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For grades 2
TORAH COURSE #2
Lesson 6: Being a Leader

THE DIALOGUE

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE FOR THE CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Austin Cleans Up

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“Austin,” said his mother, “It’s time to clean up your room. I’m glad you’ve been enjoying your airplane models and miniature Legos, but it’s time to clear it all away and organize your shelves.”

Austin sighed. The room completely covered with airplanes and toys and books...He could barely see the floor! He knew it was high time he cleaned up, but where would he even begin?

Where to start? Austin sat on the floor surrounded by airplane models. I guess I’ll start with these, he thought. He picked one up and admired how neatly he had put it together. Just then, a flash of red caught his eye. What was that peeping out from under the bed? He crept down on his knees and peered underneath his bed. It was a piece of the airplane’s wing! It must have fallen off. He sat in deep concentration, putting the piece onto the airplane. There! Now it was complete. But where to put it?

Moshe (Moses) has been chosen! It was in the desert, as he was walking his sheep, that he saw a bush engulfed in flames, but not getting burned up. From there, he heard the voice of Hashem telling him of his mission to lead the Jews from Egypt.

“B-b-b-but...I’m s-s-scared. If I go to Pharaoh, he will surely k-k-kill me! I can’t even speak well. I stutter. Pharaoh will never listen to the message you are telling me to deliver!” says Moshe to Hashem.

Hashem calms Moshe, “It is a big responsibility that I am asking of you. Take your brother AHARON. He will be your PARTNER to SUPPORT you as you do this important job.”

Partnerships are a wonderful way to give and get support. When we work together, we can accomplish great things!

He looked at a shelf with a few books on it. He dumped all the books from his shelf and gently placed the airplane down.

He then looked down at the pile of books he had just tossed to the floor. He found his favorite book, curled onto his bed, and started to read. An hour later, he put down the book and looked up. This is not working, he thought. I'm supposed to be cleaning my room. I just can't seem to keep going!

But I've got to, he thought determinedly. I can't really enjoy being in my room when things are so messy. Continuing to sift through the books, he was happy to find the one he had borrowed from Justin. Justin! Maybe he could help! He called his buddy on the phone, letting him know that he had his book and asked him if he'd like to pick it up from his house and stay for a while.

Justin agreed!

"Wow, it's really...umm...crowded in here!" exclaimed Justin as he entered Austin's room.

"I know, I know," replied Austin. He was in the middle of reading one of the books he had taken down when Justin walked in. "Man, I just can't seem to get started on cleaning my room!"

"What are you talking about?" asked Justin. "Why can't you just start?"

"I don't know," replied Austin, "I get overwhelmed just looking at it. There's so much to do, I feel like I'll never be done. And then every time I start, I get distracted!"

He described how he had decided to clean the floor, and then ended up finishing an airplane model.

He took books down from the shelf to organize, and then ended up reading them for hours.

Justin took a good look around the room. "Y'know," he said, "it actually looks worse than it really is. I'll help you. We'll go through your stuff together, and maybe it'll go quicker that way. We'll clear out your stuff and once we have some empty shelves and drawers,

we can decide where to put things," Justin suggested. There were a lot of things strewn around the room.

"You'll help me sort though all this stuff?" Austin asked doubtfully. It was a big task.

"Sure, why not?" Justin replied. "You have some cool things to play with! We'll sort through it all and then get to actually enjoy your stuff!"

Suddenly, just knowing that Justin was going to work with him as a team gave Austin a whole new energy.

"Great! Let's get started!!"

Together, they emptied the drawers and shelves and cleaned them with damp rags.

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Then, Justin suggested some good ideas on where to keep his stuff. Games he didn't play with often went on the highest shelf. Books and legos that he used a lot went on the middle shelf where they'd be in easy reach. Balls went into a big basket. They decided on a sweater drawer, a pajama drawer, a sock drawer...

Working together with Justin, Austin realized how efficient and organized he really could be! He just needed a partner, someone to support him in what he was doing.

By the time Justin needed to go home, the floor was completely empty! All that was left were a few piles of clothes, books, and puzzles on Austin's bed that needed to be sorted out.

After Justin left, Austin kept working. He was already on a role. By dinner time, his entire room was spotless!

"Hey Mom," Austin called out, "Come see my room!"

His mom was so impressed when she walked in. "The floor...it's completely empty!" she said. "A bed that's smooth and neatly made, sharpened pencils and pens gathered together in a cup-holder on your desk, shelves neatly filled with games and books. Drawers that are rearranged...clean, empty counter space...This is what I call organization!"

"Yeah," grinned Austin, "I'm a pretty good organizer. But it's also thanks to Justin. He came over here and helped me. He gave me some good advice, and we worked together like a team!"

His mother smiled. "You're lucky to have such a wonderful friend like Justin who doesn't only share fun and good times with you. He is also a wonderful person to turn to for help."

He sure is," agreed Austin. "And when he needs help - any type of support, like in homework or baseball, or even cleaning his own room - I'll be there for him too! Doing things in partnership sure makes things easier!"

THE DIALOGUE

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Have you ever done a project with someone? Did it make it easier? If so, how and why?

Have you ever helped someone else complete a job? Do you think that the person appreciated it? How and why?

Moshe and Aharon were partners. They were going to help each other especially in the areas that each needed help in. That is true partnership. Is it easy to be that kind of partner?