

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Vayera

November 7, 2025 / 16 Cheshvan 5786

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Candlelighting: 4:56 pm

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

Friday, November 7

4:56pm Candlelighting
5:00pm Mincha
8:30pm Parsha Shiur
@ R. Nisenbaum

Shabbos, November 8

8:45am Shacharis
*Kiddush is sponsored by
R. Yossi Nisenbaum in
honor of chasan Torah*

4:50pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
6:03pm Maariv

Sunday, November 9

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

Monday, November 10

8:00pm Topics in Mussar -
Enthusiasm and Laziness
(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, November 11

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

Wednesday, November 12

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

Thursday, November 13

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: Vayera

The Torah describes Abraham's love of kindness in great detail. Three days after Abraham had circumcised himself at the age of ninety-nine, he sat outside of his tent to search for wayfarers in need of hospitality. G-d realized that, despite his weakened condition, Abraham was bothered by the lack of visitors and He sent him three angels disguised as idolatrous nomads. Although these people represented an ideology antithetical to that of his own monotheistic belief, and despite his advanced age and weakened body, Abraham rushed to greet them and helped prepare a full meal for them.

Similarly, when G-d informed Abraham of His intentions to destroy the wicked city of Sodom, Abraham pleaded and bargained with G-d on the city's behalf, knowing fully well that they represented a lifestyle far different than his own. However, once it became clear that there were not even ten men worthy of being spared; Abraham did not even try to save them anymore. If G-d did not feel they were deserving of His compassion, Abraham did not feel any differently.

Abraham's self-control is also seen later, when he was ordered to send away his concubine, Hagar, and her son, Ishmael. Sarah, Abraham's primary wife, was

concerned that Ishmael was exerting a negative influence on her own son, Isaac. She instructed Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away from his home. The Torah says that this was a very difficult decision for Abraham, as he loved Ishmael very much. Yet, when G-d concurred with Sarah's suggestion, Abraham immediately ordered them out of his house with a little food, but no money. Here too, Abraham controlled his natural compassion and love to conform to G-d's instructions.

This devotion proved itself most when Abraham was commanded to bring his son Isaac as a sacrifice to G-d. Not only did this contradict his

instinctive love for his son, it also contradicted everything Abraham had professed to the world about G-d. He had always distinguished his G-d from all the idolatrous gods as a G-d of peace who despised human sacrifice. For the loving and compassionate Abraham to cruelly slaughter his own son as a sacrifice to G-d would undermine his own credibility and that of his G-d's. Yet, here too, Abraham showed that his devotion to G-d took precedence over his own emotions. Abraham's good character was not merely a natural inclination, but rather an expression of his total devotion to G-d.

Mazel Tov

Shmully and Dinah Halpern upon
the birth of a granddaughter

Insights: Vayera

The two angels came to Sodom... (Gen 19:1) A wealthy man donated a sum of money to the community for medical assistance. A situation arose, however, where a family was in danger and emergency funds were needed to save them. The treasurer was not sure if he could use the money that was earmarked for medical expenses. The Tchebiner Rav was asked, and he ruled that the money could be used. He cited proof from the angels who visited Avraham. Rashi explains that three angels were needed because each angel could only perform one task. One angel came to heal Avraham, one came to inform him that Sarah would have a child, and one came to destroy Sodom. The one who came to heal Avraham went on to save Lot from Sodom, because saving lives is an extension of healing

Did You Know?

The Ashkenazic custom is to hold the wedding ceremony under the sky, as a sign that the couple should be blessed with children like the stars. This is learned from Abraham, who was taken outside to view the stars as a sign that his descendants would be numerous as the stars. Some authorities even refuse to officiate at an indoor wedding as they feel it is a breach of Jewish custom and tradition. Sefardic communities, however, never adopted this custom, and they hold their weddings indoors. At a second-marriage wedding the ceremony need not be held outdoors. Some opinions say that the wedding canopy should be made of cloth, and not flowers, as the canopy represents the groom spreading his garment over the bride, which would only apply to cloth.

Thought for the Week: *Some, knowing that they are doing the best they can under the circumstances, never think of changing them.* (A Candle By Day)