

הכנסת אורחים

The תורה puts great emphasis on the importance of welcoming people into our home, making sure they feel comfortable, and giving them our full attention – it's a מצווה called הכנסת אורחים (hospitality to guests).

This מצווה is a well known one. ל"ח have promised great blessings to those who welcome guests into their homes. In תפילת שחרית we say:

”אֱלֹהֵי דְבָרִים שְׂאִין לָהֶם שְׁעוֹר, הַפֶּאֶה וְהַבְּכוֹרִים וְהַרְאִין וְגַמְלִיּוֹת חֲסָדִים וְתִלְמוּד תּוֹרָה:

אֱלֹהֵי דְבָרִים שְׂאָדָם אוֹכֵל פְּרוֹתֵיהֶם בְּעוֹלָם הַזֶּה וְהַקָּדוֹן קִיַּמַת לְעוֹלָם הַבָּא:

וְאֱלֹהֵינוּ, כְּבוֹד אָב וָאִם וְגַמְלִיּוֹת חֲסָדִים וְהַשְׁפָּמַת בֵּית הַמְדָרֶשׁ שְׁחָרִית וְעֶרְבִית

וְהַכְנָסַת אוֹרְחִים וּבְקוֹר חוֹלִים...”

Which means, that this מצווה is counted amongst the מצוות that one "receives the fruit from in this world, but his capital remains undiminished in the World to Come". In addition, one who performs הכנסת אורחים properly merits children, as we see from אברהם, who after feeding his guests was told that he will have children. It is also inferred from the שונמית woman, who after hosting הנביא אלישע was promised a son.

How to Host?

The חפץ חיים (Ahavas Chesed 3:2) explains that the story of אברהם was given to us to understand how to properly host guests:

- Offer water
- Before offering food, offer rest (if the guest is staying for the night or if he is after a long drive/ flight)
- If the guest is rushing, don't delay them
- Bring each dish as it is ready
- Walk the guest out

He (the חפץ חיים) then adds other dinim that he collected from other ספרים:

- Greet your guests smilingly
- Give them directions to get them where they're going.



Ipad project:

Create a guide book for the מצוה of אורחים.

Your guide book needs to include the following:

- 1) Cover the information from this sheet.
- 2) The story of אברהם אבינו's hospitality: (פרק יח, פסוקים ב-ט)
 - Who did he host and when?
 - What did he offer them?
 - What did he give them?
 - In what way did he do all of this?
- 3) Your own personal אורחים story – as a host or as a guest.

This project is due by Friday, November 3.

(Submit it to Schoology – פרשת וירא – חומש בראשית – אורחים guide book)

בהצלחה!