



# CHOVERET CHINUCH

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**BNEI AKIVA**  
OF THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

# LETTER FROM THE CHINUCH TEAM

Shalom Chaverim!

We are back to our yearly theme after a long hiatus, and continued with our study and discourse of the different Shvatim and what we can learn from them. We hope over the various closures and quarantine periods, we were still able to come together as one nation and help each other out, and support each other.

In this packet we will be discussing Asher and Yosef, who each have what to teach us both on an individual level and a national level as well. Wishing you Behatzlacha in your renewed snifim, and a profound Kol Hakavod for all your important work!

***The Bnei Akiva  
Chinuch Team***

# PEULA #1

## ASHER

### TOPIC

Material Wealth

### GOAL

To discuss the appropriate attitude towards material wealth.

### BACKGROUND

Source: איזהו עשיר? השמח בחלקו, שנאמר: (תהלים קכב): "יגיע כפיך כי תאכל אשריך וטוב לך"

Asher stands for material wealth for several reasons. The most prominent are the brachot attributed to him in Vayechi and Vezot Habracha, in which they state that "Asher's bread is rich and will provide kingly delicacies", and "shall dip his foot in oil". But also, Asher was the 6th child of Leah (albeit 2nd of surrogate Zilpah), an indication of abundance in its own right.

### INTRODUCTION

We learn from the Torah that there is definitely a value to modesty when it comes to material wealth, but on the other hand, we see that the Mishkan/Beit Hamikdash, and the King's palace were built in great extravagance. What is the value of material wealth in our lives? And how do we see it in Bnei Akiva?

### TRIGGER

- Give each chanich \$1000 in paper money split into \$100 bills (or you can do \$50s). Lay out papers (about 20) on the ground each with a good cause on it: e.g., Hadassah, the Jewish Federation, Bnei Akiva, local shul, a neighbor's GoFundMe page raising money for hospital bills, etc... Make sure to include a sentence or two description of charities that your chanichim may not recognize

- Then give the chanichim about 5 minutes to walk around reading the descriptions and putting their money on one of the charitable causes; they can split between multiple causes or they may choose to put all their money into one cause, there are no rules except they need to have a reason for why they chose to put their money where they did
- Go around and ask a few chanichim what they did with their money and why
  - Was there a specific cause that spoke to them? Why?
  - Was it difficult to narrow down the options when there were so many good things to do with their money?
- Look at the causes that had the most donations and those that had the least. Why were those chosen over others? Why were the ones with the least donations not chosen? Maybe causes that are more Bein Adam LeChavero received the most donations, maybe not
- For the second round, lay out the same papers with charitable causes as before, but now add in a few pages with personal expenses on them: E.g., saving for a bike, buying courtside seats, going out to eat, going on a shabbaton, etc.; Again, have the chanichim walk around and put their money on whichever papers they prefer
- Now ask the chanichim where they put their money and why? Did they tend to put more towards their personal expenses or charitable causes? Why?

- Did they change their answers from the previous round? Why or why not?
- Were they influenced at all by what other chanichim were doing? (E.g., only giving to charities because their friends were)

require extra hours and lots of work, vs. a job paying half the salary, but still enough to live off of, which gives you flexibility and you truly enjoy it - which would you choose?

We are constantly being told not to be materialistic, but clearly there are times when it is beneficial (maybe even a good thing) to be wealthy- you have the means to donate to those in need! But then where do we draw the line? How do we find a balance in our lives?

### PEULA

Given this introduction, the topic for the first activity is times when materialism is not such a good thing. As opposed to the trigger, find an activity that demonstrates why materialism/material wealth may lead to selfishness or greed.

- Have a discussion about when it is okay to seek material wealth and when it is not. Maybe it never is. How do we reconcile the value of modesty regarding material wealth and the fact that the Beit HaMikdash was so extravagant?

