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 Presents:

Shabbos INSPIRE.

PARSHA SHEET

Parshas Vayikra
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Offering a Rei'ach Ni'choach to Hashem

"Adam ki yakriv mikem..."
 -"When a man amongst you will
 bring an offering to Hashem..."
 (Vayikra 1:2).

The Ramban explains that what is experienced by the animal being brought as a sacrifice should be experienced equally by the person bringing the sacrifice (Vayikra 1: 9). In other words, the person bringing the korban should feel as though he is being sacrificed on the altar. "Adam ki yakriv mikem..." The Sefarim explain that the literal translation of the above possuk is as follows: "When a person will bring an offering "of you," not "amongst you." "Of you" implies that when offering a sacrifice one is actually offering himself.

For the person living in the time of the *Mishkan/Bais HaMikdash* who was sensitive to this profound message, bringing a sacrifice and feeling as if a part of his soul was physically burning on the altar must have been an incredibly difficult and emotionally rigorous experience. Thus, offering an animal was in no way an easy or painless experience. One had to reaffirm his deepest resolve to serve Hashem, even through the ultimate act of *mesiras nefesh* - self sacrifice.

"Lifum tzara agra" - "According to the pain is the reward" (Avos 5:26). The degree of difficulty in performing a mitzvah in this world is proportional to its positive effect in the next world. I would like to suggest that bringing a *korban* worked in the same way. According to the level of remorse and regret was the atonement that was granted to the person.



The modern vernacular for "outreach" is *kiruv*. It has the same root as the word *makriv* - offering a sacrifice. I don't believe this connection is happenstance. Ask anyone who has reached out to his fellow Jew and he will tell you that he had to dig deep and go beyond himself. *Kiruv* is often not easy, but this is only because the stakes are so high. "One who saves one soul of Yisroel is as if he has saved an entire world" (*Sanhedrin* 37a). How many mitzvos carry this kind of weight?! Is it any wonder that the negative forces will do everything in their power to make it painfully difficult for us to bring another Jew close? In the previous Parsha sheet, Rabbi Daniel Coren of Monsey, NY, said pointedly in reference to visiting a neighbor: "My stomach had the clear signs

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Inspiration For Your Shabbos Table

As the director of Project Inspire Toronto, I receive many calls relating to kiruv from frum people throughout the city. It is always a pleasure to hear a sincere voice at the other end of the line asking questions and seeking advice concerning how to make a difference in the life of a fellow Jew.

There was something extraordinarily moving about a call I recently received back in November. On the line was Mrs. Raizy Heimfeld, a well-respected Chassidish lady in the Toronto community. Recently, two lovely, unaffiliated, young professional families had moved onto her block. "They are so pleasant and are as sweet as can be... I know I have to do something, but what?" Mrs. Heimfeld asked. The genuine desire to reach out to neighbors whom she hardly knew and who were from a completely different background was, for lack of a better word, absolutely "inspiring".

Since its inception five years ago, Project Inspire has striven towards this very goal: instilling a heartfelt desire in the frum community to make a difference. Imagine a world where all observant Jews took responsibility for the secular Jews in their lives. Where instead of asking, "What's going to be with the state of the Jewish people?" we ask, "What can I do to change things?" Today, the few kiruv professionals are fighting an uphill battle. The overpowering tide of assimilation is rushing in. With each wave, thousands are lost, seemingly forever. All seems futile... The day I got the call, I knew there was hope. The answer lies in the sincere yearning of frum Jews everywhere to make a difference. Life at the best of times can be overwhelming. There are always countless excuses to be made: "What if they ask me a question I can't answer?" "They're definitely not interested," "We are both so different," etc. However, today Klal Yisroel was reaching out with love and devotion.

Mrs. Heimfeld was way ahead of me. She had already kindled a relationship through casual interaction and shmoozing. On erev Shabbos one week, she brought over cake and wine. On another, she brought homemade kugel. The neighbor's children started to drop by and would play in the backyard. Interestingly, the Heimfelds and the other two families all had twin girls. There was some obvious Hashgacha Pratis - Divine providence unfolding.

But what was next? What could a very Chassidish family do to reach out to their secular neighbors in a real and meaningful way? B"H, an idea came to me. "How about if just the women get together Friday night after candle-lighting? The kids could play while the women chat. Friday night is always so special," I suggested. "In fact, why don't you invite Mrs. Dini Weidberg (a frum neighbor) to come as well? She and her daughters will undoubtedly make a wonderful impression and will help create an inviting atmosphere," I added.

As they say, the rest is history. That Friday night get-together was "just beautiful." In a relaxed and non-threatening environment, families connected with one another.

