

Syllabus for "Reading the Bible Together: Genesis 18"

Class 1: Genesis 18:1–5

Topics:

- Weak roots with Vav consecutive
 - The effects of guttural letters:
 - Characteristics of gutturals (e.g., furtive patach, vowel lowering)
 - Imperatives with strong vs. guttural roots
 - Analysis of the phrase **וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה**: bending or gesturing
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Class 2: Genesis 18:6–9

Topics:

- Additional examples of guttural letters and their impact
 - The participle in narrative storytelling
 - Exploring early dietary customs and the "kosher problem"
 - Abraham's hospitality: cultural and linguistic insights
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Class 3: Genesis 18:10–15

Topics:

- Roots:
 - **נ.ו.א**(way, visitor)
 - **ק.ח.צ**(laughter, mocking)
 - **א.מ.א**(belief, truth)
 - Sarah's laughter: on emotions in a biblical narrative
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Class 4: Genesis 18:16–19

Topics:

- Infinitives and their pronominal suffixes

- The interrogative **Heh** and its grammatical nuances
 - אשר – a BH word and its nuanced translations
 - Exploring the phrase צְדָקָה וּמִשְׁפָּט (justice and righteousness)
 - Social justice in Biblical narratives: implications for Abraham's descendants
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Class 5: Genesis 18:20–23

Topics:

- Parallelism in Biblical texts: poetic structure and its purpose
 - The cohortative mood: usage and examples
 - Hard-to-translate words like הַכְצַקְתָּהּ and their modern idiomatic meaning
 - Abraham's negotiation with God: ethical and theological implications
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Classes 6-7: Genesis 18:24–28, 32

Topics:

- The definite construct chain and its grammatical rules
 - The plural of honorific forms (e.g., בְּעָלִים, אֲדֹנֵי)
 - The documents theory – a case study
 - The root חלל: exploring its meanings and contexts
 - Abraham's rhetorical strategy in advocating for Sodom
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