

# D'var Torah for Parshat Vayeira

## By Eitan Schmidt, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

This week's parsha is Vayera. Avraham has just had a circumcision and is sitting outside his tent on a very hot day when three men come toward him. Avraham asks them to wash their feet and recline under a tree while he gets them food.

When the Torah describes this whole story, there are some words that keep coming up.

וַיֵּרָא וַיֵּרֵץ לְקִרְאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֹהֶל...  
וַיִּמְהַר אַבְרָהָם הָאֹהֶלָה אֶל־שָׂרָה וַיֹּאמֶר מְהֵרָי...  
וְאֶל־הַבָּקָר רָץ אַבְרָהָם וַיִּלְחַח בְּיָדוֹ בָּקָר רַךְ וְטוֹב וַיִּתֵּן אֶל־הַנְּעָר וַיִּמְהַר לַעֲשׂוֹת אֹתוֹ:

and he saw and he **ran** toward them from the entrance of the tent...

And Abraham **hastened** to the tent to Sarah, and he said, "**Hasten** three seah of meal...  
And to the cattle did Abraham **run**, and he took a calf, tender and good, and he gave it to the youth, and he **hastened** to prepare it.

Avraham is **running** a lot on a hot day for a man who is 99 years old, had surgery recently, and has many servants. Avraham is greatly demonstrating the Midah (trait) of זריזות (Zerizut)[zest/zeal]. Zerizut is an important midah in the performance of Mitzvot and in life generally.

Zerizut increases the impact of any mitzvah we do. Helping people makes us kinder. Helping people with Zerizut makes us even kinder and makes the people we help feel valued. Zerizut also helps us avoid losing Mitzvah opportunities.

Zerizut even helps me in my sports activities. I have hockey four times a week, and I always rush to get there. Zerizut helps me get better at being on time, and I have more time to spend with my teammates. Then I get to know them better and become better friends.

I hope I still have Zerizut when I reach Abraham's age!

