TORAH STUDY

Introduction to Torah Study

Studying *Torah* is a basic requirement for all Jews and such study is considered to be a prestigious commandment (*Torah* study is as important as doing all the other *mitzvot*: *talmud Torah k'negged kulam*). Setting time for *Torah* study (*k'viat zman l'Torah*) means that we show how important *Torah* study is by setting a specific time each day and a specific duration for such study.

But all commandments that you must do (*mitzvot aseh*) take precedence over studying *Torah*. That is, you may NOT ignore the need to do another positive commandment because you are studying!

Minimum Required *Torah* Study

The minimum requirements for Jews to learn:

- Men: All parts of the *Torah* plus whatever *halacha* is relevant for them.

  NOTE The most important subjects for men to study are whatever is practical for them in their lives

- Women: All *halachot* relevant for them, and *hashkafa*.

Studying Torah

All Jews must study *Torah* "*lishma*" (studying for the sake of understanding the *Torah*, just because we are commanded to do so). If you are studying in order to teach, to get honor, or any other reason, it is not *lishma*.

Reading Weekly Torah Portion

Read the weekly *Torah* portion (*parasha)* twice each week and *Targum* (or commentary) once each week.

Learning Gemara

If you can memorize the *gemara* you are learning, you do not need to use the printed book.

Torah at Meals

Some *Torah* should be discussed at every meal.

Torah, Prayers, and Bad Smell

Do not say blessings or prayers or study holy subjects (*limudei kodesh*) if there is a bad smell.

Siyum

A *siyum* can be held anytime a book of *Torah* or *Talmud* or any other holy book (*sefer kodesh*) has been studied for a long time; three months or longer is a good guideline. Simply reading through a book does not qualify; you must study it and understand it.

NOTE Originally, the intent was for a volume (*masechta*) of *Talmud* or a division (*seder*) of the *Mishna*.

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