

North American Inclusion Month

NAIM

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Parshat Mishpatim

“Treating Everyone the Same”

This Shabbat, we read the parsha of Mishpatim. The parsha starts with the pasuk that says, “And these are the laws that you shall put before them.” The parsha is full of many important laws we must learn and keep. Some of these laws tell us how to behave with other people, animals, and even plants, and many discuss relationships between the Jew and society.

Hashem tells us not to do anything bad to a *ger*, someone who converts to Judaism. This law is said not only once but thirty- six times throughout the Torah. This must be very important if the Torah discusses this so many times and there are no excess words in the Torah.

The Torah tells us how to treat others different from us even more times than even the laws of Shabbat because it is much harder to do. Sometimes, we forget how important it is to treat someone who is different from us, the same way that we treat others. This fits in with the theme of this month of February. It is North American Inclusion Month. We must be aware of how we treat people with disabilities, today and always. We must include them in daily societal activities just as we would include any other Jew.

Shabbat Shalom!



For more information contact:
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