

SICHA STORY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



Likkutei Sichos, Volume 23

Bamidbar, Sicha 2 (*First Sicha of the week*)

- Rabbi Yossi Nemes, Metairie, Louisiana

My students, my children!

At the end of a very insightful Here's my Story - <https://videos.jem.tv/documents/1300> - with R' Moshe Edry, a veteran Mechanech at Beit Sefer L'mlacha in Kfar Chabad:

I also visited the Rebbe together with my wife. We had two children at the time we came to New York, and in the note that I had written beforehand, I asked the Rebbe for a blessing for the students at the vocational school and for a blessing for my children.

The Rebbe noticed that I mentioned my students along with my own children, and he said that it was good that I thought of them as my children. He quoted the Talmud which states: "Anyone who teaches Torah to someone else's child is regarded as if he had given birth to that child."

"You are the Rebbe's children!"

Erev Yom Kippur 5712 (1951) was the first time the Rebbe blessed the Temimim right before Kol Nidrei – Birchas Habonim. Earlier that afternoon the Rebbe told Reb Yoel to tell his fellow students to enter his room (Gan Eden Ha'Elyon) just before Kol Nidrei. Even those who already came into the room earlier and received a Bracha should reenter, but it should be only the students.

When they entered, the Rebbe was wearing his kittel and tallis and said: Since you are studying in the Rebbe's Yeshiva, you are the Rebbe's children, and therefore here is the blessing a father gives his children right before Yom Kippur...

A tale of two teachers - in the same person!

I once met a woman who was a student of my mother's in her first decades of teaching and who admired my mother. My mother was one of her favorite teachers and she was especially excited that my mother was now teaching her daughter.

The one thing she could not understand was her daughter describing how warm and nice my mother was. Although she and her classmates loved my mother as a teacher, my mother was a no-nonsense disciplinarian with a strong personality, who expected exacting standards.

When I shared this with my mother, she explained that her relationship with her students is a direct extension and continuation of her relationship with her children.

"The first half of my career I was teaching while raising my children, and as a parent I was responsible for the discipline and standards of my children. This came through in the classroom as well. For the last twenty years, I am a grandmother teaching. My role as a Bubby is not to discipline or teach them right from wrong but to make them feel special and lavish them with attention and gifts. This comes through my classroom, it is a much warmer and sweeter place now!"
