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NEWSLETTER

Boys division, Grades B2 - B8

Better Than a Reason

Tayere Talmidei Hatmimim sheyichyu,

When the Torah says that we need to "guard" the Mitzvos and do them ("ushmartem es chukoisai"), the word "ushmartem" is a bit strange and seems to imply more than just keeping them, but to do the Mitzvos with a "chayos" and a real "geshmak" and enjoyment.

That is why the Torah finishes off the posuk that speaks about "guarding the Mitzvos" by saying that you should "live" with these Mitzvos ("vochai bohem"), meaning that we need to bring extra chayos into our Avodas Hashem.

The Rebbe points out that the Mitzvos that are being spoken about here are the "chukim" ("chukoisai") which are those Mitzvos that do not have reasons that we could understand.

A person might wonder, how could anyone fulfill a mitzvah that he does not understand, with a great chayos? Surely a Mitzvah that he comprehends is more fitting to be kept with a chayos than one that one does not understand?! In fact, the person might even believe that it isn't right to keep the chukim which he does not really understand with a chayos!

To appreciate why this approach is incorrect, and that even chukim should be kept with a chayos, allow me to share a short story with you:

When the Friedikke Rebbe was looking for a teacher to teach his daughters, one prospective teacher told the Friedikke Rebbe that the children should only learn about things that make sense to them, not things that are "above" their understanding such as the amazing stories of the Baal Shem Tov and the Alter Rebbe.

The Rebbe told the teacher that this is wrong! The first



"The first thing that a child needs to know is that the Aibershter is above nature..."

thing that a child needs to know is that the Aibershter is above nature and that He could break, change, or redesign any rule of nature even if that does not make sense to us. This is the foundation that a child needs in order to learn Torah and to keep Mitzvos!

This then helps us to understand why it is that although all Mitzvos should be done with a chayos, the chukim especially, need to be kept with extra energy and excitement, because they bring out how the Aibershter really is the source of everything and how nothing could limit him in any way.

In fact, all Mitzvos, even those that have reasons that we do understand such as "mishpotim", also need to be done in the same way as the chukim – with a kabolas ol and a desire to connect to the Aibershter because that is what He wants. Nothing

Dear Talmidim, in order to connect to the Aibershter we need to do Mitzvos, in fact the word "Mitzvah" comes from the word "Tzavsa" which means a connection. Every time we do a Mitzvah we connect with the Ribono Shel Olam and this connection is extra healthy and strong when each and every Mitzvah is kept in a way of "ushmartem" – with a chayos and kabbolas ol.

Let us fulfill all Mitzvos with this in mind, and in this way we will be able to see how the Aibershter will reveal the ultimate connection in a revealed way with the coming of Moshiach!

Wishing you a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Yaacov Ringo

Principal Boys Older Division





My name is Mendel Labkowski,

I'm in Grade B4 ET and I'm a Shliach in Cape Coral, FL

What can you tell us about the city you live in?

Cape Coral is a city on the west coast of Florida. It is the largest city between Tampa and Miami.

The city is known as a "Waterfront Wonderland", with over 400 miles of navigable waterways, Cape Coral has more miles of canals than any other city in the world. Most of these Canals connect and lead into the Gulf of Mexico, and a lot of people can go boating and fishing.

Cape Coral is a relatively new city, it was only founded 60 years ago and incorporated 45 years ago. It used to be a large swamp land and then these two Jewish brothers from Baltimore came and developed it in to a city.

What sort of Shlichus programs do your parents direct in Cape Coral?

Cape Coral is one of the best places in the world to retire and there are a few thousand Jews that live here.

My parents came here about 12 years ago. There are 3 kids in my family, I'm the oldest boy.

We own a big building that other people rent from. In fact we just started expanding further into other units of the building.

We have a Minyan in our Chabad house every Shabbos day with a Kiddush. We also have a Hebrew School with around 25 kids.

My father teaches JLI courses there are also other classes.

We built a Mikva on a separate property. And there is a guest house in that building also.



The city is known as a "Waterfront Wonderland", with over 400 miles of Canals

My mother runs a 'Mommy and me' program for mothers and younger children. We also have a teen group that my father does programs with.

We are gearing up for another amazing year of camp Gan Izzy day camp (that is going on for 10 years already). There are about 25 kids attending between the

ages of 4 through 12.

Our biggest event is when we have a public Menorah lighting each year in the mall, around 400 people come. Also on Pesach a lot of people come to our public Seder, like 100.

So in what ways do you help out on Shlichus?

Before Yomim Tovim I go on Mivtzoim with my father and help out.

In Hebrew school, I help kids reading aleph champ and stuff like that.

Can you share with a story about Hashgacha Protis seen on your Shlichus?

Well, there was a Yid that came to my father and wanted to donate Jewish books for our Chabad House. This man moved here from New York. and he didn't need them anymore.

When he lived in New York he met the Rebbe once and he had received dollars. Unfortunately he lost them many years before.

As my father unpacked the books, he found those 2 dollars in one of them, the man was really happy and he started to become more frum and started coming to Shul more often!



In connection with 50 years since the Rebbe launched the "Mivtza Tefilin" campaign, we bring you this Story. IY"H in the coming weeks we will further discuss this special milestone.

A certain Belzer chassid developed strong views about Lubavitch and would occasionally make not nice comments about the Rebbe. Eventually, this chassid met with tremendous disappointment. His son lost interest in Keeping Yiddeshkeit and began to forsake his family traditions. Despite his family's efforts to dissuade him, Jewish practice no longer appealed to him.

