

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Lech-Lecha  
November 8, 2024 / 7 Cheshvan 5785  
Volume 30, Issue 2  
Candlelighting: 4:55 pm

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

## Friday, November 8

4:55pm Candlelighting  
5:00pm Mincha / Maariv  
8:30pm Shiur @ R. Nisenbaum

## Shabbos, November 9

8:45am Shacharis  
*Kiddush is sponsored by members of JLC in honor of Rabbi Zev Soclof*  
4:20pm Laws of Shabbos  
4:50pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos  
6:01pm Maariv

## Sunday, November 10

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

## Monday, November 11

8:00pm Pathways to Prayer  
Personal vs. Public  
(R. Nisenbaum)

## Tuesday, November 12

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

## Wednesday, November 13

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

## Thursday, November 14

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)

### 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.

**Sponsorship Opportunities**  
There are many Kiddush, Shalosh Seudos, newsletter, and other sponsorship opportunities available for 5785. Sign up now!

## Insights: Noach

**I will bless those who bless you and those who curse you I will curse, and they will all bless themselves by you. (Gen 12:3)** Somebody asked the Sefas Emes that the blessing given to Avraham seems to contradict itself. First it says that those who curse the Jewish People will be cursed and then it says that they will all be blessed. The Rebbe explained, "There is always a double standard regarding the way the world views the Jewish People. They may curse them aloud, but in their hearts they recognize the beauty of the Jew's moral standards and lifestyle. While cursing them externally they actually wish to raise their own children by those standards and they bless themselves accordingly."

## Did You Know?

There are a few steps necessary for a valid circumcision. Besides removal of the foreskin, it is also necessary to peel back the surrounding membrane. The circumcision must also be performed in a way that the blood can flow. This precludes certain types of clamps which prevent bleeding. In many medical circumcisions done in the hospital these types of clamps are used and thus invalidate the circumcision. In this situation, as well as for a conversion where the person was already circumcised, a drop of blood must be drawn by pricking the tip of the organ.

**Thought for the Week: The danger of fighting fire with fire is being burned by the fire you are fighting with.** (A Candle By Day)