

Lesson Seven: Speech



“כֹּה תֹאמַרְ לְבָתוּרַי יַעֲקֹב”

(יתרו יט, ג)

“So you shall say to the Daughters of Yaakov.”



The Pizza Shop

CHARACTERS: Zeldy, Rochel, Esther, Waitress, Mrs. Friedman

Zeldy: I'm so excited! We're finally at the pizza shop!

Rochel: Yeah, we're so lucky! We're the best class ever!

Esther: And Mrs. Friedman is such a nice teacher for taking us! Where is she?

Zeldy: She's at the counter. I think she's making the order.

Rochel: I'm going to use the bathroom. Excuse me, Esther, could I please pass through?

Esther: Sure. No problem!

Zeldy: Look, Mrs. Friedman is coming with the pizza! Let's clear space so she can put it down. Those pies look really heavy.

Mrs. Friedman: Hi girls! How's it going?

Esther: Hi Mrs. Friedman! We made room for you to put all the food down so you don't have to hold it for so long. Here.

Mrs. Friedman: Why, you are all so sweet! Oy, I forgot to ask for a few cups of water for our table. Would one of you be so kind as to go up to ask the waitress for some ice water?

Zeldy: I'll go!

Esther: It might be a lot for you to carry, Zeldy. Mrs. Friedman, can I go and help her?

Mrs. Friedman: Sure. Wait, where's Rochel?

Zeldy: She went to the bathroom. Oh, wait she's coming back -- with a pitcher of water! How did she know to do that?

Mrs. Friedman: Rochel? I am so impressed!

Rochel: Oh, it wasn't an issue! I realized we had no water, Mrs. Friedman, and I didn't want to make anyone go back since I was anyways up from the table, so I asked the waitress over there for a pitcher.

Waitress: Excuse me, are you the teacher of these girls?

Mrs. Friedman: Yes, I am.

Waitress: I just wanted to compliment you on how polite and well-mannered these young ladies are! This girl over here came over to me and asked me if I was busy with anything else. Only then did she ask if I could please pour a pitcher of water. She quickly offered to carry it over herself because she saw that another customer was waiting for my service.

Mrs. Friedman: Rochel, I'm so impressed!

Waitress: Then, I couldn't help but overhear your other students offering to bring water at the very moment that she returned with it. I'm sorry for eavesdropping, but it's not very often that you see such kindness and respect!

Mrs. Friedman: Thank you very much! As a teacher, it warms my heart to hear such good reports about my own students.

Waitress: My pleasure. I'm going to head off back to the kitchen now. Enjoy your meal.

Mrs. Friedman: Thank you. Have a wonderful day. Girls, you just made an incredible Kiddush Hashem. The Rebbe teaches us that through a Yid's speech, it is clear that we belong to an "Am Kadosh", "a holy nation". When we speak in a refined and dignified way, the rest of the world can see that we respect ourselves as Hashem's cherished nation. How clear was that just now? I'm so proud of you!

Rochel: Thanks.

Esther: We're so lucky to live with Yiddishkeit. Speaking nicely should be so normal that no one has to point it out! Maybe that waitress will tell the story to other people and inspire them.

Zeldy: I hope so! Thank you, Mrs. Friedman, for always teaching us such powerful lessons!

Rochel: Yes. Thank you. Making a Kiddush Hashem was the best reward!