

Parent-Child Learning

Parashat Ki Tisa 5774

1. How do you think about HaShem? How do you picture Him in your mind? When you pray to HaShem, how do you imagine the One Who is Listening to you?
2. Of all the people who have lived in the past, according to Jewish tradition, who was the person who was given the most information about HaShem? The fact that HaShem Allowed this person to learn so much about Him, what does that say about the person?
3. Here are the Tora verses that describe the relationship that Moshe had with HaShem:

1. Shemot 33:11

**יא** וְדָבַר ה' אֶל-מֹשֶׁה פָּנִים  
אֶל-פָּנִים, כַּאֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר אִישׁ  
אֶל-רֵעֵהוּ; וְשָׁב, אֶל-הַמַּחֲנֶה,  
וּמִשָּׁרְתוֹ יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן-נוּן נֶעַר, לֹא  
יָמִישׁ מִתּוֹךְ הָאֹהֶל.

**11** And the LORD spoke unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he would return into the camp; but his minister Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the Tent.

2. BaMidbar 12:8

**ח** כִּי אֶל-פִּי אֶדְבַר-בוֹ, וּמִרְאָה  
וְלֹא בְחִידוֹת, וּתְמִנַת ה', יִבִּיט;  
וּמִדּוֹעַ לֹא יִרְאֶתְסָם, לְדַבֵּר בְּעַבְדֵי  
בְּמֹשֶׁה.

**8** with him do I speak mouth to mouth, even manifestly, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD doth he behold; wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?'

3. Devarim 34:10

**י** וְלֹא-קָם נָבִיא עוֹד בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל,  
כְּמֹשֶׁה, אֲשֶׁר יָדָעוּ ה', פָּנִים  
אֶל-פָּנִים.

**10** And there hath not arisen a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face;

What do you think is meant by the descriptions of the relationship between HaShem and Moshe? Think if you had a pen pal whom you never saw, but just read his letters. What is the difference between a relationship between letter writers, and someone with whom you have a relationship via Skype? What is the difference between a Skype relationship and an in-person relationship?

4. In Parashat Ki Tisa, at one point Moshe asks HaShem to let him know what “God’s Ways” are:

Shemot 33:13

יג וְעַתָּה אִם-נָא מָצָאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ, הוֹדֵעֲנִי נָא אֶת-דַּרְכֶּךָ, וְאֲדַעַךְ, לְמַעַן אֶמְצָא-חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ; וְרָאֵה, כִּי עַמֶּךָ הַגּוֹי הַזֶּה.

13 Now therefore, I pray Thee, if I have found grace in Thy sight, show me now Thy ways, that I may know Thee, to the end that I may find grace in Thy sight; and consider that this nation is Thy people.'

What do you think Moshe was trying to find out that he didn't already know?

5. The way that HaShem Answered Moshe was by Describing His Middot:

Shemot 34:6-7

ו וַיַּעֲבֹר ה' עַל-פָּנָיו, וַיִּקְרָא, ה' ה', קל רַחוּם וְחַנוּן--אֲרָךְ אַפִּים, וְרַב-חֶסֶד וְאֱמֶת.

6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed: 'The LORD, the LORD, God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth;

ז נִצַּר חֶסֶד לְאַלְפִים, נִשְׂא עוֹן וּפְשַׁע וְחַטָּאָה; וְנִקָּה, לֹא יִנְקָה-פֶּקֶד עוֹן אָבוֹת עַל-בָּנִים וְעַל-בְּנֵי בָנִים, עַל-שְׂלֵשִׁים וְעַל-רִבְעִים.

7 keeping mercy unto the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin; and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and unto the fourth generation.'

Do you think that what HaShem Told Moshe answered Moshe's request? What did HaShem Tell Moshe? What did He not Tell Moshe?

6. The next time that you think about HaShem or daven to Him, will you think of Him differently now that you have studied these ideas? Explain.