



# Toras Avigdor

## Junior

Adapted from the teachings  
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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שִׁפְטִים

## Joining the Mitzvah Team

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## Joining the Mitzvah Team

Yitzy joined Totty at the dining room table to learn their daily mishna together. As he sat down, he noticed that Totty was writing a check for \$18 to the Horki yeshiva.

“Totty,” said Yitzy, “I saw Ari Holtzbacher in day camp today and he told me that his father just donated a trillion gazillion dollars to Mosdos Horki. Is another \$18 really gonna matter to them? Why don’t we just use it to buy some extra nosh for the house?”

“Actually,” said Totty, “there’s a very good reason why I’m sending in eighteen –”

Before Totty could finish speaking, the doorbell rang and Basya who was always the first to answer the door came running into the dining room. “Mommy, Totty! Two people with very big muscles are here with a very big couch!”

Zeidy and Bubby had ordered a new couch as a present for Totty and Mommy’s wedding anniversary and it had finally arrived!

“Oh wow! That’s so exciting!” said Totty. “But we have to move the old couch to the playroom to make room.”

Yitzy jumped up and ran with Shimmy to the living room — they loved moving big heavy things! The moving men were already maneuvering the couch through the tight hallway as Totty, Mommy, Yitzy, Shimmy and Basya gathered around the old blue couch.

Everyone grabbed part of the couch and lifted, when little Yaeli walked into the room. “I wanna help!” she said, putting her two little hands under the couch as the family began to move it down the hall.

“Yaeli,” said Yitzy, “thanks so much for helping us, but we can move it without you. Why don’t you play with the new crayons that Bubby gave you?”

“But I wanna do Kibu Dov Eim!” said Yaeli.

“You’re the cutest little sister in the world,” said Shimmy. “Don’t you mean Kibud Av V’eim?”

“No!” insisted Yaeli. “My Morah said it’s Kibu Dov Eim! And I wanna do the mitzvah just like you, Yitzy, and Basya!”

“Yaeli, you’re amazing!” Mommy said. “Of course you can help us.”

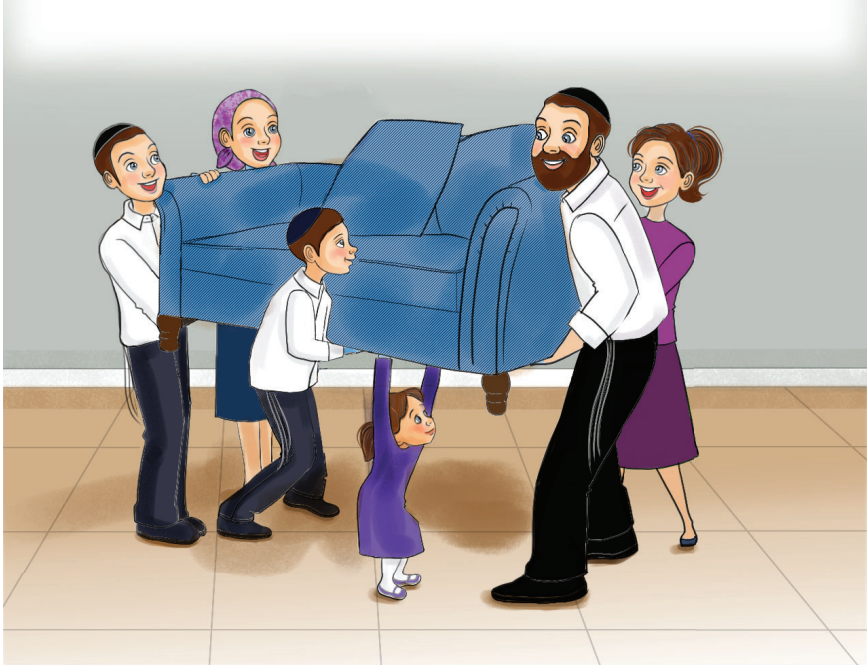
“I’m so proud of you, Yaeli,” Totty added, “You always want to be involved with Mitzvos!”

And that’s how the Greenbaum family carried the couch down the hall to the playroom; everybody was sharing in the burden, and Yaeli was underneath, trying her best to help too, her fingers barely touching the bottom of the couch.

After both couches were settled into their new rooms and Yitzy and Totty were walking back to the dining room to learn, Totty said to Yitzy, “You know something? Just now when we moved the couch, Yaeli’s little fingers gave us the answer to your question about my eighteen dollar donation.”

Now Yitzy was even more confused. “What in the world does Yaeli’s fingers have to do with Totty’s eighteen dollars and Mr. Holtzbacher’s gazillion dollars?!”

“Take a look at this,” said Totty as he opened a chumash to the beginning of Parshas Shoftim. “The possuk is talking about how the Beis Din punishes someone who bows down to an idol. **עַל פִּי שְׁנֵי עֵדִים אוֹ עַל פִּי שְׁלֹשָׁה עֵדִים יוּמָת׃ הַיָּמֹת –** By the testimony of two witnesses or by the testimony of three witnesses the person is killed. Now, Yitzy look at the translation carefully. There seem to be some extra words in this possuk, no?”



“Of course!” said Yitzy. “Because you only need two witnesses, not three!”

“Exactly! The third guy could have stayed home – the *beis din* doesn’t need him! And that means that the words “or three witnesses” is extra!

“But we know that can’t be because there are no extra words in the Torah. There has to be a lesson we learn from that third fellow who’s tagging along.

So Chazal tell us that it’s teaching us that in the eyes of Hashem he’s not extra at all! When someone joins in with other people, the Torah considers him one of them, even if he wasn’t needed! If two people are going to do a mitzvah and they don’t need your help at all, but you join them anyhow because you want to tag along in serving Hashem, it’s counted as if you did the mitzvah too!”

That’s what Yaeli just taught us. Even though she’s only five years old and we didn’t need her help, she joined in to help us move the couch with her little fingers. We thought she was just extra, but the Torah teaches us that Hashem considers her little fingers just as much as our big hands!”

“Ohhh,” said Yitzy. “So that’s why you’re writing a check to Mosdos Horki?”

“Exactly,” Totty said. “Mosdos Horki does so much chessed and supports so much Torah, that I want to be a part of it – even if my donation won’t make much of a difference. I want to be a part of serving Hashem in any way I can – even if it’s just tagging along. Because when we give whatever we can, even if it’s not much, Hashem sees where our heart is, and He counts it as if we gave the gazillion dollars that a rich person gives!”

“Thank you Totty!” said Yitzy. “Now, I know to always join in whenever I can be part of a mitzvah, no matter what. Even if I can’t make a big difference, just joining in makes me part of the mitzvah team.”

## Have a Wonderful Shabbos!



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