

Lesson One: Walking with Hashem



“הִצַּנֵּעַ לִקְּת עִם אֱלֹהֵיךָ.”

(מיכה ו, ח)

“And you should walk modestly with Hashem”



Leah's Question

CHARACTERS: Leah, Rivka, Mommy

Leah: Mommy, I have a question. It's about Tznius.

Rivka: I also have a question about Tznius!

Mommy: One at a time, please! Let's hear. Leah, you go first.

Leah: I learned something interesting in camp today. Every person has an outer self. This is the body, which everyone can see. No one needs to work hard to show what color hair they have, or how tall or short they are. However, we each also have an inner self that is hidden. Our hidden self has all our personality and Middos. From the Pasuk “Hatznea Leches Im Elokecha”, we can learn that Hashem wants us to remember to give a voice to the ‘hidden’ part of us, which is the Neshama --

Rivka: -- I know what your question is!

Mommy: Rivkale, don't interrupt your sister. Let her ask her question and then, if you have something to add, you can do so when she's done speaking.

Rivka: Okay, fine.

Leah: Anyways... my question is this. The way my counselor was describing it made me all confused! Up until now, I always thought Tznius is about making sure that we impress everyone else.

Mommy: What do you mean?

Leah: Well, in school we always have to dress Tzniusdig because our principal and teachers remind us to. In camp, there's a dress code that says we need to make sure all our clothing is

Tzniusdig. At home, you always compliment us on how Tzniusdig and beautiful we look. And even when we are in public, we are always told to act in a Tzanua way so that people will see how refined and Aidel we are!

Mommy: Okay...

Leah: So, I'm confused. The Mitzva of Tznius is not about impressing other people?

Mommy: Of course not!

Rivka: What's wrong with impressing people?

Mommy: Nothing's wrong with that. It's wonderful to make a Kiddush Hashem! I think Leah is asking, what is the true reason why we keep the Mitzva of Tznius? Who are we doing it for?

Leah: Based on what I learned today, it's about doing it for Hashem.

Mommy: That's exactly it! When you light a Shabbos candle, it is true that you are bringing light into the world. It is true that it creates a feeling of Shalom in the house. But the Mitzva comes from Hashem, and so even if you were home alone you would still light that candle.

Rivka: Oh! I have another example like that! When I make a Bracha, I want everyone to answer Amen to me. But the Mitzva of making a Bracha is because Hashem made the food, and it's between me and Hashem that I want to thank Him for it.

Leah: I kind of get it now.

Mommy: So, Leah, you are correct. It's important that in school, at camp, and in public we should always make sure to be living examples. The job of the parents and the teachers are simply to train the children and to remind them to do the right thing. But at the end of the day, Tznius is YOUR Mitzva!

Leah: Okay! Now it makes sense to me why, as our counselor taught us, we need to dress in a Tzniusdig way everywhere we are -- even in the privacy of our own rooms.

Rivka: Hey, that was my question! But now I have the answer. Tznius is MY Mitzva! So it doesn't matter who's around me.

Leah: It's MY Mitzva too! But we can share it with others, by making sure to be an example wherever we are.

Mommy: You're very smart girls! I can't wait to hear about what you learn tomorrow in camp.