

Shabos Table Discussion

Week One | March 4-9

LETTER #1 (#6505) | MOTZEI SHABBOS, 11 ADAR - MARCH 4

Printed in Igros Kodesh Vol. 18 pp 1-4

How the Baal Shem Tov Taught Love

A letter to the chapters of N'she U'Bnos Chabad (Chabad Women's Organization) highlights the importance of Ahavas Yisrael and relates a story of the Baal Shem Tov to help explain the love that we must have for our fellow Jew.

Conversation Starter: Was it surprising to you that the Rebbe said that the foundation of the activities of the N'she U'Bnos Chabad was Ahavas Yisrael? How does this make sense to you after learning this letter?

LETTER #2 (#6511) | SUNDAY, 12 ADAR - MARCH 5

Printed in Igros Kodesh Vol. 18 pp 9-10

Encouragement for an Educator

The Rebbe encourages a young educator, Rabbi Yosef Marton, to throw himself enthusiastically into his holy work as well as advising him on how not to be dissuaded by the naysayers.

Conversation Starter: In this letter, the Rebbe mentions the Hayom-Yom of the 23rd of Sivan. Look up the Hayom-Yom and discuss examples from your personal life where this teaching was relevant to you.

LETTER #3 (#6513) | MONDAY, 13 ADAR - MARCH 6

Printed in Igros Kodesh Vol. 18 pp 11-12

Teshuvah With Joy

Joy is one of the most important ways of serving Hashem. The need to do teshuvah to repair past wrongs is no exception, for even that must be done joyfully.

Conversation Starter: The Rebbe says that all aspects of a Jewish life must be infused with joy, including doing Teshuvah over past wrongs. For many people, this is a novel concept. How would you explain to someone who had not read the letter how one can correct their past mistakes while also feeling joyous?

LETTER #4 (#6526) | TUESDAY, 14 ADAR - MARCH 7

Printed in Igros Kodesh Vol. 18 pp 22-23

Overcoming Fears About Learning Chasidus

In response to someone who says that he is afraid to identify as Chabad because he does not want to have to learn Chasidus, the Rebbe gives several reasons why the letter writer should reconsider his apprehension.

Conversation Starter: If you had to influence someone to start learning Chasidus, in your own words, how would you explain it to them?

LETTER #5 (#6529) | WEDNESDAY, 15 ADAR - MARCH 8

Printed in Igros Kodesh Vol. 18 pp 25-27

The Need to Use One's Talents and Influence

The Rebbe writes to Louis Finkelstein of the Jewish Theological Seminary about the need for every individual to fully use their G-d-given potentials to have a positive effect on the world and, in his specific case, to use his influence to introduce more practical observance of Mitzvos among his movement.

Conversation Starter: The Rebbe says that potentials that are left unused cause a disruption in the world. What is a potential that you feel you need to use more and how might you go about doing this?

LETTER #6 (#6542) | THURSDAY, 16 ADAR - MARCH 9

Printed in Igros Kodesh Vol. 18 pp 40-41

A Rabbi Doesn't Quit

The Rebbe responds to a Rabbi who has chosen to leave his congregation and explains to him that one is not allowed to merely do what is best for oneself while neglecting the community.

Conversation Starter: In this letter, the Rebbe told the person not to stop being a Rabbi in order to go into business. At the same time, the Rebbe said that if he hears of a good business opportunity for him, he will help him. How can both of these be true?

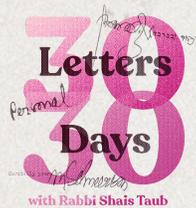
LETTER #7 (#6557) | THURSDAY, 16 ADAR - MARCH 9

Printed in Igros Kodesh Vol. 18 pp 57

Bring People to the Rebbe

The Rebbe speaks about the importance of telling every Jew you meet, without exception, about the importance of going to the Ohel.

Conversation Starter: Have you ever spoken to someone about going to the Rebbe's Ohel who you would not necessarily assume would be receptive to such an idea? What was their reaction?



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