



Hitch a Ride to Higher Learning.

An Evening of Inspiration
with a Master Torah Teacher

*Wednesday, February 18,
at the CTN Center*

CTN Presents: Jerusalem Torah ... Chicago Sushi

An Evening with one of Jerusalem's outstanding Torah teachers

Rabbi Shimon Green

Rabbi Shimon Green is unique. An American-born Rabbi now living in Jerusalem, his Yeshiva is widely recognized as a unique Torah resource. His unique method of teaching Torah has helped large numbers of people . from seasoned Torah students to first-timers who have never before looked at a page of Talmud . to develop Torah study skills at a whole new level.

He has also traveled the length and breadth of Israel to teach Torah in schools, army bases and kibbutzim, and has been invited to speak and teach in cities around the world. And wherever he is, his talks are famous for their depth, clarity, humor and inspiration.

And the great thing is that he is so accessible and so down to earth that minutes after meeting him, you feel like you're speaking to an old friend!

In order to experience this type of dynamic Torah study, you would usually have to travel to Jerusalem. Great idea . but not always that easy to do! Well now you don't have to. Instead, join us on Wednesday, February 18, as we bring some of Jerusalem's best Torah study to you!

An Evening with Rabbi Shimon Green

Wednesday, Feb. 18, at the CTN Center, 2832 W. Touhy, Chicago.

7 pm: Sushi Bar and Schmoozing

7:30 pm: Torah Study with Rabbi Green

\$10. Register online at www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm
info@torahnetwork.org or 773.761.0400 x201



Home for the
Wondering Jew.™

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: B'SHALACH (EXODUS 13:17 - 17:16)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is dedicated by a long time fan, who after many years, still looks forward to "Hang in there - Shabbos is coming"!

1. G-d said to Moshe, "I will make bread rain down from the heaven. The people will go out and gather enough for each day. (16:4)

The Jewish People leave Egypt. And are in the desert.

What did they eat?

The Torah tells us that they ate *Manna*. A special 'bread' that fell from heaven.

... *Quite a miracle.*

In fact, it may seem a bit hard to picture. Maybe even hard to believe.

After all, we don't see miracles like that these days.

... And the manna is something Judaism wants us to think about a lot.

Think about one of the most famous Jewish rituals. *Grace After Meals*. When we thank G-d for the gift of bread.

... It's an ancient prayer. A very ancient prayer.

In fact, the Talmud says, it goes back over 3000 years.

To the time of the manna.

It's the prayer they used back then to thank G-d for their 'bread'.

... But it seems strange.

What does our bread have to do with the manna?

The *manna* was a miracle. Bread falling from heaven.

Our bread? It's just plain everyday bread. Perfectly natural.

... *Or is it?*

Jewish tradition is making a very important point. A very Jewish point.

... That there is really only one difference between the manna and our bread.

We've gotten used to bread. And take it for granted.

But if we stop and think about it?

About putting a seed in the ground and ending up with a delicious and nutritious loaf of bread.

It's as much a miracle as the manna.

And that's exactly the point. Not to get used to it.

... And next time we have something as simple as a piece of bread, we should stop and say:

"Wow. What a miracle."

2. **Grace After the Meal**

Bircat Hamazon. The Grace after the meal.

Many of us may have memories of it from Hebrew school. Or camp. Singing together as a group.

In fact in Jewish tradition, it is one prayer that is especially meant to be said together as a group.

Why? Sure it may sound more festive that way. But there's really something much deeper to it.

... Food is one of our biggest needs. And biggest pleasures.

Which is why it is so easy to focus on ourselves when we eat.

It's "I'm hungry". And, "I really enjoyed that meal".

And even when we say, "Thank you G-d for being so good to me", I can still be thinking just about myself.

... Jewish tradition tells us not to let that happen. That we need to think beyond ourselves.

And when we eat a meal, and feel good, we should make a point not to 'be alone'. Not to think just about ourselves.

Remember that there are others. Think about them. Care about them.

Thank G-d for what other people have.

... And commit yourself to help those who don't.

- *A man walks into a bar, orders three drinks and downs them all.*

The bartender says to him, "You know, these drinks get flat pretty fast.

Why don't you order one at a time? Drink one and then order the next"

The man explains. "You see, I have two brothers. And we live in different countries. So we made a pact.

Whenever one of us has a drink, we have two more. In honor of our brothers. It helps keep us connected."

... It becomes a weekly ritual. Three drinks at a time.

And then, one day, the fellow sits down and orders two drinks.

The bartender turns to him and says, 'Oh, I'm so sorry. Did you lose one of your brothers"?

"Oh, no. That's not it at all. They're both fine.

... It's just that I stopped drinking"!

... It's important to work on really thinking about others.



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch