

## LEVEL 2

ב"ח

**LIVING WITH THE TORAH**

**KIBBUD AV VA'EM**  
**HONORING OUR PARENTS**

It is a Mitzvah to respect and honor our parents, to show them love and support.

TALS

# 13: KIBUD AV VA'EM

# 13. Honoring our Parents

## INTRODUCTION

### Words to Know

#### Honoring our parents is a Mitzvah

- There is a direct mitzvah from the Torah to honor our parents.
- This mitzvah is so important that it is stated twice in the Torah.
- It is actually in the Aseret Hadibrot- it is such an integral part of Judaism. It is included in the ‘Between Man and Hashem’ section of the Aseret Hadibrot:

There are three partners in creating a person: the mother, father, and Hashem. If we honor our parents who created our finite bodies, then Hashem also considers it to be honoring Him, the Creator of our infinite souls. (The proof that Hashem includes Himself in the Mitzvah of honoring parents is in the fact that His name appears within the commandment.)

#### We learn so much from our parents

- Hashem wanted a specific mission to be done in this world, so He decided to bring each particular Neshama down. He chose our parents to be the ones who give us life. We get our DNA from our parents – our physical and intellectual attributes.
- Our parents love, provide for and guide us so that we can become the people we were meant to be.
- Hashem created the world so that we learn so much from our parents. We learn our first words from our parents. We learn specific skills from our parents – ex: table manners, how to put on our clothing. We learn life attitudes from our parents – ex: ‘easy does it’, ‘being Jewish is special’.
- For all that we must be very grateful to them, and treat them with utmost respect.

#### Halacha: How to honor our parents

- Sometimes, we might feel that we can ‘let loose’ at home amongst the people with whom we are most comfortable, and we might feel that our parents will love us no matter what, so why bother showing them respect.
- We may not always feel that it is easy to respect our parents, but of course they so deserve our respect. Torah is all about good and meaningful living, and of course honoring our parents is the right way to live. So of course, there is a Mitzvah to respect our parents.
- We must give our parents the same respect we give to others, plus more.
  - a. Don’t wake them up
  - b. Talk to them respectfully
  - c. Listen to them right away

	<p>d. Show appreciation  e. Do not contradict</p> <p><b>Building a good relationship with your parents.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is very important to try to create a strong relationship with your parents. It shows your parents that you respect them and are grateful for all they do for you. And you also benefit from a respectful relationship. Less stress, less arguments, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Communication.</b> Tell them what you're up to, share your thoughts and feelings with them, and seek their advice for your problems.</li> <li>• <b>Honesty/ trust.</b> Honesty means you don't lie or manipulate.</li> <li>• <b>Being responsible.</b> Responsibility means you are reliable and can be counted on to use good judgment.</li> <li>• <b>Is there something that you do that really annoys your parents?</b> What can you do to work on that? [Concept of hachlata and small, achievable goals and din vacheshbon]</li> </ul>
	<p><b>IN THIS LESSON</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In this lesson, we focus on the reasons why we must honor our parents, rather than on the specific ways we must honor them. We hope to inspire the children to internalize the underlying understandings of the importance of Kibbud Av VaEm, so that they can make good decisions when relating to their parents.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>THINGS TO CONSIDER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some children may know of abusive relationships. Speak to your director before to see if there are any such children in your class and how to deal with that situation.</li> <li>• Be sensitive to interesting family models, such as adoption and step families.</li> </ul>

**ABOUT THIS LESSON**

**DESIRED OUTCOME** By the end of this lesson, students will know, understand or be able to:

- Detail the things that their parents do for them, for which they owe appreciation.
- Determine on their own some ways to show honor to their parents.
- Differentiate between respectful and disrespectful behavior towards parents.
- (Know that respect for teachers is equated with respect for parents.)

**BEFORE CLASS**

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**Note to Teacher**

- This class builds on numerous others lessons, including Aseret Hadibrot, Hakarat Hatov, and Responsibility to Others. Bring in all posters and writings that the children did in those lessons.

**LEARNING ACTIVITIES OUTLINE**



The Learning Activity Details must be read for full understanding of this outline.

