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words
come *to*
life!

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No matter what your background and prior Torah study experience, this class is for you.

It's the kind of Torah Study you wish they had back in Hebrew School!

Torah Study with Rabbi Doni Deutsch
Wednesdays, 8:15 pm, at the CTN Center, 2832 W. Touhy
info@torahnetwork.org



Home for the
Wondering Jew™

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: SH'MOS (EXODUS 1:1 - 6:1)

This week's Shabbos Fax is sponsored by Mitch & Amy Rose and their wonderful children, "wishing everyone a year filled with many more thought provoking and inspiring CTN Shabbos Faxes, classes, and events."

1. The King of Egypt told the Hebrew midwives ... 'When you deliver the Hebrew women ... if the child is a boy, kill it.' The midwives feared G-d, and they did not do as the king had ordered. They kept the children alive. (1:15 -16)

The Jewish midwives defied Pharaoh's order. They refused to kill the newborn boys.

But Jewish tradition says they did more.

They did all they could to feed them. Care for them. And provide for them.

Despite the great danger it put them in.

In fact, the Talmud tells us that they even spent time holding the babies. And playing with them.

There's an important message in this story.

Because it teaches an important response to evil. To injustice.

Especially at times when we can't stop it.

When we feel that there's nothing we can do.

... There is something.

We can fight it in a different way.

By doing things that express our values.

And remind us of our commitment to them.

Because being exposed to evil affects us.

It can make us less sensitive. Less outraged.

And we shouldn't let that happen.

The midwives were surrounded by oppression. Cruelty.

They were given an order to kill.

And they refuse.

But they go further.

They make a point of showing extra compassion. Mercy. And love.

To do what they can to preserve their values. Their humanity.

And it's true for us in our everyday lives also.

Even with the little things.

Say a car cuts you off at an intersection.

And you get mad.

Or sometimes you send someone a gift.

Weeks pass by and they don't acknowledge it. Looks like they never will.

And you're upset.

... *Be careful.*

Because it can get to you. *And affect how you act towards others.*

A good response to help you keep your sensitivity?

The next chance you get, make a point of letting another car go ahead of you.

Even if you have the right of way. And even if you're in a rush.

And sit down right away to catch up on *your* thank you cards.

Even if you're very busy.

Because we need to strengthen our values. To work on maintaining our standards.

... Especially when we've been exposed to lower values and standards.

FROM THE JEWISH MYSTICS

'She called his name Moshe (Moses) because it means 'drawn from the water.'

The Egyptian Pharaoh decreed that all Jewish boys be killed. Moses was born and placed in a basket on the Nile River, with the hope that somehow he would be saved. He was found by the Egyptian princess who 'drew him from the water'.

And so we get the name Moshe: 'Drawn from the water.'

But there's a deeper meaning – and lesson – in his name.

Think symbolically: Water has no shape. It takes on the shape of whatever it is in.

Goes with the flow.

... *Water represents conformity.*

And as Jews, our mission in life is to be 'removed from the water'.

Not to simply conform. But to have a powerful sense of right and wrong, of justice and morality.

And a commitment to G-d and His Torah, that will guide us no matter what direction society takes.



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

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