Class # 1–Parshat Noach and the perfect work-life balance!

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class - Sponsored in memory of Alice Toby Barbanel Z”l

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**Westinghouse All Electric House from mid – 1950’s**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyrTgtPTz3M>

1. What implicit promise is made in this electric house of the future?
2. Does the new gadget really save time?
3. Does that increased leisure produce more happiness?
4. What generally happens with all that leisure time?
5. How do people feel about a three-day Yom Tov?
6. How do MJE’ers feel about a Shabbaton?

Pirkai Avot 2:2 - Rabban Gamaliel the son of Rabbi Judah Hanasi said: excellent is the study of the Torah when combined with a worldly occupation, for toil in them both keeps sin out of one’s mind;

1. Why does the involvement in both work and Torah keep “sin out of one’s mind”? Why not just one?

**Noach**

6:9 These are the chronicles of Noah: Noah was a righteous man, faultless in his generation. Noah walked with God….

**Rashi**

**IN HIS GENERATIONS –** Some of our Rabbis explain it (this word) to his credit: he was righteous even in his generation; it follows that had he lived in a generation of righteous people he would have been even more righteous owing to the force of good example. Others, however, explain it to his discredit: in comparison with his own generation he was accounted righteous, but had he lived in the generation of Abraham he would have been accounted as of no importance ([cf. Sanhedrin 108a](https://shas.alhatorah.org/Sanhedrin/108a)).

1. Why is Noach being compared to Avraham? What expectation is being put on Noach?

**Inventor of the Plow**

**5:29** And he [his father Lemech] called him Noah, saying, “This one will provide us relief from our work and from the toil of our hands, out of the very soil which Hashem placed under a curse.

**Midrash Aggadah**– *Noach provided comfort to the world by inventing the plow – [they previously sowed with their fingers].*

1. What was Noach’s father’s expectation of Noach?
2. How did Noach come through on “living up to his father’s expectations”?
3. How did the plow provide comfort to the world? In what way did it not provide comfort?

**Rambam Laws of Brachot – Ch.10:22**

A person who goes to measure his silo should say, "May it be Your will, God, our Lord, that You send blessing to the work of my hands." When he begins to measure, he should say, "Blessed be He who sends blessings to this heap of grain."

If he asks for mercy after measuring [his grain], his prayer is considered to be in vain. [Similarly,] whoever calls out [to God] over events that have already happened is considered to have uttered a prayer in vain.

1. If you pray over events that have already occurred, it is considered to be in vain. [***tefillat shav***]. Isn’t the amount of grain already in the silo already set!? Why isn’t that a tefillat Shav?!?