

2 Special CTN Learning Opportunities

#1

#2

Busy during hebrew school?



Catch up now at the CTN 5 Week Hebrew Reading Crash course!

www.torahnetwork.org/hebrew.htm

This unique crash course has helped over 100,000 people around country learn to read. And it will do the same for you.

Tuesdays, Aug 23 – Sept 20, 8-9 pm.
The CTN Center, 2832 W Touhy
\$25 including workbook
Pre-registration required.

www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm



- A Five Star Program!

Jewish Literacy and High Holidays

Fundamentals™

3000 years of Jewish knowledge and inspiration in just 3 hours.

www.torahnetwork.org/fundamentals.htm

Looking to dramatically increase your Jewish I.Q.? Long on desire but short on time? Then the Fundamentals™ Seminar is for you.

Sunday, Sept. 18, 9:30 am -12:30 pm
The CTN Center, 2832 W Touhy
Only \$10 with Advanced Registration Discount

www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm

As a person with no prior Hebrew reading knowledge, the CTN Hebrew Crash Course really fit the bill. It makes learning to read Hebrew amazingly easy. Honestly, we were reading Hebrew after 10 minutes of the first class! Our teacher, Esti Berger, was a real delight. She made the process very fun with her upbeat energetic approach.

Bob Gottlieb, Gottlieb Brothers Inc., Chicago



Home for the
Wondering Jew.™

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

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

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 39 FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2011 / 12 AV 5771 CANDLE LIGHTING: 7:35 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 8:44 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: VA'ESCHANAN (DEUTERONOMY 3:23 - 7:11)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is dedicated by an anonymous fan of CTN and its wonderful work for the community, with a prayer that there be achdut (unity) for all of Israel and that next year's Tisha b'Av be a joyous holiday, and with a prayer for a refuah for Zehava Yael bat Sarah.

1. Love the Lord your G-d with all your heart. (6:5)

Loving G-d. It's not simply an ideal. It's a Torah commandment.

... Which is pretty hard to understand.

Think of a mom. She can tell her kid: "You absolutely must eat your broccoli".

But can she say, "You must love broccoli"?

In other words, you can legislate actions. But emotions?

Either you feel them or you don't?

So how can the Torah command us to love G-d?

... One answer is a very important lesson about relationships.

*Because it's not true. Love *doesn't* just happen.*

There are tools for developing love.

And the Torah says we should use them.

One tool? Think about a relationship with a parent. A spouse. Or a very close friend.

Question: What happens when we feel loved?

Answer: We develop a reciprocal love.

It's human nature.

And the more we feel loved the more we love.

... So the commandment isn't just about "loving G-d".

It's about reflecting on all the ways G-d showers us with love.

Our lives. Our health. The special people in our lives. The beauty in the world.

Think about those things.

And where they come from.

... And the feelings of love will come.

- *An absent minded professor calls 911 on his cell phone to report that his car has been broken into. And he's hysterical.*

"They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator."

The dispatcher says: 'stay calm. An officer is on the way.'

A few minutes later the officer radios in.

"Disregard the stolen car parts report.

He got into the back seat by mistake."

... We're like that sometimes too.

The blessings are all there.

But our lives get so busy. And we lose sight of them.

... Mostly because we're not doing such a good job looking.

2. You shall speak of them (words of Torah) ... as you walk along the road ... (6:7)

Study Torah along the road. It's a great way to use what could otherwise be wasted time.

And it's something that Jews – knowing the importance and the value of Torah study – have always done.

In fact, a number of years ago, the New York Times had an article about what it called "the bumpy Long Island Rail Road class".

"For 14 years, there has been a daily class on the 7:51 a.m. train from Far Rockaway to Penn Station, with 15 to 20 commuters - accountants, lawyers, diamond dealers - taking over a section of the rear car, their lessons interrupted only by the conductor's chant for tickets."

And as has been more recently reported, "it's been going strong ever since, even sparking an additional Talmud group on the 8:15 a.m. train ... Students range from lawyers and bankers to people who work at the B&H electronics shop and for the MTA ... "

... But the idea of 'Torah along the road' means much more than the literal studying while on a journey.

Because as we go through life, we are really traveling along "roads" filled with struggles that need to be resolved, questions that need to be answered and decisions that need to be made.

Whether at home, at work or with friends, if we pay attention, we'll see they're always there.

Is this action ethical or not? Can I say this? Must I say it? Do I have a right to this money? Or do I not? And so much more.

... And when you travel on a road, if there's no light, and if you have no map and no compass, you can be in a lot of danger.

Which is why for over 3000 years, Jews have studied Torah as we 'walked along the roads'.

Because Torah is more than a bunch of "do's and don'ts", along with some stories.

Torah is our light. Our map. And our spiritual compass.

... All we have to do is study it.



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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