This continued for several years. Once, this young man passed through a busy bus terminal. He was approached by a Lubavitcher chassid who invited him to put on *tefillin*. The young man shrugged. He had no desire to resume this daily practice which he had long forsaken. But the Lubavitcher chassid did not have many "clients" that day, and evidently felt the need to satisfy his sense of mission.

"Perhaps you'll reconsider," he coaxed the young man gently. "If you don't feel like doing it for yourself, then please do it as a favor for me."

The man's earnestness struck a chord in the young man's heart. "O.K." he agreed. "I'll do you a favor." The Lubavitcher was pleased. Much more important than his own sense of satisfaction was the fact that a fellow Jew had taken off a moment from his worldly concerns to develop a connection with his spiritual core.

Before he could assist the young fellow in putting on the *tefillin*, the young man had donned them himself. His lips were already murmuring the appropriate prayers.

"He looks like he knows what he's doing," the *Lubavitcher* thought to himself. He was not unaccustomed to meet people in the street whose outer appearance did not reflect their knowledge of Jewish practice.



Curious, he spoke a little more to the young man who was now more relaxed and ready to talk. This encounter ultimately resulted in the young man's renewed commitment to Jewish practice.

His father was overjoyed with the turn of events, for he felt that the young man's commitment was now stronger and more motivated than before. He also felt indebted to the Lubavitchers who had befriended his estranged son. Therefore, although he had been openly against the Rebbe in the past, he now decided to visit him and express his gratitude.

Upon meeting the Rebbe, the Belzer chassid related the events which led to his visit. The Rebbe listened, and replied: "You have experienced both the pain of a father whose son has gone astray and the great joy of his return. I feel similar pain for every Jew who is estranged from Judaism, and I experience similar feelings of happiness when he rediscovers his roots."

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Hecht, Yosef	246
Herbstman, Mendel	147
Holtzberg, Moshe	8
Jacobson, Yossi	50
Jacobson, Mendel	4
Jacobson, Gershon	104
Jacobson, Gavriel	101
Kaminetzky, Meir	98
Katz, Leibel	136
Katz, Mendel	154
Krinsky, Shmaya	56
Konikov, Avrohom	40
Krinsky, Avrohom	90
Krinsky, Zevi	70
Krinsky, Yoel	45
Korf, Moshe	2
Libersohn, Yosef	102
Labkowski, Mendel	122
Labkowski, Nosson	16
Labkowski, Yosef	16
Langsam, Shimon	60
Lapidus, Boruch	18
Laufer, Levi	20
Laufer, Ari	24
Laufer, Leibel	126
Laufer, Dovber	26
Laufer, Mendel	31
Laufer, Shimon	78
Lent, Levi	16
Leeds, Yehuda	21
Lazzarof, Leibel	4
Lew, Zalman	10
Lewis, Shmuel	190
Lewis, Mendel	195

Lifshitz, Ari	18
Lifshitz, Moshe	90
Lifshitz, Zali	10
Madvig, Chaim	50
Mangel, Shneur	48
Matusof, Hirshel	32
Mintz, Levi	36
Mishulovin, MSD	40
Oirchman, Shimmy	30
Oirchman, Yudi	10
Pelman, Gabi	60
Perlstein, Mendel	160
Pink, Chanoch	2
Posner, Shlomo A.	33
Rappaport, Chaim	30
Resnick, Yankele	106
Raitport, Yankele	2
Rubashkin, Shmuli	10
Rosenblatt, Nachi	130
Sasonkin, Yossi	84
Schlanger, Shimshi	20
Schmerling, Levi	34
Schmukler, Levi	6
Schmukler, Meir	26
Schmukler, Yosef	14
Schapiro, Avremi	24
Schapiro, Gabi	24
Schapiro, Mendel	56
Silberberg, Ari	26
Silberstein, Mendel (EU)	4
Silver, Schneur	2
Simon, Zali	40
Slonim, Schneur	30
Stolik, Ari	38

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Total Points earned till Pesach

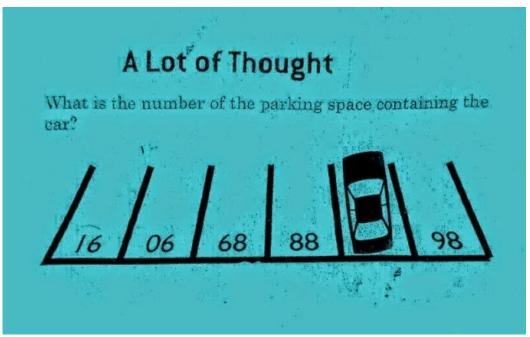
(from Rambam and other Mivtza's)

to use in the rewards store!!!

The points will show up in your account within a few days.

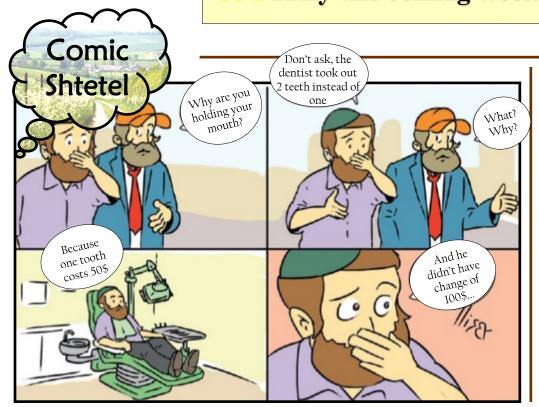
Parking Challenge

Look closely at the numbers and based on their order, figure out what the number under the parked is. The answer is quite obvious, you just need to.....:)



Answer: turn the picture upside down and you will know the correct answer

Stay tuned... there will IY"H
be a Rally this coming week



א קלאץ קשיא

I have keys but no locks. I have a space but no room. You can enter, but can't go outside.



Answer: A Keyboard