

## Remote Youth Groups!!!

### Parshas Yisro

#### Tefillah of the week:

ברוך אתה ה' אלוקינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו על נטילת ידיים

You are the source of blessing, Hashem, our G-d, King of the world, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us about washing our hands.

We are commanded to wash our hands every morning, 3 times for each hand alternating left and right, first the right then the left.

There are 2 reasons we wash our hands every morning:

1. Because during the night, our hands may have touched areas of our bodies that are normally covered.
2. Because there's an impurity that settles on our hands overnight

Although normally we say brachos before we do them, in this instance we can't say it immediately before (because our hands are still impure), and instead we say it after. The Mishna Brurah tells us that it's ideal to say it as part of our davening, which is why it is placed in the order of all the other blessings.

The minimum hand washing (which is done on Tisha B'av and Yom Kippur, is up to the ends of our knuckles.

### **Parsha Summary and Discussion**

Moshe's father-in-law, Yisro, who lives in Midian, hears the news of all the amazing miracles that G-d did for the Jewish people, and he decides to go visit. So he, together with his daughter, Moshe's wife Tzipporah, and their two sons Gershom and Eliezer leave Midian and head for the desert, where they meet Moshe.

Discuss – What made Yisro decide to come after he heard all the amazing miracles that happened? Didn't everyone hear about all the miracles?

Now, Yisro sees that Moshe is incredibly busy, because anytime the Jews have a problem, or they want to understand how to do a certain mitzvah, they come to Moshe. And so, every day, from morning until night, Moshe sits and answers questions. Yisro tells Moshe that doing this is too hard for him and will wear him out. Instead, he suggests, Moshe should appoint judges who will be in charge of smaller groups of people, and then if those judges don't know the answers, they will go to the higher judges in charge of larger groups, and if those don't know, they'll go to the higher level judges, all the way up, until it reaches Moshe. This way, Moshe will only get the hardest questions, and he'll have time for other things. Moshe does as his father-in-law suggests, and appoints the judges. Then Yisro leaves to return to Midian, and Moshe sees him off.

Discuss – What type of people do you think were chosen to be the judges?

Next, the Jews travel to a part of the desert called Sinai, where G-d tells them that if they accept the Torah, they will be a chosen and special nation. The Jews respond, "Everything that G-d has said, we will do!" So they are told to prepare for three days for a very awesome event that will take place on Mount Sinai. Also, they receive instructions about the mountain. Because it is so holy, no one is allowed to touch it, and they must be very careful to not even come too close.

Discuss- Why did they have to prepare for the event? (One must be ready for holiness)

On the third day, there is booming thunder and flashes of lightning, and the Jews all go to Mount Sinai. There, they see a thick cloud over the mountain and hear a long, powerful blast of a shofar. Then G-d comes down to the mountain and proclaims the Ten Commandments.

Discuss – Why all the fanfare? What's the big deal? (it is a big deal)

These Ten Commandments set the standard for goodness in the world; here they are:

1. Belief in G-d
2. Not to worship idols or other gods
3. Not to swear falsely in the name of G-d
4. Keep the Sabbath
5. Honor your parents
6. Do not kill
7. Be faithful to your spouse--do not engage in immoral behavior
8. Do not steal
9. Do not testify falsely against somebody else
10. Do not be jealous of what your friend or neighbor has

Discuss – The rabbis teach us that the commandments were written on two tablets, and that one is about the commandments between man and G-d (the first tablet 1-5) and that the other was about the commandments between man and his neighbor (the second tablet 6-10). How does the fifth commandment, honor you parents, have to do with the commandments between man and G-d?

When G-d began to speak the commandments, it was too powerful and overwhelming for the Jews to hear. So they begged Moshe to receive the Torah from G-d and then tell it to them. Then, Moshe went up to the mountain.

### **Mitzvah of the Week**

The fourth of the ten commandments is to remember the Shabbos to sanctify it (make it holy and separate from the other days of the week). We sanctify Shabbos in many ways. We make Kiddush to accept Shabbos upon ourselves. We wear special clothing for Shabbos. We eat special food on Shabbos.

What are some ways that you sanctify Shabbos?

### **Parsha Questions**

Q: What did Yisro hear about that made him come and visit Moshe?

A: All the miracles that Hashem did for the Jews

Q: Who did Yisro bring with him?

A: Tzipporah, Moshe's wife, and their two sons, Gershom and Eliezer

Q: What problem did Yisro see that made him suggest a change to Moshe?

