



# BE A MENTSCH

Rabbi Yitzchok Sanders



## *Enthusiasm!*

### פְּרִשֶׁת נֹשָׂא

In this week's Parsha, פְּרִשֶׁת נֹשָׂא, we learn about the special quality of זְרִיזוּת, acting quick and alert, or enthusiastically! זְרִיזוּת is done when people try to become better with lots of energy and excitement. The נְשִׂאִים of each שִׁבְט, the leaders of each tribe, decided not to choose a gift for the Mishkan. They thought that if anything would be needed, they would donate the missing item. Their attitude was to wait and see what would happen. So in the meantime, they didn't donate anything!

However, בני ישראל donated everything that was needed. They were so excited to build the Mishkan that they brought everything in just three days. There was nothing left to donate except for precious stones for the חוֹשֶׁן - and the נְשִׂאִים didn't have them to give. The נְשִׂאִים asked, "Now what will we donate"? They had made a mistake to wait to donate. They should have been the first ones to give. Hashem helped them and did a miracle. Hashem gave the needed precious stones for the חוֹשֶׁן to the נְשִׂאִים to donate. Therefore, in the pasuk, the word נֹשָׂא is written without both *Yuds* to show that they had missed an opportunity.

Now six months later, when the מִשְׁכָּן was put up, the נְשִׂאִים decided to give another gift and this time, they decided to do Teshuva. They would be excited to donate. They offered six covered wagons and 12 cows to help carry the heavy wood and materials. This was something that Hashem hadn't asked for and Moshe didn't know if the נְשִׂאִים's gift should be accepted. However, Hashem instructed Moshe to accept it. Here we see how the נְשִׂאִים learnt from their first gift, how to do it better the next time. If we weren't first to offer before, we will be first now. **Being a Mentsch** means we try to improve our behavior. It is best to be excited about Mitzvos, to be enthusiastic and not take a "wait and see" approach! Offering help is better than waiting to see what needs to be done.

Have a Great Shabbos!