



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

# SHABBOS DELIGHTS

## TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

This week's Torah reading begins with the convalescence of Abraham after his circumcision, in an area called the Plains of Mamre. The commentaries note that the Torah cites the actual location to honor one of Abraham's three closest friends. This individual, Mamre, merited to have Abraham sojourn in his domain, and to have his name recorded for all posterity, because of the wonderful counsel he provided to Abraham. G-d commanded Abraham to circumcise himself and all the males in his household. When Abraham suggested this to the males of his household, however, they objected, fearful of the procedure and possible risks. Abraham consulted Mamre for guidance in gaining their consent. Mamre suggested: First circumcise yourself. Then you will lead, not by persuasion, but by your example.

Abraham had wanted, however, to be strong and vigorous when he circumcised his household, not recuperating. Believing that his relationship, influence, persuasive skills and sincerity should be sufficient, he was at a loss as to how to proceed. Mamre suggested that the most persuasive influence is achieved by one's own example. Even Abraham, the great and righteous individual, could not prevail upon the members of his household to be circumcised, save by his own prior example. First you circumcise yourself; they will surely follow, said Mamre. The Torah records that Abraham indeed took the knife to himself first and then circumcised all of his household.

How often we must be reminded of this eternal lesson in our relationships with our spouses, children, and colleagues. At the end of the day, it is not what we say, but how we behave.

*Have a wonderful Shabbos!*

*Rabbi Menachem Winter*

## TABLE TALK

### POINTS TO PONDER

**For I (Hashem) have loved him (Avraham), because he commands his children and his household after him that they keep the way of Hashem (18:19).**

*Why do I (Hashem) love him (Avraham)? Since he commands his household to follow My ways (Rashi).*

Hashem tested Avraham with ten tests, and he passed them all. That should be a greater sign of commitment to Hashem, and should cause Hashem to love him. Why does Hashem say He loves him because he commands his children to follow the way of Hashem?

### PARSHA RIDDLE

**What three halachos of Hachnosas Orchim are derived from one word in this parsha?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

### Last week's riddle:

Why should Yitzchok be named Yitzchok?

**Answer:** 1) Since Avrohom laughed when he heard he would have a son. 2) Yud = 10 for ten tests that Avrohom passed. Tzadi = 90 for Sarah's age when Yitzchok was born. Ches = 8 since he received his bris at 8 days. Kuf = 100 for Avraham's age when Yitzchok was born. (Rashi)

## HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

### HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Parshas Va'Yera records Avraham's circumcision of his son Yitzhak (Bereishis 21:4). Halachic authorities debate the propriety of the utilization of anesthesia during circumcision. There are various considerations involved, but the most interesting and provocative is the idea of R. Meir Arik (Shut. Imrei Yosher 2:140:3) that pain is actually an integral component of the mitzvah. He therefore rules that anesthesia should not be used even for an adult. Other authorities agree that anesthesia should generally not be used, but are willing to allow it in exceptional circumstances, such as where there is reason to believe that the pain may endanger the life of the subject (Shut. Eretz Tzvi (Fromer) end of #56), or for elderly individuals or in anatomically problematic situations where the procedure will be particularly difficult and painful (Shut. Shevet Ha'Levi 5:147:2; Shut. Tzitz Eliezer 20:73).

Other authorities reject the basic premise that the mitzvah includes the infliction of pain upon the subject as entirely unfounded (Shut. Seridei Eish 3:96; Shut. Yabia Omer 5 Yoreh De'ah #22. This seems to also be the position of Shut. Igros Moshe Yoreh De'ah 4 40:2). R. Avraham Sofer-Abraham initially reported that both R. Shlomo Zalman Auerbach and R. Yosef Shalom Elyashiv had told him "that if there will be no danger involved in the use of [anesthetic] cream, it will be permitted, and even obligatory, to utilize it." Subsequently, however, he heard that R. Elyashiv maintained that one should not use anesthetic cream for a child, and upon asking him directly, was told that "if the child is somewhat weak, it is permitted to anesthetize" (Nishmas Avraham [Second Expanded Edition] Yoreh De'ah p. 310. See there for further explanation, and see also the somewhat different perspective attributed to R. Auerbach in Igros Moshe ibid.).

PRESENTED BY

**RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH**

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### #1 WHO AM I?

1. Collect for punches
2. We will make you fit.
3. Only the bees got a big meal.
4. Chosen by Lot

#### #2 WHO AM I?

1. My anniversary is Erev Shabbos.
2. People got into "hot water".
3. I gave you the Rainbow.
4. I was in 1656.

#### Last Issue's Answers:

**#1 Lot** (I am not a portion; I confused the generations; I chose wickedness; the nephew.)

**#2 People who had their names changed** (Avraham; Yehoshua; Sarah; Yaakov)

*Congratulations to Rabbi Biberfeld's 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys at TSGW for answering last week's questions correctly!*

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to

*Win a pair of two-way radios!*



*The next raffle is December 15<sup>th</sup>.*

Visit [gwckollel.org](http://gwckollel.org) to submit your answers.

Answer as many as you can because each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning.

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