

# SICHA STORY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



*Likkutei Sichos, Volume 15*

## Vayera, Sicha 3

- Rabbi Yossi Nemes, Metairie, Louisiana

*The Sicha discusses the Rashi, on the Pasuk “And Yitzchak brought Rivkah into the tent of his mother Sarah”, of Rivkah’s renewal of the three ongoing miracles that had occurred in Sarah’s merit, including the Shabbos candles remaining lit until the following Friday.*

*Discussing the special ability women have when they kindle the Shabbat candles, the Rebbe strongly encourages all Jewish women to light Shabbat candles, including young girls from the age of three. Here is a sampling of stories related to this Mivtza, starting with one shared by the Rebbe.*

### How One Little Candle Changed a Family

*This story was shared by the Rebbe 6 Tishrei, 5736. Watch the Rebbe telling the story at <https://www.chabad.org/818257>*

A little girl, five or six years old, attended a non-religious school in Israel. One day, an older girl spoke to her class about the Mitzvah of Shabbos candles. She taught them the blessings, and gave them candles and candlesticks to take home.

The young girl was delighted! At first her family discouraged her. But slowly the Mitzvah began to penetrate their hearts as well. First they stopped watching television as long as the candles were lit. Then they stopped answering the phone. Then the mother began to light too and stopped cooking on Shabbos...

Little by little, the whole family was transformed. And what sparked it all? One small Shabbos candle. True, a younger girl only lights for “educational” reasons, but that candle educated not

only her, but her parents and siblings as well. Today the entire family is Torah-observant due to her one light.

### Twenty minutes to Shabbos

The Rebbe once received a letter from a man from Bowie, Maryland, asking that Shabbos candle holders be sent to his daughter. The letter arrived on Friday and the Rebbe asked Mrs. Sternberg to see to it that the girl lit candles that Friday.

With only 20 minutes left before Shabbos, and the closest Shliach living over two hours away, Mrs. Sternberg called the home number of the family and the mother answered. Yes, she confirmed, her husband had asked for the candleholders, "I don't light candles myself but thought it a good idea for our daughter to light."

Mrs. Sternberg told her that she would be mailing the candle holders, but in the meantime, she would instruct her on how to make candle holders from aluminum foil and dictated the transliteration of the blessing word for word. After a short conversation, the mother agreed to join her daughter and light candles!

Mrs. Sternberg asked the woman if her daughter had any other friends who would like candle holders. The woman mentioned that girls in her daughter's Hebrew School class would appreciate such a gift, and in her own Chavurah group, she could think of a few women...

By the time Mrs. Sternberg prepared the package to send to Bowie, it contained over forty candle holders!

On the following Friday, Mrs. Sternberg received a call from the Rebbe's office. "The Rebbe wants to know what's happening with the girl in Bowie," the secretary said.

Mrs. Sternberg called the woman and yes, her daughter had lit candles the previous Shabbos, and they had received the candle holders in the mail, and everyone was appreciative. Women were talking about it all over town.

"Could you send more?" she wanted to know. "My daughter has other friends... and I have other friends..."

And so, the following week, Mrs. Sternberg sent an even larger box of candle holders to Bowie. The following Friday, Mrs. Sternberg did not wait for a call from the Rebbe's office, rather, she phoned her new friend in Bowie herself. The candle holders had arrived, and the women were incredibly happy. What is more, the woman's friends and neighbors wanted to meet the ladies who had reached out and brought Shabbos light into their homes.

Mrs. Sternberg arranged for women and girls from Crown Heights to travel to Bowie and share a Shabbos encounter with the community....