



Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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פְּרֻשֶׁת שְׁמוֹת

Alone With Him

Sponsored in honor of the birthday
of our Dear Mother and Grandmother

Pesha Ruchel Bas Mordechai Yosef Halevi שידחי',

With love and immense appreciation
from her children and grandchildren.

May Hashem bless her with happiness, health,
and only nachas from her entire family for many years to come!

Alone With Him

August 29th — Lakewood, New Jersey

Rivka:

“This is probably the worst day of my life! My best friend Bailey is moving to Brooklyn today. Bailey’s father got a new job in Brooklyn so her whole family – Bailey, her mother and father, and her two cute little sisters, Sarah and Hinda – are leaving today. I’ll miss them all, but most of all I’ll miss Bailey.

Bailey is like my twin sister, we do everything together! We walk to school together, talking the whole time. We sat right next to each other by Morah Zahava so we were always able to shmooze.

And then at the end of the day we always walked home together. My mother usually let me go over to Bailey’s house after supper so that we could do homework and study together. And of course we spent every minute together on Shabbos!

But now she is leaving forever. I know it’s not really forever — Mommy said that she’ll probably let me go to Bailey for Shabbos once in a while, but still, when I saw their car pulling out of her driveway behind the moving truck, I started to cry because it felt like it was going to be forever.

8:30 AM, First day of school

Morah Elana:

“Hello girls, welcome to sixth grade. I hope you all had a relaxing summer vacation. Morah Zahava told me that you finished Sefer Bereishis last year, *boruch Hashem*, so we’ll be starting Sefer Shemos this year.

“For the ‘I Can Be a Tzaddeikes, Too! Project,’ we’ll study the lives of Moshe Rabbeinu, Aharon Hakohen, Yocheved, and Miriam, as well as some of the other special personalities in Sefer Shemos — and the

more we study them, the better we'll be able to imitate them and become tzaddikim like they were.

“Now, let's start today with Moshe Rabbeinu. The Rambam (Hilchos Teshuva 5:2) says, ‘Every person can be a tzaddik like Moshe Rabbeinu,’ so we have to think about what made Moshe such a big tzaddik.

“I'll tell you what I saw in Rav Avigdor Miller's *peirush* on Chumash. He says that what turned the little boy Moshe into Moshe Rabbeinu was all the time he spent alone, shepherding Yisro's sheep in the mountains. That's all the Torah tells us about what happened during the many years that Moshe spent after he ran away from Pharaoh. “And Moshe took the sheep of Yisro and he led them into the wilderness” (Shemos 3:1). All we know is, that he spent his days all alone.

“That's a very important lesson for all of us because we love to be around other people. We like company but what Hashem wants us to learn from the life of Moshe Rabbeinu is that it's important for everyone to spend some time alone.

“The Mesillas Yesharim says the following: “The most precious of all things is to spend time by yourself.” Now, it doesn't have to be all day long but a person must make some time to be by himself. And he says that doing so is more precious than anything else!



“And the reason that spending time alone is so important is because you’re not really alone. You’re alone with your Best Friend, Hashem. Of course, you’re always with Hashem, but when you’re with other people, it’s very easy to forget that He’s there. You’re too busy talking and listening and talking more and listening more, and you forget about the most important One in the world — Hashem!

“So if you ever find yourself alone you should know that it’s one of the best gifts you could ever get. Those are the most precious minutes of the day! You can spend some time thinking about the good things Hashem is doing for you. If you’re walking, say, ‘Thank You, Hashem, for my feet. It’s so much fun to be able to walk!’ Thank Him for your clothes and your eyes and your food and your parents and your friends.

“You can also spend time thinking about your day. ‘Did I make anybody feel bad today?’ If you did, you have to start thinking about doing teshuvah. ‘Did I make sure to smile at my friends and my teachers and make the people around me happy?’

There’s so much to do that you’ll realize that those few minutes you have alone are the most precious minutes of your life because those are the minutes that will make you great like Moshe Rabbeinu!”

4:15 PM

When the dismissal bell rings, Rivka packs up her briefcase and begins her ten minute walk home — alone, without Bailey. And as she walks she thinks: “As much as I miss Bailey, I learned a very big lesson today. Time to start thinking and to start becoming great!”

Have a Wonderful Shabbos !

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