

Elementary:

- 1) What is the mitzvah of Hashavat Aveida?
- 2) What is the mitzvah of Shiluah HaKein?
- 3) What two materials are forbidden to be worn together (Shaatnez)?
- 4) How many examples of the importance of treating animals kindly can you find in this week's parasha?

Middle/High School:

- 1) What is a Ben Sorer U'Moreh?
- 2) How long does one have to fulfill a Neder that they pledge?
- 3) When is it allowed to wear a garment with wool and linen (Rashi 22:12)?
- 4) What are Yibum and Chalitzah?
- 5) What 2 stories does the parasha tell us that we must always remember?

What would you do?

Discussion starter for your Shabbat table..

You feel guilty about speaking Lashon Harah about a friend and want to ask mechila. But the other person does not know what you said and you worry that bringing it up might offend them. Should you tell them what you did and ask forgiveness and or keep it to yourself?

Did You Know?

Rambam (Hilchot Teshuva 2:9-10)

"Teshuvah and Yom Kippur only atone for sins between man and God.... However, sins between man and man... will never be forgiven until he gives his colleague what he owes him and appeases him.... If his colleague does not desire to forgive him, he should bring a group of three of his friends and approach him with them and request [forgiveness]. If he is not appeased, he should repeat the process a second and third time. If he [still] does not want [to forgive him], he may let him alone and need not pursue [the matter further]. On the contrary, the person who refuses to grant forgiveness is the one considered as the sinner."

"It is forbidden for a person to be cruel and refuse to be appeased. Rather, he should be easily pacified, but hard to anger (נוח לרצות וקשה לכעוס). When the person who wronged him asks for forgiveness, he should forgive him with a complete heart and a willing spirit. Even if he aggravated and wronged him severely, he should not seek revenge or bear a grudge. This is the path of the seed of Israel and their upright spirit."



Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis z"l - Sensitizing Your Heart (Aish.com)

This parashah contains more mitzvos than any other parashah, and they are mitzvos that encompass many areas that sensitize our hearts and enable us to perceive that there is more to life than mere existence. It is not by coincidence that this parashah is read as we prepare for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

The laws pertaining to helping unload a burdened animal not only teach us that it is a positive commandment to relieve the animal of its burden, but that closing our eyes to its suffering is to transgress the prohibition of "tzaar baalei chaim," which means that we may not be indifferent to the distress of an animal. This law should give us food for thought and compel us to re-think our relationships with our fellow man. If the Torah demands that we be so sensitive to the pain of an animal, how much more must we sensitize ourselves to the burdens and the pain in the hearts of our brethren.

Nowadays, there are so many problems that afflict people, so many who are lonely and hurting, so many who are ill, so many who have lost their jobs and have difficulty making ends meet, and so many who are suffering in Eretz Yisrael. We dare not turn our backs on them and pretend that we do not see or hear their cries. A kind word, a listening ear, a smile, a helping hand can all serve to ease their pain and lift their burdens.