Class #16- Parshat Yitro – “Make your own Sinai!”

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

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<https://youtu.be/k3PY_p_M-8w> WINNING Shark Tank Pitches

1) What is necessary to have a winning Shark Tank Pitch?

2) How long does it take to develop the “pitch”?

3) Why can’t you just wing it?

**The Ten Commandments**

19:1 In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt, on the first of the month, they came to the desert of Sinai.

19:2 They had departed from Rephidim and had arrived in the Sinai Desert, camping in the wilderness. Israel camped opposite the mountain.

19:3 Moses went up to God. God called to him from the mountain and said, 'This is what you must say to the family of Jacob and tell the Israelites:

19:4 'You saw what I did in Egypt, carrying you on eagles' wings and bringing you to Me.

19:5 Now if you obey Me and keep My covenant, you shall be My special treasure among all nations, even though all the world is Mine.

19:6 You will be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation to Me.' These are the words that you must relate to the Israelites.'

19:7 Moses came [back] and summoned the elders of the people, conveying to them all that God had said.

19:8 All the people answered as one and said, 'All that God has spoken, we will do.'

Moses brought the people's reply back to God.

19:9 God said to Moses, 'I will come to you in a thick cloud, so that all the people will hear when I speak to you. They will then believe in you forever.'

19:10 God said to Moses, 'Go to the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow. Let them [even] immerse their clothing.

19:11 They will then be ready for the third day, for on the third day, God will descend on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

19:12 'Set a boundary for the people around [the mountain], and tell them to be careful not to climb the mountain, or [even] to touch its edge. Anyone touching the mountain will be put to death.

19:13 You will not have to lay a hand on him for he will be stoned or cast down. Neither man nor beast will be allowed to live. But when the trumpet is sounded with a long blast, they will then be allowed to climb the mountain.'

19:14 Moses went down from the mountain to the people. He sanctified them, and they immersed [themselves and] their clothing.

19:15 Moses said to the people, 'Keep yourselves in readiness for three days. Do not come near a woman.'

19:16 The third day arrived. There was thunder and lightning in the morning, with a heavy cloud on the mountain, and an extremely loud blast of a ram's horn. The people in the camp trembled.

Rashi

**The words of the people etc.** – He said to God: "I have heard from them a reply to this statement — that their desire is to hear the commandments from You and not from me. One who hears from the mouth of a messenger is not the same (in the same position) as one who hears directly from the mouth of the King himself. It is our wish to see our King (cf. Mekhilta d'Rabbi Yishmael 19:9:2).

**Hashem said to Moshe** – If that be so – that they make it necessary to speak to them [directly] – go to the people

**And you shalt prepare them** – i.e. tell them that they shall prepare themselves today and tomorrow (Mekhilta d'Rabbi Yishmael 19:10:1; cf. Onkelos).

**And let them be prepared** – separated from their wives (Mekhilta d'Rabbi Yishmael 19:15:1; cf. Rashi on Shabbat 87a)

4) What was Plan A for giving the Torah and what was Plan B?

5) What new requirement did it bring?

6) Why was it necessary for the Jewish people to prepare for three days before hearing Hashem tell them the “Ten Commandments”?

7) What universal principle about growth do we learn from this event?

8) Joe MJE’er is moving out of town. In order, for Joe to “make his own Sinai experience”, what does he have to do to select a community?

9) What does he have to do to select a shul?

10) What does he have to do to “make his own Sinai experience” in that Shul?

11) Why is it so hard for MJE’ers to transition from MJE to another shul and community?

Breaking into a shul and new community. You need to make yourself your own Sinai experience. Find the right shul. Then you have to make the efforts to network and break in. You need make yourself useful – join a committee.