

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Yisro

January 21, 2022 / 19 Shevat 5782

Volume 27, Issue 17

Candlelighting: 5:10 pm

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

## Friday, January 21

7:00am Shacharis

5:10pm Candlelighting  
5:15pm Mincha / Maariv

8:15pm Parsha Class  
2362 Milton

## Shabbos, January 22

8:45am Shacharis

4:35pm Laws of Shabbos  
5:05pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos /  
Maariv

## Sunday, January 23

8:00am Shacharis  
9:15am *Parsha Class*  
(R. Nisenbaum)  
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"  
(R. Stoll)

## Monday, January 24

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm *Understanding Emunah:  
Faith and Trust (2 / 10)*  
(R. Nisenbaum)

## Tuesday, January 25

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm *Avos D'Rav Nosson*  
(R. Stoll)

## Wednesday, January 26

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm *Nach Still Speaks*  
(R. Stoll)

## Thursday, January 27

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm *The 12 Jewish Months*  
(R. Stoll)  
in person, Zoom & audio  
10:15pm *Parsha Class*  
(R. Nisenbaum)

### Class Connection

**R. Nisenbaum:**  
425-436-6200 #352171

**R. Stoll:**  
Zoom: 876-619-3551  
Audio: 669-900-9128

## Parsha: Yisro

Yisro, Moshe's father-in-law, was a priest in Midian. He was a seeker of truth and had experimented with all the known religions of the time. Like all the other nations he also heard about the wonders G-d had performed for the Jewish people when they left Egypt. He appreciated the precision of G-d's retribution against the Egyptians, measure for measure for all their sins. However, unlike the other nations, he decided to act upon his inspiration and join the Jewish people.

Shortly thereafter, Yisro saw the people waiting to hear Moshe's rulings and judgment, from early morning until night. Yisro felt it was not respectful for the people to have to wait all day to have their questions answered. Furthermore, he was concerned that Moshe would get worn out. He suggested to Moshe that they set up a different system, where there would be lower courts trained, where people could present their minor disputes and queries. Moshe heeded his father-in-law's advice.

This was a lesson in truth, that even the advice of a newcomer to the community, could be accepted by the leader without any reservations. An honest criticism or suggestion must be listened to, regardless of its source. The Talmud comments that a wise person is one who learns from everybody.

This portion also describes the Revelation at Sinai. Although G-d offered all the nations His Torah, the Jewish people answered in unison "We will do, and we will hear." They agreed to accept all G-d's commandments, even before hearing what they were. This act of faith on their part earned the Jewish people an eternal status of chosenness.

The world came to a standstill as G-d communicated the Ten Commandments to the people. The Rabbis say that only the first two commandments were heard directly from G-d. After the first two, the people were too frightened to hear the rest directly from G-d, so Moshe relayed the remaining commandments to them.

After the Revelation, Moshe climbed to the top of the mountain for forty days where G-d taught him the rest of the commandments and all their details.

Although the Ten Commandments were only a sampling of the 613 mitzvos in the Torah, the commentaries explain that all the commandments are alluded to in these ten. Besides the commandments themselves, though, the experience of Revelation at Mount Sinai left an indelible mark upon World History.

### Mazel Tov

*Yehoshua & Tali Gelfand  
upon the birth of a  
daughter.*

## Insights: Yisro

**These are the laws that you should place before them. When a man buys a Hebrew slave... (Exodus 21:2)** Rav Moshe Weinberger says that the interpersonal laws of slavery, monetary damages, and theft follow the elevating experience of Mount Sinai to teach us that G-d is found in the mundane details of everyday life. An opponent of the Chassidim was skeptical of Rav Moshe Leib Sassover's followers who claimed he would ascend to the Heavens. He decided to spy on the Rebbe to see for himself. One cold morning he saw the Rebbe rise early in the morning, donning a peasant's coat and hat. The man followed Rav Moshe Leib into the forest and eventually they came upon a ramshackle hut, where an elderly widow lived by herself. The Rebbe knocked on the door and identified himself as Moishe. He told the woman that he had brought her firewood to warm her home. He quickly busied himself and tended to the fire. The sickly woman was so appreciative, but she apologized that she had no money to pay him. Rav Moshe Leib told the woman that he was in a rush and would return a different time for the money. The Rebbe made another few similar stops to poor families before returning for the morning prayers. The man was astounded by what he had seen. The Chassidim later asked the man if he had indeed seen the Rebbe ascend the Heavens. The man responded, "No, I did not see the Rebbe ascend to the Heavens. I saw him ascend much higher than that!"

## Did You Know?

One may not mention G-d's name in vain. Accordingly, a person must be careful not to recite a blessing unnecessarily. For this reason, one may not recite a blessing on other foods during a meal where bread was served, because they are covered by the blessing on the bread. (This does not include desserts such as fruits, which are not covered.) A person must also be careful not to speak after the blessing before eating, since this necessitates another blessing, thus making the first one a blessing in vain. If one is in doubt whether or not he recited the blessing before eating, it need not be repeated because of the concern of saying it in vain.

**Thought for the Week: It is not enough to be true to ourselves; we must be true to our true selves.** (A Candle By Day)