

Inside the Daf

Do children have to fast on יום כפור?

In Jewish law, a "child" is a boy below the age of 13 and a girl below the age of 12. Children who reach this age must fast for the entire יוֹם כָּפּוֹר.

On the other hand, our מִשְׁנָה teaches that children below the age of 9 are not required to fast in any way.

A הָרְיָתָא teaches that from the age of 9, children must fast "for hours." This means, if you usually have your breakfast at 8:00, you should have it at 9:00 on יוֹם כָּפוּר. The healthier the child, the more he should delay his meals on יוֹם כָּפּוּר day.

אַר הוּנָא and אַם say that a healthy 11-year-old should fast the entire יוֹם כִפּוּר.

Nowadays, most 11-year-olds are not able to endure the entire יוֹם כָפוּר fast and therefore should only have their meals a bit later than usual. If they are particularly strong and healthy, they should fast for the entire day.

Did You Know...

If someone tells you to violate a Torah commandment or die, you should violate the Torah commandment and live. But there are three cases where it is better to die: if you are asked to worship an idol, have a forbidden relationship, or kill someone.

WORD OF THE DAY:

IMPORTANT!

If you are younger than 13 years old (for a boy) or 12 years old (for a girl) **GET PERMISSION from your parents before fasting!**

The "Not-So-Fast" Fast

Although fasting is very important on יוֹם כְּפוּר, we do not fast at danger to our lives.

Today's גְמָרָא says very clearly, "nothing stands in the way of saving a life!"

Once on יוֹם כָּפוּר, a pregnant woman smelled food and wanted it. The people came before the sage רְבָּי and asked him what they should do. רְבָי replied that they should whisper into her ear that it is יוֹם כָּפּוּר today. Perhaps that would help her resist the craving. The people did this and the woman's craving stopped.

A הְרַיְתָא teaches that if the craving continues we feed the pregnant woman little by little until she feels relieved.

It is important to mention that all of this applies if the woman's life is not immediately in danger. If her life is in danger, or if you think it *may* be, she should be fed right away!



Standing in line to buy מַצוֹת for Passover was a boring undertaking for young Moshe. When the man in front of him in line had to leave for a minute to go to the bathroom, Moshe happily took his place.

"And if he comes back before I'm done, that's too bad," declared Moshe. "He left the line so if he comes back he'll just have to wait at the back. Besides, I have things to do today. I don't want to wait one more minute in this line."

"That's not really nice, Moshe," said his younger brother. "Why is your time more important than that man's? He just needed to step out for a second. Remember what we learned today in daf yomi? You aren't allowed to kill someone even if you will die because who said your life is more important than his? We all think we're the most important person on earth. The truth is, other people are just as important. That goes for your time, too."

Just then the man came back and tried to get back into the line. He turned to Moshe.

"Thanks for keeping my spot for me," he said.

"No problem," smiled Moshe.

Review Questions – יוֹמָא דַף פ"ב

1. From what age should children start having their meals a little later on יוֹם כָּפוּר?

2. What did רָבָי say to do for the pregnant woman who craved food?

3. For which 3 things is it better to die than to do?



Match the different people (left) with what they may do on יום כפור v



