

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Emor

May 16, 2025 / 18 Iyar 5785

Volume 30, Issue 28

Candlelighting: 8:21 pm

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

## Friday, May 16

6:50pm Early mincha  
8:21pm Candlelighting  
8:25pm Mincha

## Shabbos, May 17

8:45am Shacharis  
*Kiddush is sponsored by  
Leibel Preyger*

7:15pm Pirke Avos  
8:15pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos  
9:31pm Maariv

## Sunday, May 18

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

## Monday, May 19

8:00pm **Lessons of the Fathers**  
(R. Nisenbaum)

## Tuesday, May 20

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

## Wednesday, May 21

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

## Thursday, May 22

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](http://www.maverickpodcasting.com)

New episodes twice a week!

## 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.

## Insights: Emor

**You shall count for yourselves...seven weeks....fifty days. (Lev 23:15)** Rav Shimshon Pincus spoke at an Arachim outreach seminar in Israel. Over the course of the weekend, he became acquainted with a secular Jew who did not seem very impressed by the talks. Rav Pincus asked the man if he would do him a small favor and count each day of the Omer. The man agreed. After a few days the man's interest in studying Torah was aroused, eventually agreeing to observe the mitzvos. Rav Pincus was asked why he asked the man to observe the mitzvah of counting the Omer more than anything else. He explained, "The Omer was a barley offering the food of animals. On Shavuot, the wheat offering is brought, the food of humans. How does an animal change to become a human? By taking a minute each day to count the Omer. The aspiration to receive the Torah, even for a moment each day, is enough to ignite a fire, to connect with the Al-Mighty.

## Did You Know?

Although haircuts and weddings are not permitted during the period of the Omer, they are permitted on Lag B'Omer, the thirty-third day of the Omer. Most authorities only permit haircuts during the day of Lag B'Omer and not from the previous evening. This is because the students of Rabbi Akiva ceased dying on the day of Lag B'Omer, so part of the day should be observed in mourning. Weddings too should not be held on the evening prior to Lag B'Omer. When Lag B'Omer falls on Friday, there are opinions who permit weddings on Thursday night. If the wedding ceremony takes place on Lag B'Omer, one may continue the music and dancing even after nightfall.

**Thought for the Week:** *G-d leads a man to temptation, but he doesn't make him drink.*  
(A Candle By Day)