

First Aliyah / Rishon

1. What does it mean that God remembered? Does it imply that He forgot? Can God forget?
2. Every single verse in the first Aliyah has active verbs:
פָּקַד=remember, **וַיַּעַשׂ**=He did, **וַתֵּלֶד**=she gave birth, **וַיִּקְרָא**=and he called, **וַיִּמַּל**=and he circumcised.
 Is there a reason to emphasize all the action?

Second Aliyah / Sheni

1. Is laughter a weakness or a strength?

Third Aliyah / Shelishi

1. When self-reflecting on Sarah's directive to banish Yishmael and Hagar, Avraham was upset **עַל אוֹדֶת בְּנוֹ**=about his son. In the very next verse, when God inserts Himself into the conversation he refers to Yishmael as **עַל־הַנֶּעֱר**=don't be distressed over the lad. Why does God respond with a different term? What is the difference?
2. The text refers to **בְּעֵינֵי אַבְרָהָם**=that the idea was bad in the "eyes of Avraham". And God responds with another reference to the eyes, **עַל־יְרֵעַ בְּעֵינֶיךָ**=don't be distressed in your eyes. What can be learned from the repletion of the word eyes?

Fourth Aliyah / Revi'i

1. In describing where Hagar sat, the verse states, **וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתֵּשֶׁב לָהּ מוֹנָד**=she went and sat opposite. What insight can we extract from the description of how and where Hagar sat?
2. The verse states that Hagar lifted her voice and cried and the very next verse says that **וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶת־קוֹל הַנֶּעֱר**=God heard the voice of the lad. What are we meant to understand from the raising of her voice, but God hears and responds to the boy's voice.

Fifth Aliyah / Chamishi

1. How does Hagar's reaction to her son's situation differ from Sarah's reaction to her son's situation?
2. What coping tools and strategies can be extracted from their respective responses?

Sixth Aliyah / Shishi

1. God's presence with Avraham was evident to Avimelech; **אֱלֹהִים עִמָּךְ בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה**=Avimelech told Avraham, "God is with you in all that you do", how does one become a person who embodies a visible presence of God?

Seventh Aliyah / Shvi'i

1. Why does Avraham plant a tree at the culmination of the promise forged between himself and Avimelech?