

Just a Story...

A Tale of Two Children

by Rabbi Mendel Weinbach zt"l



When the couple came to register their three-year old child in the Talmud Torah in Bnei Brak, the principal noted that they were far more excited than ordinary parents who make a routine application.

"Don't you remember us?" they inquired of the principal as tears streamed down the face of the mother.

When he replied in the negative, they reminded him of what took place four years earlier. Childless for many years they had approached the Rav of the Ramat Elchanan community in Bnei Brak, Rabbi Yitzchak Zilberstein, for advice in how to seek Heavenly help. He relayed to them that the Chafetz Chaim had suggested that raising someone else's child could bring the Heavenly blessing of raising a child of their own. He therefore suggested that they offer to pay the tuition of a child in the local Talmud Torah whose parents couldn't afford to do so and this would be tantamount to raising that child.

They followed this advice and made an arrangement to pay a year's tuition for a poor child in the Talmud Torah they were now visiting. It was in that year that they were blessed with a son. Even though they lived a considerable distance from this particular school, they insisted on registering their son in the school where their miracle began.

[Source: Ohr Somayach Institutions www.ohr.edu . Printed with permission]

Hints & Answers* **SHMIRAS SHABBOS:** The *Sefer Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa* (28:48) writes, "It is permitted to push a stroller on Shabbos and Yom Tom, not only on a paved sidewalk, but also on an un-paved path, even though grooves are formed in the ground." **PARSHA TRIVIA: 1.** HaKadosh Boruch Hu (see Rashi's commentary on the 1st verse of the parsha). We learned how significant is the mitzva of *Bikur Cholim*, because Hashem Himself demonstrated the performance of this mitzva. **2.** Lot. His life was saved because in Egypt he kept a secret that Sarah Immeinu is Avraham Avinu's wife (See Rashi's commentary to 19:29). Keep that in mind when someone tells you a secret. **SHMITTA: B** [source: "A Guide to the Halachos of Shmittah" by Rav A. Wiesenfeld] *Note: The answers are based only on the sources quoted and might not reflect opinions of other halachic authorities. As such, Menucha's answer are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha, but rather as a springboard for discussions, questions to a moreh hora'ah, and further study.

Special thanks to Menucha supporters!



Menucha

A Shabbos table companion
for the whole family

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן שלמון ז"ל

בס"ד

Volume 11, Issue 5

Vayeira

5782

Shmiras Shabbos

Pushing a Stroller on an Unpaved Path



The Gittman family rejoiced looking out of their dining room window during their Shabbos lunch *seuda* and seeing the delightful rain coming down, saturating the soil of Eretz Yisroel. "It's incredible!" said Shimon, "We started saying *v'sen tal u'matar*" just last week, and Hashem blessed this Shabbos with *gishmei bracha*!"

"I also love it!" said Levi. He then walked over to the window, looked up at the clouds and said, "But it looks like it will be over pretty soon." Levi was right. Soon after the family *benched*, the rain stopped. Imma suggested that the whole family go to the park and enjoy the fresh after-rain air. All agreed without a hesitation.

As they approached the park and Imma was about to push the stroller on the path, Abba said, "Hold on a second, dear. I need to think about this. The path is not paved. If you'll push the stroller, you'll be making grooves in the dirt. Making grooves is *choresh* (plowing)!"

Question: May Imma push the stroller on the un-paved path?

(The "Hints & Answers" section is on page 4)

DEDICATIONS

♦ for *refuah sheleima* to those who need it



ויבאו שני המלאכים סדמה בערב ולוט ישב בשער-סדם וירא-לוט ויקם לקראתם וישתחו אפים ארצה. ויאמר הנה גא-אדני סורו נא אל-בית עבדכם ולינו ורחצו רגליכם והשכמתם והלכתם לדרךכם...

And the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom, and Lot saw and arose toward them, and he prostrated himself on his face to the ground. And he said, "Behold now my masters, please turn to your servant's house and stay overnight and wash your feet, and you shall arise early and go on your way."... (Bereishis 19:2)

We know the famous Midrashim that tell us how the people of Sodom would punish those who do kindness to others. And we see from the *pesukim* above that Lot invited guests to his home in Sodom and offered them much kindness.

Q. What made Lot take the risk of inviting guests to his home?

A. Rashi says, “From Avraham’s house he learned to look for wayfarers.” How did Lot learn it? By observing Avraham himself doing it all the time, it became part of Lot’s nature to such a degree that he could not hold himself back from inviting the guests in Sodom, even in the face of danger. This teaches us that being an example for others has a very powerful influence on the observers, if they see the righteous act being performed again and again. They learn from the observation of the good character trait and it becomes part of them.

...והוא ישב פתח-האהל כהם היום...

....and he (Avraham) was sitting at the entrance of the tent when the day was hot.

Rashi explains that Avraham was sitting by the entrance to his tent because he wanted to see whether there were any travelers whom he would bring into his house. We can learn from Avraham Avinu and also be “**proactive givers.**” For example, every morning when you wake up and say Mode Ani, right away ask yourself, “Who might need my *chesed* today?” And then keep on asking yourself that question throughout the day.

Kids Ask, Zeidy Answers



Zeidy - is it true that we learn from Avraham Avinu that a person

should have a *makom kavua* for *tefilla*?



Yes. It’s written in parshas Vayeira, “And Avraham went early in the morning to **the place** where he stood in front of Hashem.” [Bereishis 19:27]

Why do you think it is important for a person to have a *makom kavua* for *tefilla*?

? Parsha Trivia ?

1. Who in the parsha did the mitzva of *Bikur Cholim*?
2. Who in the parsha was saved in the *zechus* of keeping a secret?!

🌿 Shmittah Shaila 🌿

If a pot of vegetable soup made from Shmittah products is standing on a kitchen counter and will soon become spoiled if it’s not returned to the refrigerator,

- A. One is obligated to put it in the refrigerator to prevent it from spoiling.
- B. One is not obligated to put it in the refrigerator to prevent it from spoiling (if wasting food is not an issue in a specific situation).