



Personal Parsha: Noach

In this week's Torah reading, Noach is asked to build an ark and save himself and his family while the rest of mankind is killed in a flood.

What would your response be to such an announcement by God?

What did Avraham answer when God told HIM that the whole city of Sdom would be killed (See Genesis 18)? Should Noach here have reacted similarly? Unlike Avraham who did not live in Sdom, Noach lived among these bad people. These people were his neighbors! How might that make it different? Think about when you've been caught between wanting to help someone else, by teaching or influencing, but you also know maybe it's just better to save yourself. Noach seems to have known that these people could not be saved – but should he have tried? The Sages tell us that one reason Avraham was chosen as the forefather for the Jewish people is because of this trait of extreme care and empathy, which Noach lacked.

Discuss: Weigh the advantages and disadvantages in a situation where sticking around to influence those around you might result in their influencing YOU – and not positively!

What can you do to make sure you effect change in others or in a group setting without being effected by the negative that exists?

Think about the following scenarios: classmates making fun of someone, co-workers being negative, siblings fighting, neighbors gossiping.

If you were Noach, what would YOU have done?