

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Lech-Lecha
October 23, 2026 / 12 Cheshvan 5787
Volume 32, Issue 3
Candlelighting: 6:15 pm

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

Friday, October 23

6:15pm Candlelighting
6:20pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, October 24

8:45am Shacharis
*Kiddush is sponsored by
Gershon Ickovic on the
occasion of Gavriel
Heller's yahrzeit*

6:10pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
*Shalosh Seudos is
sponsored by Mendel and
Chaya Newman.*

7:21pm Maariv

Sunday, October 25

9:15am Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)

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

8:30pm *Maimonides' Laws of
Repentance*
(R. Nisenbaum)

Monday, October 26

8:00pm *"Foundation of a Nation
– Forefather Yitzchak"*
(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, October 27

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

Wednesday, October 28

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

Thursday, October 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

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: Lech-Lecha

In the story of the Jewish people, Abraham is considered to be the first Jew because he recognized G-d on his own accord. Despite being scorned by the rest of society, and at great personal risk to his life, Abraham shared and spread his knowledge with everyone he met. It is for this reason that he was called "Avraham Ha'Ivri", or "Abraham of the Other Side." This would become the eternal role of the Jew, to spread the ideals of monotheism and morality throughout the world, despite great opposition.

Abraham and his wife Sarah had to endure ten challenges to prove, and to develop, their faithfulness to G-d. The Torah describes the various challenges at great length.

One of Abraham's challenges was to uproot his family, leave his homeland, and travel to an unknown land, which would only be revealed to him later. This was meant to develop his complete trust in G-d, and also to allow him to make a total break from his past environments and influences.

Shortly after reaching Canaan, a famine struck the land. Abraham and Sarah were forced to leave and travel to Egypt, where Pharaoh abducted Sarah. Afterwards, Abraham's nephew, Lot, parted

ways with his uncle, choosing to live in Sodom, among people whose ideology was the very antithesis of Abraham's. Yet when Lot was captured in war, Abraham risked his life to protect his nephew. Despite all these difficulties, Abraham and Sarah did not become disillusioned and maintained their faith.

Abraham and Sarah were childless for many years—despite G-d's promise to Abraham that he would father a great nation. This was also a challenge to Abraham's faith. Another one of Abraham's trials was the mitzvah of circumcision, which

was given to him at the age of ninety-nine years old. G-d made a covenant with Abraham that if he walked perfectly in His ways, G-d would bless him with children and give him the land of Canaan for his children. G-d commanded Abraham to seal this covenant on his body through the circumcision.

This mitzvah was given for all future generations too. Every Jewish male must be circumcised as an eternal sign between G-d and the Jewish people of His covenant with Abraham. Circumcision has remained the hallmark of the Jew, distinguishing him from the rest of the world.

Mazel Tov

to Dr. Scott and Debbie
Peters upon the marriage
of their son. Aufruf at
Heichal HaKodesh

Insights: Lech-Lecha

Hashem told Avram, "Go from your land, from your birthplace..." (Gen 12:1) In the early years of the Second World War, the Brisker Rav was forced to flee his home and traveled to Vilna with thousands of other refugees. Rav Chaim Ozer Grodzinski sent the Rav money and made sure he had proper accommodations. The Brisker Rav told a student of his, "I appreciate all the assistance I have received, but we find that Hashem instructed Avram to leave his home and birthplace and that he would thus become a great nation. This was considered one of Avram's great tests. Now, Avram heard this directly from G-d, not from a prophet. He was also promised great success with his move. If so, why is it considered to be such a great test? We see that being exiled from one's home, regardless of the promise and reward, is still considered to be a very difficult challenge."

Did You Know?

When a circumcision will take place on the eighth day, it should be as early in the morning as possible, to show endearment for the mitzvah by performing it at the first possible opportunity. If there are two circumcisions to take place, one its proper time, on the eighth day, and the second for a child whose circumcision had to be postponed, there are different opinions as to which takes precedence. Some say that the eighth-day child comes first, since there is a greater mitzvah to circumcise on the eighth day, to the extent that it overrides Shabbos. Others feel, however, that the delayed child comes first, since every moment the father unnecessarily delays the circumcision he transgresses a positive commandment, whereas preceding the eight-day old child is only a preference.

Thought for the Week: We cannot get away from it all; we are "it all." (A Candle By Day)