

Hashem Loves Us

שמות י"ג: ד
היום אתם יוצאים בחדש האביב
רשי

בחדש האביב. וכי לא היינו יודעים באיזה חודש? אלא כן אמר להם, ראו חסד שגמלכם, שהוציא אתכם בחדש
שהוא כשר לצאת, לא חמה ולא צנה ולא גשמים...

Wouldn't we know what month it was?

It's to show us the kindness which Hashem has bestowed on us — that He brought us out in a month that is fit for going out, not hot, nor cold nor rainy.

What's the big deal? If a person is in prison, would they even care if it is raining or sunny when they get released? Wouldn't בני ישראל have been happy no matter the weather?

Hashem wanted to show us how much love He has for us and therefore, he wanted to do it in the best way possible. משה is telling it to us to help us recognize the extent of Hashem's love for us.



If you could choose to get a dream gift of anything this year,
what would you choose?

Get responses from students

Now, let's say that you can either have such and such dream gift or have someone who loves you more than you can imagine, cares about you more than anything, will always have your back and to who you can always turn with your problems for your entire life.... Which would you rather?

Why?

Make sure to include:

1. Other things are fleeting pleasures
2. They won't really make you happy
3. You will get sick of them
4. Being close to Hashem is the greatest thing in the world
5. It gives you מנוחת הנפש knowing that everything is for the good

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משלי כ"ז: י"ט
כמים הפנים לפנים כן לב האדם לאדם

It's a two-way street. We love Hashem and Hashem loves us.

In the ספר חוט המשולש במאמרים וחדושי אגדה, Rebbi Akiva Eiger is quoted as saying the following:

"אנו חותמין קודם ק"ש הבוחר בעמו ישראל באהבה, ואם הוא אוהב אותנו מוכרחין אנו לאהוב אותו"
We conclude with the ברכה before Krias Shema by saying, "the One Who chose the nation of Yisrael with love". If He loves us, we are forced to love Him.

מסילת ישרים - פרק כא:
כי בראותו שהשם יתברך הוא לנו לאב ממש, ומרחם עלינו כאב על בנים, יתעורר בו בהמשך החפץ והתשוקה לגמול לו כבן על אביו.

For when he sees that the Creator, blessed be He, is literally (mamash) like a father to us, and has mercy on us as a father on his sons, then there will awaken within him a desire and longing to reciprocate back to Him, as a son to his father.

How do you see Hashem's love for us in our lives?

Look at ברכות השחר – Hashem shows His טוה in every aspect of our lives. We wake up in the morning, we can breathe, we can walk, we can talk, we can think...

If we notice Hashem's love for us everyday, we will feel our love for Him more deeply.

The love for Hashem is innate and within every person.

You can help reinforce this idea within your students by commenting or complimenting them. For example, when they are davening or learning well, you can say

"Wow! Hashem, Look how much your children love you!"

"You must really love Hashem!"

The פסוק from תהילים, תהילים ה' לנגדי תמיד, is very well known for reminding us that Hashem is always before us. Let us not forget the continuation that stresses Hashem's support of us and how we feel secure with His love.

To build your students' love for Hashem, challenge them to write down three things that are טוה from Hashem every day.

TTO: Shwekey's Shivisi

שויתי ה' לנגדי תמיד
כי מימיני בל אמוט
I place ה' before me always,
When He's on my right,
I will not fall
לכן שמח לבי ויגל כבודי
That's why I'm feeling happy
and inside I feel secure
אף בשרי ישכן לבטח

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