<p><b>Time:</b> 4 minutes <b>Materials:</b></p>	<p><b>Homework Review</b></p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 2 minutes <b>Materials:</b> Mystery Box, kitchen apron, tie</p>	<p><b>Mystery Box<sup>1</sup></b> Should contain a kitchen apron and a tie.</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 4 minutes <b>Materials:</b> Student Book/ Powerpoint 0.1 - “5 W’s and H” cards</p>	<p><b>Read Text- (Shemot 20:12)</b> [Suggestion-“5 Ws and an H”: after reading the pasuk, students write questions starting with the 5 W’s and H. Then the other students should try to answer them. See introduction for other exciting reading activity suggestions.]</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 6 minutes <b>Materials:</b> 13.1 - Activity cards</p>	<p><b>Activity cards-individual work<sup>2</sup></b> Have students divide activity cards by categories Review the categories the students have come up with.</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 6 minutes <b>Materials:</b> 13.2 - Photos</p>	<p><b>Discuss<sup>3</sup></b> Our parents do what they do so that we will become better people. We owe our parents our appreciation.</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 12 minutes <b>Materials:</b> 13.3 - Role playing cards</p>	<p><b>Role playing cards/skits<sup>4</sup></b> Small groups present a short skit illustrating what they understand from the card. Class points out which behavior was lack of Kibbud Av Vaem, and how it could be corrected.</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 4 minutes <b>Materials:</b></p>	<p><b>Discuss<sup>5</sup></b> Which behaviors show appreciation? Which do not? Which extra behaviors show honor and respect to parents?</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 4 minutes <b>Materials:</b> Student Book</p>	<p><b>Write it down!<sup>6</sup></b> Complete class work in Student Book. Share good resolutions for honoring parents.</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 3 minutes <b>Materials:</b> Ten commandments PowerPoint, Previous Poster</p>	<p><b>Connection-The Ten Commandments<sup>7</sup></b> Re-read the source Pasuk View Ten Commandments power point/poster Review ten commandments. Discuss- our parents are partners with Hashem. Showing our parents respect is respecting Hashem!</p>

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES DETAILS

### <sup>1</sup>Mystery Box

**PREPARE:** Place kitchen apron and tie in classroom Mystery Box.

**THE ACTIVITY:** Choose a student to open the Mystery Box and take out the objects.

**ASK:**

- What are the objects? What are they used for?
- What could they represent?
- Which topic do you think will be discussed in this week’s lesson?

**EXPLAIN:**

- Honoring parents/Kibud Av Va’em is one of the 613 Mitzvot.
- Its importance is shown by the fact that it is a direct Mitzvah, and included in the 10 Commandments.
- Inherent in the mitzvah of Kibud Av Vaem are other Mitzvot as well.

**READ TEXT:**

- Use the Student Book or Powerpoint to read the words from the Torah. Students can use the Ws and H cards and answer whichever of those they can.

### <sup>2</sup>Activity Cards

**PREPARE:** Print the cards – 1 set per 2-3 students. Cut before class.

**INSTRUCT:**

- Divide class into small groups of 2-3.
- Students should look through the cards and try to divide according to categories as they see fit. (The objective is for them to think about the topics on the cards; the specific categories they choose is less important.)
- Some students may need help to come up with categories-some examples to start them off are: “things parents do v. things parents say”, “always/sometimes/never”, “things I like v. things I don’t like”
- Students should share the categories they have come up with.

### <sup>3</sup>Discussion-Why Parents Do the Things They Do

**ASK:**

- What are some things our parents do?
- What are some things our parents say?
- What are the things we enjoy that our parents do?
- When do we get annoyed by our parents’ behavior?
- **Why do they do/say those things?**

**DISCUSS:**

- Our parents do what they do out of love.
- *Optional* Show pictures of things that our parents do for us, and discuss all the things that parents do.
- Nagging, making rules, giving us food to eat, and clothes to wear all show our parents care and concern.
- Even when they get frustrated, or annoyed by the things we do, they are acting out of love!
- Their worry, concern, and even frustration are all because they want us to become better people.
- Our parents do so much for us, we should show them respect and Hakarat Hatov (review of lesson 3)

#### <sup>4</sup>Activity-Role Playing

**PREPARE:** Print and cut out scenario cards. If necessary, divide the class into small groups ahead of time.

**INSTRUCT:**

- Each group will receive one scenario card, depicting a behavior that does not show honor to parents.
- Students prepare skits to illustrate that point.
- Present skits to class.
- Rest of class determines which behavior must be corrected, and how.

#### <sup>5</sup>Discussion-The “How’s” of Honoring Parents

**DISCUSS:** As you discuss, students can write ideas on index cards or on the board.

- Which behaviors show appreciation?
- Which do not?
- Which extra behaviors show honor and respect to parents?
- Describe a time that you did something special for your parents, for no special reason; something you did ‘just because’.
- How did your parents respond?
- How did you feel about your parents then?

#### <sup>6</sup>Worksheet-Write it Down!

**INSTRUCT:**

- Students complete the Lesson #13 worksheet, by coming up with positive resolutions for honoring their parents according to the categories “to do” and “not to do”.
- Suggestion: have students list multiple ideas for each category and then choose one of each as a positive resolution to complete the worksheet.
- Variations: Use the answer box to write, draw, or illustrate with stickers or other art media.

#### <sup>7</sup>Connection-The Ten Commandments

**INSTRUCT:** Re-read the source pasuk.

**ASK:** Where have we seen this passage before?

**REVIEW:**

- View **Ten Commandments power point/poster**
- Which side is the mitzvah of Kibud Av Va’em on? (What is similar about all of those mitzvot?)
- Does it belong there?

**DISCUSS:**

- Our parents are partners with Hashem. Showing our parents respect is respecting Hashem!
- (Optional) Which other mitzvot are included in the mitzvah of Kibud Av Va’em? Hakarat hatov, responsibility to others, respect and honor to teachers/ “spiritual parents”.