



Schechter

School of Long Island

SSLI Lower School

Friday Letter – January 21, 2022

Parshat Yitro-Candle Lighting 4:40 pm

Dear Schechter Parents,

This week began with a continuation of the theme of Tu Bishvat, which occurred this past Monday. The students learned the Hebrew words related to the holiday including the various parts of a tree. They discussed the concept of Adam Ki Eitz HaSadeh-in which ways we are comparable to trees. The Kindergarten class (Gan) excitedly picked grapefruits, oranges and lemons from the “trees” growing in their classrooms. The first grade focused on the theme of nature and learned of the importance of preserving our environment by reading various Hebrew texts. In the second grade, the students will be doing research to create their very own family tree in connection to this theme.

Rabbi Levenson was our Darshan today during Kabbalat Shabbat services. He spoke to the students about the Aseret HaDibrot- the 10 Commandments as found in this week’s Parsha. The students were called on and cited each of the 10 Commandments. Rabbi Levenson mentioned that it was the tradition to recite the Aseret HaDibrot each day during Schachrit services. However, since people were starting to lose focus on the rest of the Mitzvot, this custom was abolished. Rabbi Levenson further taught that each of us has a direct connection to the day the Torah was given and that this connection strongly remains within each of us to this day.

Question of the Week (Please submit your answer to be featured in next week’s email.)

There are two primary topics in this week’s Parsha. The beginning of the Parsha discusses the advice Yitro provided to his son-in-law, Moshe, namely to delegate his responsibilities and not do everything himself. The second topic of our Parsha is Kabbalat HaTorah and the receiving of the Aseret HaDibrot-the 10 Commandments at Har Sinai. What is the connection between these two seemingly unrelated topics?



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Last Week's Question And Answer

Q. After Pharaoh witnessed each of the ten plagues destroy his country, he still followed the Jewish people into the sea. Did he not realize that he was putting himself and his army in harm's way by continuing to pursue the Jewish people? How could he not have seen the clear and obvious danger of entering into the Yam Suf?

A. This is based on the expression of throwing good money after bad. People will continue to fight a lost cause long after they should stop. Alternatively, Pharaoh may have grabbed onto any reason God wouldn't intervene like maybe He could only make miracles in Egypt, not outside the country. This shows the power of rationalization. (answers submitted by S.B.)

Shabbat Shalom!

Dr. Boaz Tomskey

Lower School Administrator