A: He saw that Moshe spent a lot of time dealing with the judging of the people

Q: What did he suggest?

A: To set up a system of judges that would range from doing very simple judgements to the more serious and only the hardest judgements would come to Moshe

Q: Did Moshe take Yisro's advice?

A: Yes

Q: What was the name of the mountain that the Torah was given on?

A: Har Sinai

Q: How many days did the Jews prepare there for?

A: 3 days

Q: What were they not allowed to do to the mountain?

A: Touch it or walk on it

Q: How did Hashem make His presence known to us (what miracles were there)?

A: There was thunder and lightning and there was a thick cloud and the sound of the Shofar

Q: Name the ten commandments

A: (see above)

Q: What do the Rabbis teach us is the unique relationship between the first tablet and the second?

A: The first tablet contains the commandments between man and G-d and the second is the commandments between man and his fellow man

Q: What is the Mitzvah of the week?

A: To remember the Shabbos to sanctify it (make the Shabbos holy)

Q: How can we do that?

A: By preparing for Shabbos, wearing special clothing, eating differently, speaking differently, walking differently, etc.

### Harder Questions:

1. Yitro had 7 names. Why was one of his names *Yeter* ?  
**18:1 - Because he caused a parsha to be added to the Torah. Yeter means addition.**
2. News of which two events motivated Yitro to come join the Jewish People?  
**18:1 - The splitting of the sea and the war against Amalek.**
3. What name of Yitro indicates his love for Torah?  
**18:1 - Chovav.**
4. Why was Tzipora with her father, Yitro, and not with Moshe when *Bnei Yisrael* left Egypt?  
**18:3 - When Aharon met Moshe with his family on their way down to Egypt, Aharon said to Moshe: "We're pained over the Jews already in Egypt, and you're bringing more Jews to Egypt?" Moshe, hearing this, sent his wife and children back to Midian.**
5. Why does verse 18:5 say that Yitro came to the desert — don't we already know that the *Bnei Yisrael* were in the desert?  
**18:5 - To show Yitro's greatness. He was living in a luxurious place; yet he went to the desert in order to study the Torah.**
6. Why did Moshe tell Yitro all that G-d had done for the Jewish People?  
**18:8 - To draw Yitro closer to the Torah way of life.**
7. According to the *Midrash* quoted by Rashi, how did Yitro respond when he was told about the destruction of Egypt?  
**18:9 - He grieved.**
8. Who is considered as if he enjoys the splendor of the *Shechina* ?  
**18:12 - One who dines with Torah scholars.**
9. On what day did Moshe sit to judge the Jewish People?  
**18:13 - The day after Yom Kippur.**
10. Who is considered a co-partner in Creation?  
**18:13 - A judge who renders a correct decision.**
11. "Moshe sat to judge the people, and the people stood before Moshe...." What bothered Yitro about this arrangement?

**18:14 - Yitro felt that the people weren't being treated with the proper respect.**

12. Why did Yitro return to his own land?

**18:27 - To convert the members of his family to Judaism.**

13. How did the encampment at Sinai differ from the other encampments?

**19:2 - The Jewish People were united.**

14. To whom does the Torah refer when it uses the term "*Beit Yaakov*"?

**19:3 - The Jewish women.**

15. How is G-d's protection of the Jewish People similar to an eagle's protection of its young?

**19:4 - An eagle carries its young on top of its wings to protect them from human arrows. So too, G-d's cloud of glory separated between the Egyptians and the Jewish camp in order to absorb Egyptian missiles and arrows fired at the Jewish People.**

16. What was G-d's original plan for *Matan Torah*? What was the response of the Jewish People?

**19:9 - G-d offered to appear to Moshe and to give the Torah through him. The Jewish People responded that they wished to hear the Torah directly from G-d.**

17. How many times greater is the "measure of reward" than the "measure of punishment"?

**20:6 - 500 times.**

18. How is it derived that "Don't steal" refers to kidnapping?

**20:13 - Since it is written immediately after "Don't murder" and "Don't commit adultery," it is derived that "Don't steal" refers to a crime carrying the same penalty as the first two, namely, the death penalty.**

19. In response to hearing the Torah given at Sinai, how far backwards did the Jewish people retreat in fear?

**20:15 - They backed away from the mountain twelve *mil* (one *mil* is 2000 cubits).**

20. Why does the use of iron tools profane the altar?

**20:22 - The altar was created to extend life; iron is sometimes used to make weapons which shorten life.**

**Good Shabbos!!!**