

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Yisro / Mevarchim HaChodesh

February 2, 2024 / 23 Shevat 5784

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Candlelighting: 5:26 pm

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

## Friday, February 2

5:26pm Candlelighting  
5:30pm Mincha / Maariv  
8:15pm Parsha Shiur  
@ R. Nisenbaum

## Shabbos, February 3

8:45am Shacharis  
*Kiddush is available for sponsorship.*  
4:40pm Laws of Shabbos  
5:20pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos  
6:34pm Maariv

## Sunday, February 4

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

## Monday, February 5

8:00pm "Wisdom of Koheles"  
(R. Nisenbaum)

## Tuesday, February 6

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

## Wednesday, February 7

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

## Thursday, February 8

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: 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.

### "Wisdom of Koheles"

*There's nothing new under the sun, or on Monday night, at least for this final week on Koheles*

## Insights: Yisro

"...you will surely become worn out...it is too hard for you to do it alone." (Ex 18:18) Yisro was concerned that Moshe would become worn out by attending to the people's queries and disputes. Someone once approached the Chazon Ish with an intricate Halachic question. The Chazon Ish asked the person if the question was practical or merely theoretical. The man admitted the question was theoretical, to which the Rav responded that he did not know the answer. The man was puzzled. "I don't understand, why should it make a difference if it was practical or not?" The Chazon Ish explained, "When a question comes to me that must be answered for practical purposes, I feel I receive special Divine assistance to respond to the query. When, however, a question is merely theoretical, I must exert myself much more to reach the answer. Right now I don't have the strength to exert myself, and thus I have no answer for you."

## Did You Know?

One may not pressure another person to give or sell something the owner is reluctant to do. Even if he is willing to pay more money than it is worth, it is a transgression of the prohibition to covet another's property. Some authorities explain the idea of pressuring to mean asking more than two times if the owner resists the request. Some say that even pressuring another person to lend something is included in the prohibition. The prohibition is not transgressed until the person acquires the object desired.

**Thought for the Week: Some mistake indignation for righteousness.** (A Candle By Day)