Gadol, High Priest, was held to an even stricter standard and could not even contaminate himself for family members. An exception was made only for a corpse where there was no family to care for it. An explanation offered for this prohibition is because the kohain must live a holy life. Holiness involves spiritual growth, and after death no further growth is possible. Coming in contact with a lifeless body represents the antithesis of holiness.

The kohain was also limited (and still is) as to whom he could marry. He may not marry a woman who was the product of a prohibited relationship, or who had been involved in a prohibited relationship. He may also not marry a divorcee. The Kohain Gadol was restricted even further in his choice and could only marry a virgin.

A kohein who had certain physical blemishes was excluded from serving in the Temple. Similarly,

animals with blemishes could not be offered as sacrifices.

Certain days of the year were also endowed with holiness—the Shabbos and other holidays. These days are sanctified through nicer dress, better food, and in general, through a more spiritual behavior than the rest of the year.

Each of the holidays was endowed with its own mitzvah, as a tool for receiving the unique spiritual influence associated with that day. The shofar is blown on Rosh Hashanah; we fast on

Yom Kippur; the lulav and esrog are taken on Sukkos, etc.

Every Jew is also instructed to sanctify G-d's name, both in life and death. In life, we must live in a way that earns the admiration of the world. Profaning G-d's Name by acting immorally or improperly is a grave sin. In death, the Jew must be ready to sacrifice his life rather than denounce G-d or his belief in Judaism.

The Torah relates an incident where a person mocked the Torah and blasphemed G-d. The Torah considers blasphemy to be on par with assault and even murder. The understanding is that a person who disregards G-d can easily be led to total disregard for his fellow man, too, leading to assault and other similar sins. Accordingly, the Torah reserves the most severe forms of punishment for this offense.

Taste of Mussar / Chassidus

9 part series w/ R. Nisenbaum
Mondays at 8pm

Insights: Emor

Do not desecrate My Holy Name... (Lev 22:32) The Beis Yisrael of Ger stayed in Haifa for a period of time. He once took an early morning walk, and as he stood by the corner, he waited for the pedestrian light to turn green before he crossed the street. The street was empty at that early hour, and only a couple of street workers were out. One of the workers called to the Rebbe, "Rabbi, you don't have to wait. There's nobody around now!" The Rebbe, however, continued to wait until the light changed. As he crossed the street he heard one worker tell the other, "Look at the Rebbe! He follows the rules even when nobody is watching!" The Rebbe turned to his assistant and said, "Did you hear that worker? Observant Jews do not have much left today with which we can serve as role models to others. All we can do is to sanctify G-d's Name and avoid desecrating it. We must take advantage of every opportunity we can."

Did You Know?

Most of the laws of the kohein apply today just as they did during the times of the Temple. A kohein may not attend the funeral under the same roof as a corpse, besides the funeral of certain close relatives. Although we assume everyone today is already contaminated by a corpse since purification is not possible after the Temple was destroyed, since we do not have the red heifer, it is still prohibited to add additional impurity too. He may not enter a cemetery within six feet of a grave or under anything that overlaps a grave. A kohein is also limited in his marriage prospects. He may not marry a divorcee, convert, or any woman who had previously been involved in a prohibited relationship.

Thought for the Week: What we call "love of company" is often dread of ourselves.
(A Candle By Day)