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Tevet 2, 5772
Candle Lighting: 4:51 pm

For grades 3 - 6
TORAH COURSE #3
Lesson 4: The Kohanim

THE DIALOGUE

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE FOR THE CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Musings During Services

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(NOTE: Birchat Kohanim is a responsive reading: the cantor reads his verse and the Kohaim (priests) respond.

So here I am, sitting in services on Yom Kippur, just minding my own business, daydreaming, letting my thoughts fill my mind and go where ever they please...when suddenly, they bring up this man, covered in his talis. He starts singing this foreign prayer I've never heard before...

...Ahh, I think this is the prayer Morah Chaya was telling us about. The Birchat Kohanim, the Priestly Blessing. I remember learning different blessings in Hebrew School. We even had a Bracha party where we said different blessings on



In Israel, the Priestly Blessings is recited daily. Outside Israel, it is recited on certain holidays. This photograph is of the blessing being recited at the Kotel.

different foods and got to taste them...At the end of each blessing we said AMEN!

...And Morah Chaya said something about how Hashem blesses us and takes care of us like parents who love their kids...

...I know my parents love me. Mom always makes dinner for us...She also always has a snack waiting for us on the kitchen counter when we get home from school. She always makes sure we never go hungry...

TORAH STORY

Hashem loves us with a love that is total and complete, just like a parent's love for his or her child. Just like parents want the best for their children, blessing them with goodness, Hashem wants us to feel blessed, too. Hashem wants us to hear blessings from Him with our *physical ears*.

In the desert, as we were traveling to the Promised Land, and slowly being introduced to the Jewish lifestyle, Hashem taught us the concept of formally blessing the Jewish people: The Birchat Kohanim - The PRIESTLY BLESSING. Hashem taught Moshe the words of this blessing and the choreography that goes along with it. Moshe taught it to the priests, so that they could bless us every day! The Jews would gather to receive their blessing, and the priests would hold their palms outward, their two thumbs touching, with a space between the middle two fingers. This formed the shape of the letter SHIN. Shin is the first letter of one of the names of Hashem. The priests were a channel for Hashem's blessings to fill us - the priests were the messengers that brought us Hashem's blessings!

...Dad helps me whenever I need help with my homework. I'm terrible at math, but he always is patient and tries to show me tricks to figure things out...

...Mom and Dad are always there for me...

...Hashem is like a parent? What does that mean? I mean, Hashem created the world. Okay...

...Hashem loves us like a parent?...He did take all the Jews out of Egypt and through the desert so that they could live without the constraints of slavery. He wanted them – and us, I guess? – to live the best lives possible...

...My parents take care of me so I can have the best life possible, too...

...Mom tells me all the time when we're eating, "Feel good, my love." Before going to school, Dad always says, "Good luck in class today, buddy!" I like when they encourage me and tell me they want things to be good for me.

...What's this blessing again? Oh right, it's the blessing the Kohanim would say to the Jews in the desert. I wonder if the way this guy is singing it is the same way they would sing it in the desert...

...I never heard it before, but it's interesting. I think the words of this blessing were words from Hashem... The wishes He had for the Jews...For us...For good we can see in our lives...For good we can feel in our hearts...And to always remember that He loves us.

AMEN! This is true!

Sometimes it is easy to forget the many blessings we have in our lives. And that we are loved. Concrete reminders may help us keep focus.



THE DIALOGUE

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

What kinds of words do you like hearing from your parents? How do those words affect you, your mood, your day, etc.?

Does it feel different when a parent actually wishes you success before a game/test/activity and actually expresses words versus having an overall awareness that your parent wishes you well? Describe.

It is important to feel Hashem's love. Why?