

SHAILOS L'CHAZARA

Review Questions

Sefer HaSichos 5752

ספר השיחות · תשנ"ב

Parshas Vayeira

פרשת וירא

1 sicha in this booklet

Sicha 1: "Why Not to Me?" · 18 Cheshvan 5752, §§1-14

Name: _____

Class: _____

★ easy ★★ medium ★★★ harder

Each sicha has questions, a true chassidishe story, and a lesson for you.

“Why Not to Me?”

וירא אליו ה'

Sefer HaSichos 5752 vol. 1, sicha of Shabbos Parshas Vayeira, 18 MarCheshvan 5752 (1991), sections 1-14. (The English Sichos in English edition prints §§11-14 separately as “Mashiach in Every Generation.”)

The point: *Young Sholom DovBer cried: why did Hashem appear to Avraham and not to us? “Vayeira eilav” is in every Jew, from the bris, when the neshamah enters the body. What we need is to SEE it, by making our body and our part of the world holy. Chai Cheshvan, 20 Cheshvan (the Rebbe Rashab’s birthday) and Tomchei Temimim all lead to the Geulah, when every eye will see Hashem. Moshiach is ready; we just need to greet him.*

Name: _____

Date: _____

QUESTIONS ★ easy ★★ medium ★★★ harder

1. ★ Tell the story of the Rebbe Rashab as a child on Shabbos Vayeira.

2. ★★ What question does this raise for every Jew?

3. ★★ How was the revelation after the bris greater than the ones before? Where is it hinted?

4. ★★★ What are the “two extremes” of the mitzvah of milah, and how are they connected?

5. ★★ How does “vayeira eilav” apply to every Jew?

6. ★★ Give examples of how children show this.

7. ★★★ So what exactly was the Rebbe Rashab crying for?

8. ★★ What does a Jew learn when he reads “vayeira EILAV”?

9. ★★ What do “Chai” and “MarCheshvan” hint at?

10. ★★ What is the spark of Moshiach in every Jew, and how is it revealed?

11. ★★★ What was new about the Rebbe Rashab's Tomchei Temimim?

12. ★★★ What does the sicha say about our time (§§13–14)?

A CHASSIDISHE STORY

“You Made a Chassid Out of My Berl”

When the Mittlerer Rebbe was a young man, already great in learning and davening, he visited Yanovitch and met one of his father's chassidim. The chassid felt the young “Rebbe's son” was a bit too aware of his own achievements.

“What's the big deal?” said the chassid. “Your father is the Alter Rebbe! You were raised in a Rebbe's home and kept away from anything bad. All your life you've done nothing but learn. So you know a lot and daven with feeling.

“Now take me. My father was a simple man, and I grew up on my own. To make a living I go out before dawn, in the freezing winter, to collect debts from peasants in the villages. After three or four stops I come home, go to the mikveh and get ready to daven. After all that, what kind of davening do you expect?”

The words went straight to the young man's heart. He traveled home to his father and poured out his heart: his avodah was worth nothing compared to what was expected of him.

The next time that chassid came to the Alter Rebbe, the Rebbe said: “Thank you. You made a chassid out of my Berl.”

Source: *Told by the Rebbe Rashab; “The Rebbe's Son and the Chassid,” translated by Yanki Tauber in Once Upon A Chassid (Kehot 1994; chabad.org)*

Think: How is this like the Tzemach Tzedek's answer about a tzaddik who, at 99, decides he still needs a bris?

THE LESSON FOR YOU

"Vayeira eilav" is about you. Your neshamah is a real part of Hashem inside your body. Want to SEE it, even badly enough to cry. And make your body, your room and your actions holy, so you're a vessel, ready to greet Moshiach.

For example: Turn your room into a small Mikdash: a pushka, a Chumash and Tanya on the shelf, a kosher mezuzah that you kiss when you go in and out. Make the brachah on your snack slowly and out loud.

My turn: What will I add to my room this week to make it a small Mikdash?
