

## Jewish Parenting – Class #1: Why Have Children?

### Parenting Class Questionnaire:

*Please answer these questions prior to beginning the series*

1. How many children do you have?
2. Do you want more children than you have now? Why?
3. Why did you have children to begin with?
4. Why did you have / do you want to have – the amount of children you have?
5. Do you love your children? How do you know that?
6. Do you want what is “best” for your children?
7. What is this “best” that you want for your children? Please define this.
8. Prioritize this list of “best” things for your child.
9. How much would you be willing to sacrifice to provide what is best for your children?
10. How do you know what is best for your children? How do you know that your priorities are in order?
11. What would you do if you found out that your priorities were mistaken?
12. Do you have a well thought out system for raising your children or has it been mainly “trail and error?”
13. Regardless of your answer to the above question, where did you get your system or “trail and error” ideas from?
14. What would you do if you found out that your system for child raising was mistaken?

### Sources:

1. **Bereishis 1:28:** G-d blessed them and G-d said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply**, fill the earth and **subdue it**; and rule over the fish of the sea, the bird of the sky, and every living thing that moves on the earth.”
2. **Pirkei Avos 6:11:** All that the Holy One, Blessed is He, created in this world, He created solely for His glory.... [The Universe and all that is within it should proclaim the glory of G-d.]
3. **Artscroll Siddur pg. 207:** Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the Universe, Who has created everything for His glory.
4. **Visions of the Fathers pg. 403:** The very first message that husband and wife receive is that all of Creation is solely for the glory of G-d. Their marriage too, should be directed toward that purpose. When husband and wife, father and mother, can make the glory of G-d the primary goal of their marriage and all other considerations secondary, the marriage has great staying power. Just as in marriage, so in every aspect of a person's life , the primary goal should be to enhance the greater glory of G-d....

5. **Talmud Shabbos 133b**: "This is my G-d and I will beautify Him" – by being similar to Him, just as He is merciful and compassionate, so shall you be merciful and compassionate.