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Kiruv is often about self-sacrifice and offering to Hashem...your love for Him and His children

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that I should visit him. If you're nervous you know it's going to bring good results!" I am reluctant to say the following, but I know if this message is taken to heart countless lives could forever be impacted. Going out of one's comfort zone is extremely difficult. It is obviously easier to overlook one's responsibility of *ahavas Yisroel* when it is

uncomfortable and reason that "I am too busy," "I am not the type," etc. Who is "the type?" Unprecedented numbers of our precious Klal Yisroel are

disappearing to assimilation and intermarriage daily. Every individual can truly play his or her role in making a difference. The negative forces are certainly not holding anything back in their battle.

Kiruv is often about self-sacrifice and offering to Hashem your discomfort, your reservations, and your love for Him and His children.

I offer a *yasher koach* to all those who took part in the Project Inspire *mishloach manos* campaign (and to all those who created their own). 2000 less-affiliated Jews experienced Purim and the warmth of Yiddishkeit because of you. The stories are pouring in about how deeply both the less-observant and the frum Jew alike were affected. That small *mishloach manos* might have been the first great step toward creating generations upon generations of Torah observance

and literally millions of mitzvos.

"*Lifum tzara agra*" – "According to the pain is the reward." Perhaps this reward can be experienced in this world as well. Anyone who has done outreach (on any level) can tell you that the feeling in the end is deeply gratifying. The knowledge that you have made a profound impact on a fellow Jew is most rewarding. And like a *korban*, it undoubtedly brings a wonderful *rei'ach ni'choach* (a sweet aroma) to Hashem.

"*Vayikra el Moshe*" - "He called to Moshe" (*Vayikra* 1:1). Our Sages explain that Hashem spoke to Moshe with a loud thunderous voice, but only Moshe was able to hear it (Rashi). Rav Moshe Feinstein, *zt"l*, explains that Hashem's message was loud enough for everyone to hear. I would like to add: Hashem is speaking to all of us; it is up to each and every one of us to hear His words. **PI**

Good Shabbos,
Rabbi Moshe Zionce
Director, Project Inspire Toronto

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They talked and laughed by the warm glow of the Shabbos candles. In addition, a lovely, young, Jewish babysitter for one of the families came and Mrs. Weidberg brought less affiliated neighbors as well. "It was perfect," said Mrs. Heimfeld.

With Chanukah approaching, there was an opportunity that could not be missed. The Weidbergs were determined to host a beautiful Chanukah party. Project Inspire was encouraging parties citywide and provided an attractive Chanukah kit with translated brachos, explanations and ideas for games and crafts.

The Weidbergs spent hours planning the party and their efforts proved to be well worth it. There was lots of great nosh for everyone. For the children there was a game of dreidel, activities like baking cookies in the shape of Chanukah symbols, and creating cute Chanukah crafts. All joined together and played a delightful Chanukah game. When the time was right, Mrs. Heimfeld gave a moving talk about Chanukah. Everyone participated, relaxed, and enjoyed each other's company. The party was a smashing success! No one wanted to leave.

At the end of the evening, the adults left with inspiration, the children with their arts and crafts. All came away with fond memories. "It's not about changing anyone's mind. It's about sharing the beauty of Judaism. You never know the impact you are making. In time a spark can become a flame," said Mrs. Weidberg.

The Friday night get-togethers have continued every week. Each Friday night the bond grows stronger as a deeper appreciation of each neighbor's wonderful character is gained. "They are all such lovely people," Mrs. Heimfeld affectionately says. The babysitter in particular has grown close to the Heimfelds. She eats weekly at their Shabbos table, came for the Purim seudah and often drops in. Recently, Mrs. Heimfeld signed her up for Partners In Torah!

In the words of Mrs. Heimfeld and Mrs. Weidberg, "We did nothing. You want to write a story - there is no story!" Imagine what our communities would look like if we all did "nothing" the way they did. There would be a revolution! Hashem is waiting for us, His children, to care enough about our brothers and sisters that we open up our hearts and our homes to them. It starts with you. Allow another precious Jew the opportunity to experience the true warmth and relevance of Judaism. *Kiruv* is in Hashem's hands; we just have to demonstrate to Him that we care. **PI**

Moshe Zionce

Pesach Kiruv Gift Campaign

This year, send a Project Inspire Pesach Kit to an unaffiliated Jew, and give them the ability to fulfill the mitzvah of telling their children about the Exodus.

To order or for more information, contact Cecilia at 646-461-3339 or email cfeiman@projectinspire.com.

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Happy Passover

Walking in our forefathers' footsteps

Independence 2

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If you would like to bring the Shabbos Inspire Parsha Sheet to your shul, please call (646) 961-4961 or email yweinberg@projectinspire.com.

Project Inspire is a grassroots movement inspiring the Jewish people to share the beauty and relevance of our heritage with our fellow Jews.