

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Terumah
February 20, 2026 / 3 Adar 5786
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Candlelighting: 5:48 pm

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

Friday, February 20

5:48pm Candlelighting
5:50pm Mincha
8:45pm **Parsha Shiur**
@ R. Nisenbaum

Shabbos, February 21

8:45am Shacharis
*Kiddush sponsored by
Rabbi Nisenbaum in
honor of a siyum*
5:40pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
6:57pm Maariv

Sunday, February 22

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

Monday, February 23

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

Tuesday, February 24

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

Wednesday, February 25

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

Thursday, February 26

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: Terumah

G-d instructed Moshe about the construction of the Mishkan, the Tabernacle. The Mishkan provided an opportunity for the people to create a dwelling place for G-d's presence to rest amongst them. The commentaries point out that prior to the sin of the Golden Calf this would not have been necessary, as the people themselves would be a repository for His presence. Only after the sin did they have to build a dwelling place for G-d's presence.

The voluntary donation of materials for the Mishkan also served as atonement for the donations of gold that were used to build the Golden Calf.

The Mishkan was designed to be easily assembled and disassembled in order for it to remain portable. The Mishkan accompanied the Jews for over five hundred years, from the forty years in the desert until King Solomon built the First Temple in Jerusalem.

Materials were collected for the various vessels needed in the Mishkan. The Ark, or Aron, was made of wood, covered on the outside and inside with gold. It was placed in the Holy of Holies, the innermost section of the Mishkan.

The Torah and the tablets of the Ten Commandments were kept in the Ark. A wooden *shulchan*, or table, covered with gold, held twelve specially shaped breads. These breads remained on the table throughout the week, and were changed each Shabbos. An elaborate Menorah was carved of pure gold. The Menorah was kindled each night and remained lit until morning. Two *mizbeichos*, or altars, were also built. One outside of the Mishkan was made of wood and covered with copper. This was used to offer sacrifices. Another one, inside the Mishkan, was made of wood and covered with gold. It was used to burn incense. A copper basin, the *kiyor*, was needed for the *kohanim* to wash their hands and feet before their service.

Each one of these vessels also represented some element of G-d's relationship with the Jewish people in particular, and the world in general. The Aron represented Torah, the Shulchan represented material success, and so on. By donating the materials, and building all the vessels needed for the Mishkan, the people would ensure G-d's continued influence.

Insights: Terumah

They shall make Me a sanctuary, and I will dwell in them (Ex 25:8) The Rabbis teach that our sanctuaries today are the synagogues, and since the Divine Presence rests in the synagogue it is important to maintain proper decorum there. The Kaf Hachaim writes that if one speaks during the davening in synagogue, he is better off staying home. During the Chmielniki pogroms in the Middle Ages the Jews suffered terribly and many Jews were massacred. The Tosafos Yom Tov made a "shailas chalom," a request to Hashem through the medium of a dream, to ask why these tragedies were happening. The response he received was that it was a punishment for mistreating the sanctity of the shuls. He later composed a special Mi Sheberach prayer to be recited for those who are careful not to speak during davening.

Did You Know?

One must be careful to hear every word of the Megillas Esther on Purim. If he misses some words from the reader, he should quickly read the missing words with his lips and catch up to the reader, even though he is not reading from a kosher megillah. He must be careful to catch up to the reader since the words must be read or heard in the proper order. Although there is an obligation to hear Parashas Zachor the Shabbos before Purim, if a person missed a couple of words, he need not make it up, as long as he has heard the general idea of remembering the evil of Amalek.

Thought for the Week: We keep a respectful distance, finding it difficult to be respectful at close quarters. (A Candle By Day)