

SHAILOS L'CHAZARA

Review Questions

Sefer HaSichos 5752

ספר השיחות · תשנ"ב

Parshas Vayeishev

פרשת וישב

2 sichas in this booklet

Sicha 1: Even France Becomes Holy! · Shabbos Vayeishev, §§1-14

Sicha 2: You Accepted the Yoke! · Communal yechidus, §§1-3

Name: _____

Class: _____

★ easy ★★ medium ★★★ harder

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

Even France Becomes Holy!

האדרת והאמונה לחי עולמים

Sefer HaSichos 5752 vol. 1, sicha of Shabbos Parshas Vayeishev, 23 Kislev, Shabbos Mevarchim Teves 5752 (1991). Worked from the Hebrew of Toras Menachem, Hisvaaduyos 5752 vol. 1 (chabad.org), with its section numbers.

The point: *Our generation is ready for the Geulah: Yidden now live in every corner of the world and have refined every place by living there "in its customs". France, the land of the Revolution that the Alter Rebbe fought, has become a center of Torah and Chassidus through the Frierdiker Rebbe (Tzarfes = tziruf = 770). Its anthem became "Ha'aderes v'ha'emunah", a miracle to publicize, and publicizing miracles brings Moshiach: farbreng every day of Chanukah.*

Name: _____

Date: _____

QUESTIONS ★ easy ★★ medium ★★★ harder

1. ★ What question do people ask when they hear that our generation is the last of galus and the first of the Geulah?

2. ★★ Chazal say "Hashem did a tzedakah for Yisroel by scattering them among the nations." Why is the scattering a kindness?

3. ★★ What are the two stages of refining a place?

4. ★ How is our generation different from all the earlier ones?

5. ★ Which posuk in the haftorah mentions France in connection with the Geulah?

6. ★★ In the war between Napoleon and the Czar, whom did the Alter Rebbe want to win, and why? What did he do?

7. ★★ How did France change, and through whom?

8. ★★ What two hints are in the name "Tzarfas"?

9. ★★★ Why does refining the lowest place need the “power of the essence”, and what does it reveal?

10. ★★ What “wonder” shows openly that France was turned around?

11. ★★ A chossid says, “I was raised that my job is only to learn; I have no time for miracles.” What does the Rebbe answer?

12. ★★ What is the main hora’ah for Chanukah?

A CHASSIDISHE STORY

Success Beyond Imagination

Shmuel Azimov, called “Moulé”, was born in the Soviet Union in 1945. His family escaped to Paris, where his father ran the Chabad Hebrew schools. Moulé learned in the Chabad yeshivah in Brunoy, outside Paris, and then in 770, where he became close to the Rebbe.

In 1968 he married, and that same year the Rebbe sent the young couple back to Paris as his shluchim, with a blessing: “success beyond imagination.”

From his first days in Paris he taught Torah to young children. As his work grew, he asked the Rebbe whether he should stop teaching to have more time for everything else. The Rebbe told him to keep teaching, so every day, even while running dozens of Chabad Houses, he went and taught children. Once he took the train himself to bring fresh kosher milk to five families in Orly, so they could keep kashrus at the highest level.

Many of the French Jews he brought close became shluchim themselves. When he passed away in 2014, there were more than 450 shluchim in 115 Chabad centers in 95 cities across France.

Source: *Menachem Posner, “Rabbi Shmuel ‘Moulé’ Azimov, 69, Headed a Jewish Revival in France and Beyond” (chabad.org, 2014)*

Think: How does this story show both stages of refining a place (§2), and the Frierdiker Rebbe’s power working in France (§7)?

THE LESSON FOR YOU

No place and no person is too far for Torah. Wherever you are, you can make it holy in its own language and style, and you can even take something from “outside” and turn it into a niggun for Hashem. And notice Hashem’s miracles, and tell others about them.

For example: This Chanukah, at your family party, tell one miracle you saw this year (a refuah, a rescue, a near-miss that turned out fine) and why it was from Hashem. Then make a small farbrengen with your friends one night of Chanukah.

My turn: A miracle I saw this year that I will tell others about:

You Accepted the Yoke!

פדה בשלום נפשי כי ברבים היו עמדי

Sefer HaSichos 5752, communal yechidus on the night following the 20th of Kislev 5752 (1991), for guests, Bar and Bas Mitzvah children with their parents, and chassanim and kallos. Sections as in the Sichos in English edition (vol. 51).

The point: *Every Yid inherits the blessings of the Avos; the work is done ("polished the buttons"), the feast of the Geulah is ready. Begin right away to add in Torah, tefillah and tzedakah, lighting up the outside like Chanukah lights. Bar Mitzvah boys have accepted the yoke of mitzvos and join all Yidden as one through the Torah ("ki v'rabim hayu imadi").*

Name: _____

Date: _____

QUESTIONS ★ easy ★★ medium ★★★ harder

1. ★ Why is "begin with blessing" especially fitting at this gathering?

2. ★★ Why does every Yid receive the blessings of the Avos ("bakol, mikol, kol"), no matter what he did?

3. ★★ What did the Frierdiker Rebbe mean by "we have polished the buttons", and what is the feast of the Geulah?

4. ★★ What is the connection between "Padah b'shalom nafshi" and that year?

5. ★ What should begin “immediately, directly after this gathering”?

6. ★★ How should these increases be done, in the spirit of Chanukah?

7. ★ Why do Bar Mitzvah boys deserve a special blessing?

8. ★★★ How does “ki v’rabim hayu imadi” (in Tuesday’s Tehillim) speak specifically to a Bar Mitzvah boy?

9. ★★ What does the Rebbe ask the Bar Mitzvah boys to add, and what does he bless them with?

10. ★★ What blessing does the Rebbe give the chassanim and kallos, and how is a wedding connected to the Geulah?

A CHASSIDISHE STORY

Not Even One More Day

In August 1975 Benzion Rader of London was in Detroit on business. At a late-night gathering, a man kept asking about tefillin. "I haven't put on tefillin for over twenty years," he finally admitted. He owned a bakery, so at 6:30 the next morning, among the sacks of flour, he put on Mr. Rader's tefillin. He knew every brachah. He would put them on every day, he said, if only he had a pair. Mr. Rader promised to bring him one when he came back in six weeks.

The next day in 770 Mr. Rader wrote the Rebbe a note about it, and added that he was flying home that night for a special Shabbos with his whole family.

The Rebbe answered: "Do you think it is right that a Jew who put on tefillin yesterday for the first time in over twenty years should wait another six weeks?" Buy tefillin today, the Rebbe wrote, and get them to him today, even if it means you go back yourself and miss Shabbos with your family. "When this Jew sees how important it is to you that he does not miss even one day, this mitzvah will be especially important to him."

Mr. Rader bought the last pair in the store on Kingston Avenue and put them on a plane to Detroit. Months later the baker told him he hadn't missed a single day, "because of the trouble you went to."

Source: *Benzion Rader, "Another Day Without Tefillin?" (chabad.org)*

Think: The Rebbe says the increase should begin "immediately, directly after this gathering" (§1). How does the story show why "now" matters?

THE LESSON FOR YOU

When you become Bar Mitzvah, the Torah becomes yours, and you join all Yidden everywhere as one. Don't push off a mitzvah to "later": start right away, and add tzedakah that keeps growing, like the Chanukah lights.

For example: You decided to say Krias Shema al hamitah properly "starting next week, after the tests". Start tonight. And put one coin in the pushka each morning before davening.

My turn: A mitzvah I will start today, not "later":