

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Behar

May 24, 2024 / 16 Iyar 5784

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Candlelighting: 8:30 pm

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

Friday, May 23

6:55pm Early Mincha / Maariv
8:30pm Candlelighting
8:35pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, May 24

8:45am Shacharis
*Kiddush is sponsored by
Scott and Debbie Peters
on the occasion of her
father's yahrzeit.*
7:20pm Pirke Avos
8:25pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
9:39pm Maariv

Sunday, May 25

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

Monday, May 26

8:00am Legal Holiday Shacharis
following by breakfast &
class: Milk in Jewish
Thought and Law
8:00pm "Ten Commandments":
Taking G-d's Name in
Vain (R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, May 27

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

Wednesday, May 28

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

Thursday, May 29

10:15pm Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)

Torah Podcast

Listen to Rabbi Nisenbaum's
"Torah Podcast" at Spotify,

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: Behar

Every seven years in Israel is called the *Shemittah* year, the Sabbatical year. All Jewish-owned land in Israel may not be sown, planted, or harvested, for the entire year. Although a person in an agriculturally dependent society could hardly be blamed for fearing the loss of income for an entire year, the Torah promises that the sixth year would produce an abundance of food to carry everyone through the eighth year.

After every seven *Shemittah* years, the fiftieth year is called the Jubilee year. The laws of *Shemittah* would be applicable then, too, and the Torah promises that the forty-eighth year would produce enough for both the *Shemittah* and Jubilee years.

During the Jubilee year, a person was also obligated to free all his Hebrew slaves, and to return real estate that was purchased since the last Jubilee year to its original owner, although the Torah does make certain exceptions.

One of the reasons for the mitzvah of *Shemittah* was to allow the people an opportunity to pursue spiritual goals, and not become totally lost in the material pursuits of the world. During the year of *Shemittah* a person would be able to spend more time in Torah study and prayer.

Another reason for the *Shemittah* was to teach the people that one's income comes from G-d and is not merely the fruits of one's own labor. Although the nature of the world is such that man must expend efforts in order to enjoy the benefits, it is important to remember that one's success and failure are not tied exclusively to the amount of efforts that he expend. Although generally the Torah requires man to put forth the proper efforts, here the Torah requires the Jew to abstain totally from effort and putting his trust completely in G-d.

Trust in G-d is also the source of other prohibitions in the portion. One must not charge interest to a fellow Jew. It is also forbidden to pay interest to a fellow Jew. A person might think that if he lends his money to others without charging interest, he will lose many opportunities for investments and other financial gain. The Torah also warns not to take unfair advantage of others in business by overcharging them. A person's income is a gift from G-d and one must not be greedy to gain more than what he is supposed to have. G-d can provide enough for everyone without a person having to resort to deceptive and unfair business practices.

Insights: Behar

When you sell something to your friend... do not aggrieve him ... (Lev 25:14)

A yeshiva student wanted to buy a book from Rav Elchanan Wasserman, the author. Reb Elchanan gave him the book but refused to accept any payment. "I don't charge yeshiva students for my books," he explained.

The student insisted that he could afford the book and he wanted to pay for it. Reb Elchanan said, "If I take your money I will have to check every page carefully to make sure I am not cheating you. That is very time-consuming. If I give it to you as a gift I do not have that same responsibility. You are doing me a favor by taking it as a gift."

Did You Know?

Although one may take haircuts on Lag B'Omer, they may not be taken until the morning. When Lag B'Omer falls on Sunday, it is permitted to take haircuts on the Friday before, in honor of Shabbos, since it appears disrespectful to honor Lag B'Omer more than Shabbos. If a person did not take the haircut before Shabbos, he may not take a haircut Saturday night but he must wait until Sunday morning. Weddings also are only permitted on Lag B'Omer day, and not the night before. In extenuating circumstances, such as if Lag B'Omer falls on Friday, it is permitted to make a wedding the night before Lag B'Omer.

Thought for the Week: Many talents go unrealized for lack of realization that they are talents
(A Candle By Day)