### CONCLUSION

Perhaps Asher demonstrates to us that material wealth can be a good thing but only if it is channeled into the right things; Maybe as long as we are sharing our wealth with others and giving back to Hashem (as we see with the extravagance of the Mishkan/Beit HaMikdash) as opposed to acquiring wealth for status or material goods it can be a positive thing in our lives. Question for further thinking: If you had to choose a profession between a high paying job that you're not passionate about, which

# PEULA #2

## YOSEF

### TOPIC

Hakol Le'tova, Hashgacha Pratit, Emuna

### GOAL

To learn through Yosef that we need to have Emuna in Hashem, and that everything is for the best.

### BACKGROUND

There are a couple of values that characterise Yosef. One of them, which is clear from the psukim is Emuna. Yosef had dreams - but those dreams weren't cast away as just dreams, he believed that there was a deep truth to them. All the while that Yosef was in Mitzrayim, it was apparently very clear to him that Hashem had sent him there to help Am Yisrael.

### INTRODUCTION

How many times do we think that things happen by chance? Bad luck? As opposed to Hashem Hashgacha Pratit? Do we have Emuna? How do we express it each day?

### TRIGGER

Think of a trigger that will catch the chanichim's attention and get them to start thinking about Emuna. It can be a short story, game, prompt, or any other creative idea.

### PEULA

Scenarios will be given on pieces of paper. The madrich will read a scenario and go around the room to hear how each chanich reacts. You can make it more relatable by printing out emojis. Then go back around the room to see which chanich reacted with Emunah.

#### • Scenario 1

You are running late to school and your

carpool gets stuck at a red light.

- Reactions can be:
  - Anger
  - Frustration
  - Running the red light
  - Peace of mind
  - Calmness
  - Acceptance

#### • Scenario 2

You order something that gets lost in transit.

- Reactions can be:
  - Anger
  - Frustration
  - Yelling at the company where you purchased
  - Calmness
  - Acceptance that it will come when it is meant to arrive

#### • Scenario 3

You buy a ticket in the Chinese Auction hoping to win a prize, but don't end up winning

- Reactions can be:
  - Anger
  - Frustration
  - Tears
  - Demanding a new ticket be drawn
  - Acceptance that you weren't meant to have the prize
  - Saying congratulations to the prize winner

Discuss these reactions with your chanichim to see which ways stem from Emunah and how we can work on having this perspective more in our lives.

## CONCLUSION

Having Emuna directly affects our outlook and what happens around us, and how we react to everything that we experience.

How do you see Emuna affecting your school day, basketball game, or anything else that happens on a day-to-day basis?

# PEULA #3

## YOSEF

### TOPIC

“Chen” (roughly translated as grace, charm, charisma, beauty all together)

### GOAL

To discuss the appropriate use of Chen, and what role it plays in our lives.

### BACKGROUND

Yosef’s “Chen” was found by all those who had met him - Yaakov, the Jailer, Potifar and his wife, Paroh, etc. This Chen produced an admiration that people were tempted to follow him and heed his words. This same admiration is what we expect of our leaders, teachers, rabbis, even madrichim, and what we aim to achieve as the nation of Or Legoyim and Mamlechet Kohanim.

### INTRODUCTION

How can we use the Chen that we have (and everybody has some) to do good things? Can it be potentially dangerous?

### TRIGGER

Make up a position or a job opening (EX: head of your snif, President of the United States, President of your shul)- this made up opening will be filled by one chanich/a and one madrich/a

Pair up the chanichim. Have them pitch their partners for the job- they can be as creative as possible (can make it into a contest, have chanichim vote for a winner to make it exciting)

For the madrich/a position, pitch your fellow madrich/a unenthusiastically, arrogantly, or rudely. Have your fellow madrich/a pitch you for the position nicely (with chen). Ask your chanichim which one they would hire/would want to work with

### Diyun:

- What mattered more in your pitch with your fellow madrich/a? Your qualifications or the way you said it?
- Did it matter that one madrich/a was presented with less qualifications than the other, or was the tone more important?
- What qualities do we want in our coworkers, in the people we’re around? What qualities do you think our coworkers expect of us?

### PEULA

Think of a peula that might help the chanichim understand the proper use of chen, how we encounter and react to chen everyday, or our understanding of chen.

### CONCLUSION

How do we use Chen everyday? What are some circumstances where we can use chen for good causes, that we haven’t thought of until now?