



PARDES SCHMOOZE

Week 6

Monday morning after learning, Mann Made tried to even the series against Contempo. However, Contempo chose kickball to try to close out the series and they have some serious kickers and base runners. After a very close game in each game so far, Contempo won 7-0 to clinch the first half championship. Meanwhile, Yoni Israeli scored three goals to lead fifth and third grades over fourth grade 4-1 in their soccer game. (Last Friday, Chocolate Emporium beat the Bagel Shoppe 3-2 in baseball to win the other championship, but the week 5 Pardes Schmooze was already sent to print.) After lunch, the older boys played baseball in a choose up game, while first to third leagues got started. It's getting really hot outside, and just as we finished off our water, it was time to head to swimming. While our swimmers swam and cooled off, some of the boys and staff played basketball, as the new sixth graders showed their skills.

Fourth through sixth started off their second half leagues with two soccer games. Yackov Schlesinger scored five goals to lead his team to a close win over Faivy's teams and Ari Shawel's two goals. Team Aharon was able to win easily 6-2 over team Yehuda's shorthanded squad. Thanks to Leiby Ginsberg for running to BBQ and making such yummy hot dogs and hamburgers! It was so hot that we stopped off for slurpees on the way to basketball and swimming. Thanks to all our campers for making a big Kiddush Hashem and acting so nicely in public!

Wednesday's learning ended by break time, because it was time to go on our trip to Fun n Stuff. Right when we arrived most of the boys went out to the go-carts since there were short lines so early in the morning. After we enjoyed sandwiches for lunch, Tzvi Gutman gave everyone a glazed doughnut. Happy 11th birthday, Tzvi, Ad Meah Vesrim Shana! Later the boys enjoyed skating, jumping, bumping, golfing, laser tag and batting cages.

On Thursday morning, our fifth and sixth graders arrived with their sleeping bags ready for an overnight. Before the extras activities would begin, they first joined a regular camp day filled with davening, learning, leagues, lunch, more leagues and swimming. After camp, the boys enjoyed some snacks and built rockets while Leiby and Hudi barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs. After bentching, we headed to the field for a staff vs. camper baseball game. Unfortunately, the staff had to forfeit the game since they only had nine for Mincha, but they did show baseball skills as they were leading by a lot before they had to go. Shauli Farkas had a hit and scored in his only at bat. Rematch anyone? After davening, we went to Whirleyball where everyone played three or four



games! The boys weren't tired when we got back, so we relaxed and enjoyed a smoke machine, lights and latkes.

Early Friday, at 6:30 a.m., make that 6:00, we woke up, packed and headed for shul. After Shachris and breakfast, Dovi, Yehuda and Gavriel took the fifth and sixth graders canoeing/kayaking while the other staff members got ready for camp. After davening and learning, Hudi's team vs. Chaim's team tied 2-2 in baseball, while the fourth graders practiced multiple sports. Late lunch was Challah and dips to get us into the Shabbos spirit. After bentching and a raffle it was time to go home. Camp Pardes wants to give a special thanks to Chaim Denton for outlasting everyone else in energy and helping out Thursday and Friday. The boys got back from their trip and ate lunch before being picked up. We hope they had enough energy left to make it to their bed.

Camp Pardes

Learners of the Week!

Shai Botnick

Shlomo Goldstein

Gedalia Schlesinger

Shalom Yosef Goldman

Simcha Neuman

Shauli Farkas

Campers of the Week!

Dovid Goldman

Nosson Denton

Chaim Joseph

Moshe Faintuch

Yoni Israeli

Yitzchok Aryeh Hartman

Dvar Torah

Excerpted from Rabbi Lebovics's Tisha Bav Drasha

The Gemara in Gittin says "Because of Kamtza and Bar Kamtza the Beis Hamikdash was destroyed." Then the story is brought of a rich man who invited the Rabbi's of the generation to a Seuda with his friends. His worker was also instructed to invite Kamtza, a good friend, but by mistake he invited Bar Kamtza who was his enemy. The rich man kicked Bar Kamtza out of the seuda. Bar Kamtza offered to pay for his portion, half the seuda and then even the whole seuda, but the rich man said no. Bar Kamtza then caused the Romans to get angry with the Jews, and then the Beis Hamikdash was destroyed.



The question is, what did Kamtza do wrong? He wasn't even in the story. It's possible that the names of the friend and enemy weren't even Kamtza and Bar Kamtza. The Gemara may be calling them by these names because Kamtza is a grasshopper. When the spies returned from Eretz Yisroel, they said they were like grasshoppers, which Targum translates Kamtzanim. Grasshoppers stay in groups or clicks as they are too little and weak to stay alone. A click is a sign of a lack of confidence; the people then form a group and put others down. By joining together they think that they are now strong and become more important than others. This is where Kamtza went wrong. In this story, he wasn't involved, but previously he was part of a group of bullies. He and the rich man and others gained power by putting others (like Bar Kamtza) down. That is why Bar Kamtza couldn't even pay and stay, he was always embarrassed and bullied. Others also stood by and watched without action.

There was once a boy who used to get bullied in school all the time. Other kids would make fun of him put him down and even hurt him. One day he was walking home from school very slowly carrying a very heavy bag. Someone his age that was in another school noticed and observed for a few minutes. He saw that it would be very difficult for him to get home, as it was a very hot day and he was carrying a very heavy bag. He went over and offered to help. While they were walking home together he started talking to him, and besides for helping carry the bag, he offered words or help that would gain him confidence. They ended up becoming good friends and the boy even switched schools. He started acting with more confidence, was a better student and became a very friendly boy. He became so confident that years later he was named valedictorian of his class!

At the graduation ceremony, the boy got up to speak. He told a story of himself a few years back. "I was bullied all the time and started hating myself. One day I decided that enough was enough. I planned to hurt myself really badly and maybe that would gain some sympathy and attention. Just I didn't want my parents to have to come to school and clear out my stuff (if I would be in a hospital or possibly even dead). I took all my books and belongings home that day in my backpack. In the middle of my walk home, I realized that I was too weak to carry everything with me, but I kept going anyways. A boy I never spoke to before offered to help. Not only that he was very nice to me and offered words of confidence. We became good friends right away and I ended up switching to his school. It is because of those kind words that I stand before you today!"

Baruch Hashem, we have completed most of a summer in camp so far where we try to include everyone, and exclude clicks. We hope that this continues throughout the year (and we wish that no one even makes a Pardes click during their time out of camp). By focusing on our own strengths and self confidence, we won't need such groups and can help rebuild the Beis Hamikdash!

