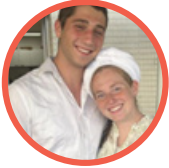




TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



Ezra and Tali Silton

Modiin Area

Chapter Directors

Living Inside Hashem's Gift

This parsha is filled with many subjects of which the most dramatic of them all is the תוכחה. Why does the Torah speak in such length and depth of all the קללות and summarizes the brachot in just a couple of pesukim. Is it so much easier for God to bring curses upon us than blessings?

I would like to offer 2 answers to this question. First is the Land of Israel's personality. A couple of times in the torah we find the phrase "אז תקיא הארץ את יושביה" - "The Land will throw up its residents. "

Israel is the Holy Land. It is on a level where it cannot tolerate nonsense. It is uncomfortable with people who choose 'חילול ה' and there for it brings out these curses on its residents that do not behave properly.

There is another way to look at things. The Land of Israel is God's gift to us. As long as we are living here we are residents of God's gift, and that is a constant bracha. The reason there are more curses than blessings is because bracha is

the natural state.

We are very excited for the position of directing the ChashModiin chapter this coming year. Many people go into these positions thinking, what can I do to change these kids? Our method this year will not be to come in and try to change people. We want to listen and learn from one another.

We are excited not only to enrich our teens but to gain so much from them.

We will always be there for the teens. Whatever they need we will try to provide them with.

Together we will seek God's blessing in every corner, it's always there!

Looking forward to a fantastic year!



Menashe Lopez

Ganei Modiin - 12th Grade

The Value of Gratitude

Our parashah speaks about the mitzvah of Bikurim; that you should take the first of every fruit of the ground of your Land to be put in a basket and presented before the kohen of those days. This shows gratitude towards Hashem to His eternal role as the guide of Jewish history.

This mitzvah helps one keep humble. One of the main reasons for such action

is to instill in us the character trait of *Hakaras Hatov*. Acknowledging and expressing gratitude.

We have to apply in ourselves those two things in order to have true appreciation towards those who favor us always like our parents, and with that attribute we also can complete the mitzvah of *kivud av va'eim*.

True appreciation, however, is expressed only when one announces clearly, "I benefited from your giving." There is no such thing as "he knows I appreciate it" when it comes to *hakaras hatov*. Once we open our eyes to the kind things friends or family do for us on a daily basis and truly appreciate it is when we become closer to fully appreciating Hashem and all He does for us in every living moment. ■

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