

## Parshat Shemini

### Focus on the Good

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2018

In this week's Parsha, Parshat Shemini, the Talmud teaches us that the middle letter in the Torah is in the Hebrew word "gachon"(snake). The snake symbolizes negativity. What can we learn that this "snake" is surrounded by the "Torah?" The Torah symbolizes optimism. We sometimes have a tendency to focus on the negative in our lives, but we should try to fight this at every opportunity. We should approach every day with the attitude that it's an opportunity to see the wonders that life has to offer. Each day is a gift from Hashem. A great way to beat negativity is with optimism. By not focusing on the "snake," we will see that everything that Hashem made is very good. Focus on the good!

### Parsha Questions

- 1) Which sons of Aharon passed away? (Nadav and Avihu)
- 2) How did Aharon react to their death? (He was silent and accepted the decree)
- 3) What day did they pass away? (Rosh Chodesh Nissan)
- 4) What are the signs of a kosher animal? (Split hooves and chews its cud)

- 5) Give examples of kosher animals (Cow, goat, sheep, deer)
- 6) Which animal has a split hoof but does not chew its cud? (Pig)
- 7) What are some examples of non-kosher animals? (Pig, horse, camel)
- 8) What are the signs of a kosher fish? (Fins and scales)