

This Rosh Hashanah Pray in the Original!

Over 100,000 people around the country have learned to read Hebrew using this course. And now you can too.

It's easy. It's fun. And it works.

THE CTN FIVE-WEEK HEBREW READING CRASH COURSE

Tuesdays, August 23 – September 20. 8:00 – 9:00 pm

At the CTN Center. 2832 West Touhy, Chicago

Cost: \$25 Including Workbook. Instructor: Esti Berger (see below*)

www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm info@torahnetwork.org 773-761-0400 x207

* From past participants in CTN's Hebrew Crash Course:

"Our teacher Esti Berger was just absolutely fantastic ... the first time we came to CTN we sat around a big table ... and within ten minutes we were actually reading Hebrew. Literally reading Hebrew!"

(Bob Gottlieb Gottlieb Brothers Inc., Chicago)

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

A WEEKLY PRESENTATION OF JEWISH THOUGHT PUBLISHED IN MEMORY OF RAE DANIEL

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 37 FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2011 / 20 TAMUZ 5771 CANDLE LIGHTING: 7:09 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 9:08 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: MATTOS (NUMBERS 30:2 - 32:42)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Rochel Leah Berger, wishing Mazel Tov to dear friends Randi and Mike Holzman, on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Sarah Elaine. May she be a constant source of joy to you, your families, and the Jewish nation.

1. **"We will build enclosures for our sheep here and cities for our children." (32:16)**

It's a little story in the Torah. With a major lesson.

The Jews are finally about to leave the desert. And enter the Land of Israel. And they speak about their plans. How they will settle down, build cities and take care of their "sheep and their children."

... Jewish tradition picks up on the order of their words. And sees a problem. Of priorities.

It's subtle, but the way people express themselves says something.

... Their primary focus seems to be their sheep. Their possessions.

Their children? Their families? Those were secondary.

... It's easy to pass over this story and say it's not about us.

Because we're not that way. We know enough to put our children first.

... But the Torah wants us to read the story. And to think: *Can we see ourselves in the story at all? Even a little?*

Because the people in the story probably loved their kids too. And would also tell you that their families come first.

But the pressures to earn a living are real. Especially in hard times.

And we know how it is. How easy it is to say something like, *"I'd love to come with you. Really. But it's so busy.*

Maybe when things slow down ... ". To a spouse, a child or a friend:

It's so important to always be aware of the challenge. Not to lose sight of our priorities.

And there's more.

Think of a man who starts a small business. So he can earn a living.

To provide for his family.

He works hard. He's successful. And it grows.

It gets bigger and bigger. And with it – new responsibilities. New projects.

But he's willing to undertake them.

... To provide for his family.

As he becomes more and more successful, his hours get longer and longer.

But he does it. He feels that he has to.

... To provide for his family.

And he gives them everything.

Except for the one thing they want – and need – most:

... Time with their husband and father.

A DEEPER LOOK AT PRAYER ...

Rabbi Abraham Twerski was leading a panel discussion at a conference on spirituality. When a woman in the audience stood up to speak. About something that was really getting her down.

"This morning, I passed by a room where many of you were praying. And I so much wanted to go in. To be part of it. ... But I couldn't.

I've tried to pray in the past. But I just can't seem to do it."

... Rabbis Twerski's response? "Your perception is that I was praying and you were not.

... But let's look at it from G-d's perspective.

When He sees me walking into the synagogue, He probably says: 'Oh, here comes Twerski again. What is it he wants this time?

He is always so self-centered. G-d, give me this, give me that. Always give me!"

Then G-d sees you standing outside the synagogue, wanting to enter, but feeling unable to pray.

'Now there is My child who would like to get close to Me, but is frustrated because she does not know how to.

Her prime wish is to be able to pray.

... "Now tell me", Twerski said: "Whose prayer do you think G-d prefers?

My 'gimme' prayer or your silent prayer to be able to pray?"

I'd like to Call For Help But I Don't Know the Number (Owl Books)

TORAH STUDY AND LESSONS FOR LIFE WITH RABBI DEUTSCH. WEDNESDAYS AT CTN

Join us any Wednesday, 8:15 pm, at the CTN Center for a unique weekly Torah Study session with Rabbi Doni Deutsch. See for yourself why participants - young and old, married and single, whether or not they have strong backgrounds in Torah study say things like:

"Rabbi Deutsch draws upon his enormous reservoir of Torah knowledge to give his students a new lesson, a different emphasis, a fresh perspective... Rabbi Deutsch has the uncanny ability to connect 'now and here' with the 'then and there' ..."

Together we'll explore our 3300 year-old 'best seller' and learn not just the stories and traditions, but drawing on the Talmud and centuries of Torah commentary, we will discover practical and valuable 'take-home' lessons for self-improvement and spiritual growth.

Each week is a stand alone class so 'perfect attendance' is not required. Just show up! We'd love to have you! For more info, please contact info@torahnetwork.org. Hope to see you Wednesday!



Shabbat Shalom and have a wonderful week.

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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