

Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

Children With Joy

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

During this month we read in the Torah about Noah and the ark he built, to protect himself and his family from the great flood.

When the flood waters had receded, G-d commanded Noah to "Go forth from the ark, you, and your wife, and your sons, and your sons' wives with you." The departure was to be such that each man exited together with his wife, unlike their entrance into the ark when the men entered separately from the women.

The difference being, that upon entering the ark they were forbidden marital relations since the world was steeped in grief, whereas when leaving the ark they were permitted marital relations.

However, when Noah and his family exited the ark they left separately. This was in contradiction to G-d's command.

Rashi, (famous commentator of the Torah) explains: Noah was apprehensive about engaging in being fruitful and multiplying until G-d promised not to destroy the world again. Noah was worried that if he were to have children and

populate the world, they would eventually sin, and G-d would again send a flood and destroy them.

Therefore, upon exiting from the ark the men went separately from the women. Noah did not see this as a violation of G-d's command, for he interpreted G-d's word to mean not a command to engage in cohabitation, but rather permission to do what was, until now, forbidden.

Noah being afraid that having children would lead to another flood, he chose not to take advantage of the permission granted. Later, however, G-d expressly commanded him to be fruitful and multiply.

Yet the question still remains. How could Noah, a righteous and wholehearted man, solely because of his fears and worries, ignore the mode of exit from the ark as told to him by G-d?

One of the possible answers is, Noah thoroughly understood the value of life, and thus the gravity of putting a life in danger. He had just witnessed the destruction of the entire human race, together with large segments

of the animal, plant and mineral world. Knowing what having children could lead to, and lacking certain knowledge that there would not be another flood, it was impossible for him immediately upon leaving the ark, to proceed and have more children.

Despite Noah's objections, G-d instructed him that this was not the proper way but instead he should "be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth."

We who do not have any of Noah's reasons for worrying, must fulfill the commandment of the Torah to bear children, most certainly have no reason whatsoever to refrain from having children.

All arguments of economic difficulties are spurious, for G-d provides sustenance for one and all.

Another reason for having children is that "Moshiach will not come until all the souls will have descended into bodies." Through having children one speeds up the redemption. One need only trust G-d and fulfill this Mitzvah with joy and delight. This joy breaks through all barriers, providing all things necessary for husband and wife.

Lubavitch Preschool Is Made Up Of Two Separate Sessions



Mariashi Groner with some of the preschool children.

Since the beginning of September, a group of 21 children have been participating in an exceptional Jewish education program directed by Mariashi Groner. The program is made up of two separate sessions. The first session is a one-day program on Sunday morning and the other session is a five-day program. They are both geared to preschool age children. The programs are conducted in a carefully detailed manner in order to enrich the child with knowledge and a positive feeling for Judaism. Arts & crafts, reading readiness exercises, music, and exercise are only a small

part of what the children take part in.

In addition to Peggy Davis, who taught the previous year, we have hired two additional teachers to assist in the program. Madeleine Jensen has a masters in Education and has taught in Charleston, S.C. and Freeda Dreyer has just moved from Florida to join the Jewish community in Charlotte and is very excited to be a part of teaching our heritage to the children.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year with the children and are waiting to do all the exciting activities we have planned for them.

All Jews are responsible for one another

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