



TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



Rose Schwartz
Gush Etzion
Chapter Director

Fighting for our Values

In parshat Chayei Sarah, before sending her off to marry Yitzchak, Lavan gives his sister Rachel a bracha. He says:

אחתנו את ה" לאלפי רבבה וירש זרעך את שער שנאי

Our sister, be the mother of thousands of ten thousands and may your offspring inherit the gate of their enemies. (24:60)

On this pasuk, Rashi asks why did Lavan not give Rivka a bracha that she should have no enemies at all? Rashi answers that having no enemies may not necessarily be a good sign. People who have and hold something of value are people who generally have enemies.

Lavan gives a bracha to Rivka that she should merit in having many descendants come from her who live rich lives filled with meaning and success knowing that it would bring upon them enemies. In that, he gives her a bracha that her descents should have the strength to overcome their enemies, and that their criticisms should be to no avail.

As Jews living in our homeland of Israel, we have built lives for ourselves full of Torah- lives full of happiness and success through our constant striving to create lives of Torah values.

We have enemies because as a people our lives are intertwined with the source of our great value, the Torah. May Am Yisrael have the strength and fortitude to overcome our

enemies, and may we return to building rich lives steeped in Torah values.



Ilana Weinberg
11th grade, Efrat
**Learning From
Avraham Avinu**

The beginning of Parshat חיי שרה is dedicated to Sarah Emainu. Everything that is being done is in the name of Sarah. We read in the first aliyah and the beginning of second aliyah how Avraham looks for the best place to bury Sarah. Then there is the negotiations to purchase the land and it ends off with him buying the land and burying her.

Avraham did all this after mourning the loss of his wife as we see in the end of Pasuk 2 and the beginning of Pasuk 3

“ויבוא אברהם לספד לשרה ולבכותה: ויקם אברהם”

We learn from Avraham that even after we lose so much, we need to get up and do. Doing is part of the healing process.

In recent times, we as a nation have lost so much! We lost valuable people. People have lost their loved ones. Others have lost their homes and everything they had. We are all mourning that loss. This loss is only bringing us closer together. A feeling we haven't felt in a long time. Not that long ago, we felt the separation between us and now we see everyone going out of their way for others. Whether it is in donations, helping our soldiers, sending notes, food, gear, etc., hosting families and keeping them company... We are all working

together as a united nation. Everything we are doing now is dedicated to all those we are mourning and lost.

We need to take Avraham's strength and learn from him how to move forward. We need to continue building an even stronger nation. What the future holds for us is greater than anything we have been used to and we can only face it as a strong nation, together.

■ עם ישראל חי! שבת שלום ומבורך!

A Community Forum

Wednesday November 15th, 7:30pm
Address by: **Rabbi Dr. Alex Mondrow**

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