

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Vayakhel-Pekudei  
March 17, 2023 / 24 Adar 5783  
Volume 28, Issue 22  
Candlelighting: 7:17 pm

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## Friday, March 17

7:17pm Candlelighting  
7:20pm Mincha / Maariv

## Shabbos, March 18

8:45am Shacharis  
*Kiddush is available for sponsorship*  
7:10pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos / Maariv

## Sunday, March 19

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

## Monday, March 20

8:00pm "The Rest of the Story"  
- "The Exodus"

## Tuesday, March 21

8:00pm Pirkei d'Rebbi Elazar  
(R. Stoll)

## Wednesday, March 22

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

## Thursday, March 23

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: Vayakhel-Pekudei

Moshe gathered the people to speak to them about the construction of the Mishkan, the Tabernacle. He also reiterated the laws of Shabbos to them and explained that although the Mishkan was important, Shabbos was even more important and could not be desecrated even for the purpose of constructing the Mishkan.

He instructed the Jewish people about the different materials and skills that would be needed for building the *Mishkan*. Although they had not been required to donate anything, the response was overwhelming. The men and women brought so much gold and expensive jewelry that there was a surplus of what was needed, and Moshe discouraged them from bringing more. Similarly, many people offered their services to assist in the construction of the *Mishkan* and its vessels. This enthusiasm was necessary to atone for the misplaced enthusiasm the people had shown when they brought their jewelry at the sin of the Golden Calf.

Betzalel, who was a grandson of Chur, oversaw the construction of the Mishkan. Chur, the Talmud explains, had stood up against the nation when they had first demanded the Golden Calf. He had sharply rebuked them for failing to show the proper faith in Moshe and G-d. At the height of the rebellion Chur was murdered. It was therefore quite appropriate

that the construction of the *Mishkan*, which would atone for the Golden Calf, should take place under Chur's grandson's direction.

After the *Mishkan* was completed, Moshe was told to inaugurate the dedication. This was a seven-day ceremony in which Moshe erected the *Mishkan*, performed the service, and then dismantled it each day. On the eighth day, the first day of Nissan, the *Mishkan* was erected permanently and Ahron took over as the Kohen Gadol, the High Priest.

The Rabbis relate that Moshe was unable to lift the heavy construction by himself. He asked G-d how it was possible to request something of him that he was physically incapable of doing. G-d told Moshe that He only wanted him to put forth his best effort and that the *Mishkan* would erect itself. This is alluded to in the passage that "the *Mishkan* was erected" (Exod. 40:17) – not that Moshe erected it.

The implicit message in this is that G-d only expects man to put forth his best effort to try and create a bastion of holiness for G-d's Presence to reside. Once he tries his hardest, however, G-d Himself will complete the task for him.

Interestingly enough, the Torah later says that Moshe constructed the *Mishkan*. Once Moshe put forth his best effort, although G-d did the work, Moshe was credited with the success.

## Insights: Vayakhel-Pekudei

**When Moshe would exit to his tent, the whole nation would rise for him (Exodus 33:8)**

Although there is an obligation to stand in honor of a Torah leader, many scholars would try to make themselves inconspicuous in order not to bother others to stand for them. Shortly after Rav Ahron Kotler passed away, Rav Yaakov met Rav Ahron's son, Rav Shneur, at an Agudah Convention. The two spoke for a while in the hallway while the program began. Then Rav Yaakov took Rav Shneur by the hand and entered the ballroom where the program was taking place. Upon seeing the two great scholars entering the room together, the crowd immediately stood up in their honor. Later Rav Yaakov explained, "I knew that Rav Shneur always flees from honor, but I also know how much he works to keep his father's yeshiva thrive. He is busy from morning to night and his wife hardly gets a chance to see him. I thought it was important that she sees how much respect people have for Rav Shneur, and that is why I deliberately walked into the room after everyone was seated.

## Did You Know?

The Torah prohibits igniting a fire on Shabbos. Turning on an incandescent light bulb violates this law, since it contains a red-hot filament. Other electrical appliances may not be used either, but for other reasons. Some authorities include it in the prohibition of finishing a product, since the appliance is useless until the electricity is turned on. Others consider completing the electric circuit as assembling a utensil, which is like building. Others consider it cooking, since the wire becomes heated. Many authorities forbid the simple act of opening an oven door since it allows cool air to enter the oven, triggering the thermostat, and igniting a fire. Other authorities, however, permit this because the thermostat does not kick in immediately and is only indirectly related to opening the door.

**Thought for the Week: We must be wary of associating discomfort with failure and comfort with success.** (A Candle By Day)