

Camp EESHAY Cherry Hill

Dear Parents
and Campers,

This week's Parsha discusses the idea of the עבד עברי, the Jewish slave. As we know, this arrangement was for a time period of six years, at which point the עבד was sent back home. The Torah tells us that upon releasing his עבד, it is incumbent upon the master to shower him with riches for the road. Lavish gifts of cattle, grain and wine are the expectation. The Torah then declares (15:15):

זכרת כי עבד היית בארץ מצרים...
על כן אנכי מצוך את הדבר הזה

Remember you were slaves in Mitzraim, therefore I command you of this today.

Rashi explains what the Torah is saying here: Do not forget - when we were slaves in Mitzraim on our way out, Hashem provided for us not once, but twice! First, we collected the valuables of the land, and then again by the Yam Suf, there was so much wealth, we didn't even want to leave! We had to be persuaded by Moshe. Says the Posuk, if we feel the temptation to send the Eved home empty handed, just remember our humble beginnings, and how Hashem graciously provided for us this exact חסד. This will encourage us to act in kind.

What a beautiful idea! This is a Mitzvah for all time. This means we have the ability to inspire ourselves to do the right thing by focusing on a חסד that Hashem did for our ancestors over 3,000 years ago! הַכֶּרֶת הַטוֹב is part of the essence of our people, it is in our DNA. And there is no statute of limitations on gratitude. This is absolutely appropriate. We received חסד from Hashem, we must repay His children in the same vein.

On this note, it was so gratifying to see what took place this past Monday. To express our thanks to Young Israel for opening their building to us this summer, our campers swarmed over the campus, and gathered an astonishing 6,241 monkey balls! Yes, there were some side incentives, but the Middah of הַכֶּרֶת הַטוֹב resonated deeply this past week at Eeshay! Chevra, way to go!

Have a great Shabbos!

Rabbi Glatt

This Week...

For the seventh time this summer, we have successfully completed a fun filled week, though it was a little more out-of-the-box than usual. Predictably, the boys have been davening and learning beautifully, but this week we added חסד and הַכֶּרֶת הַטוֹב to our list when the boys collected over 6,000 monkey balls throughout the Young Israel property and removed them. On another day, the boys enjoyed R' Gold's recent film featuring exceptional life stories with the important message of judging others favorably.

Those monkey balls became bidding tickets which were then used to bid for prizes including a BBQ, Dollar Tree run, and Slurpees! Other fun activities included Blind Mice in the Gym, as well as Eeshay Trivia where the boys enjoyed seeing and "awwwwww"ing at each other's baby pictures (yes, that is now a word). Oh, and dancing in the rain was pretty fun, too... The origami letters were also a hit in crafts. Finally, Rabbi Glatt's cholent, ices, and prizes always bring the week to a close in erev Shabbos fashion.

But the highlight of the week, of course, was the trip! They started by hiking through Pennypack Park, followed that up with pizza lunch at House of Kosher, only to be outdone by bouncing around at Altitude. The boys created a beautiful kiddush Hashem there and were commended for their "attitude at altitude."

We have just one final week left!! Let's see if we can end camp on a high note, in perfect harmony, in A major way (I apologize for the music puns, but I don't always control my keyboard).

Have a gevaldig, gebentched Shabbos

Rabbi Kaye

Talmidei Hashavua

Rabbi Glatt

Noam Paris

Rabbi Kaye

Abie Teichman

R' Dan Flax

Yosef Chaim Levy









