SESSION 2

IN BLESSED MEMORY OF NIV RAVIV

The Michael and Andrea Leven Family Foundation

LEGACIES INITIATIVE

OLAMI MENTORSHIP

NIV

Niv Raviv, an incredible young woman was murdered alongside her fiance-to-be Nirel, when Hamas terrorists stormed into Kfar Aza on October 7. Niv was a gentle soul with an uncanny way of getting through to everyone and anyone. Her compassion drove her to a career as a psychologist and the ability to aid and assist others.

Niv was independent, diligent, hardworking, unafraid, uncompromising and forever busy. She set goals for herself and managed to persevere and achieve them.

Among her family, at school and really everywhere, Niv was a magnet that drew people to her. She had a heart of gold and unlimited talents.

One of Niv's most outstanding character traits that perhaps personified Niv was her persistence. When Niv set her mind to accomplish something, she somehow managed to overcome any obstacle that held her back. When Niv shared that she wanted to be a psychologist, she shared it differently than everybody else, there was a light in her eyes, becoming a psychologist was not an occupation, to Niv it was a mission, it was a calling!

Life didn't always come easy to Niv, but she worked hard, she put in the effort and she was diligent. In college she hired tutors to assist her, but ultimately she came out on top with the highest marks in the entire course. The way Niv accomplished goals was not by lowering the threshold but by raising the bar, and then somehow pulling herself up to heights that even she did not expect she would be able to clear.

When Niv enlisted in the army, her dream was to become an infantry instructor. A year into her service, she was recognized for her efforts and offered to join an officer track. Once again she stretched her abilities and was so successful that even once she was no longer in active duty, she kept a uniform in her car as the army would often summon her on a whim to solve a challenging situation.

At some point Niv decided to be a part of an arduous and difficult climb in Peru. She was one of few women in the group. She struggled, even had difficulty in breathing but she persevered until she made it to the summit.

Niv was also very spiritually inclined. She joined Nefesh Yehudi, Olami's Israel organization and took to Torah learning like a fish to water.

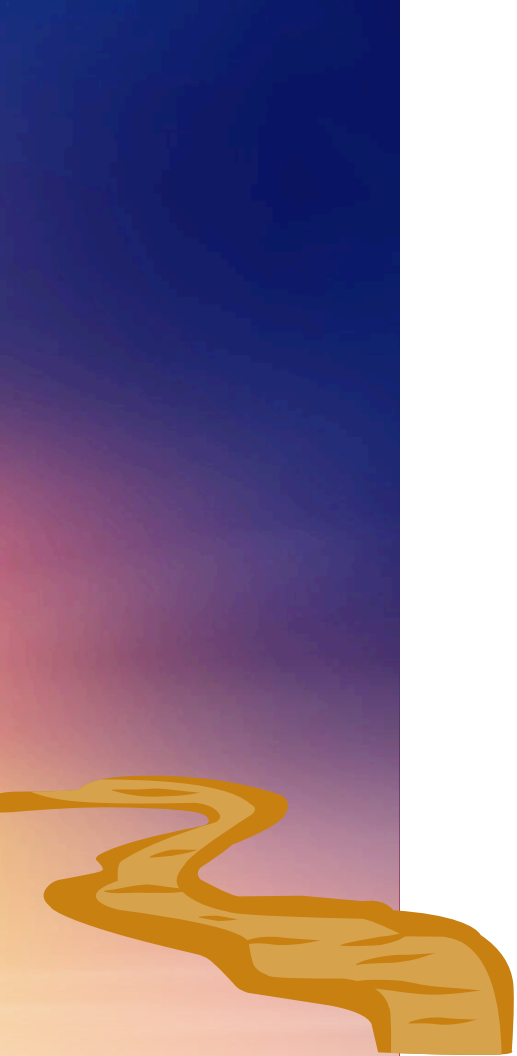
Niv was dating Nirel Zini who was murdered as well on October 7th. The two of them had planned to get married this summer.

To perpetuate Niv's legacy, we chose to focus on the idea of persistence with the hope that each of us can find some area of our life to re energize and intensify.

WHAT IS PERSISTENCE?

Persistence is not just about working hard; it's also about being consistent and determined. It's about showing up every day and giving our best, even when we don't feel like it. It's about staying focused on our goals and not giving up, even when faced with challenges and setbacks.

Can you think of a time that persistence was a driver of your success? Can you think of an area in your life where being more diligent will serve to make you a greater success?



Rabbi Yoḥanan of Tzippori gave an analogy to one who is creating a road or path and encounters mounds of dirt.

A foolish person responds and says: It's impossible to completely remove this!

A wise person responds and says: I will remove two buckets of dirt each morning and two buckets each evening and eventually the mounds will be gone. Similarly, when it comes to Torah study.

When one envisions the vastness of the Torah:
A foolish person responds and says: Who can study the entire Torah? The Talmudic Tractate Nezikin alone is thirty chapters, Tractate Kelim alone is thirty chapters.

A wise person responds and says: I will study two Mishnayos (paragraphs) today and two tomorrow, until I learn it all.

Midrash Shir Hashirim Raba (5:11)

How does this quote make you feel?
"It is better to take many small steps in the right direction than to make a great leap forward only to stumble backward." ~ Louis Sachar

One of the greatest rabbis and teachers in our history was Rabbi Akiva. Check out the story of his humble beginning and details of his journey to greatness

When R. Akiva was forty years of age, he had not yet studied anything, not even the Hebrew alphabet. One day he stood at the mouth of a stream and saw a stone with a hollow in its center. R. Akiva wondered, “Who hollowed out this stone?” Someone explained to him: “For time immemorial, water has been dripping on this rock drip by drip...” Immediately, Rabbi Akiva drew an inference with regard to himself: if what is soft (water) can carve out the hard (stone), how much more so can the words of Torah, which are as hard as iron, hollow out my heart, which is flesh and blood. Immediately, he decided to study Torah.

He went with his son to a school for young children. The then illiterate Rabbi Akiva said to the teacher, “Master, teach me Torah.” Rabbi Akiva and his son shared a tablet (notebook). The teacher wrote down aleph-bet for him and he learned it; then aleph all the way to tav, and he learned it; the chumash, and he learned it. He went on studying until he learned the whole of Torah.
Avos D’R. Nosson

Take a moment to reflect on this story. What ingredients for success in life can you cull from R. Akiva’s beginnings?

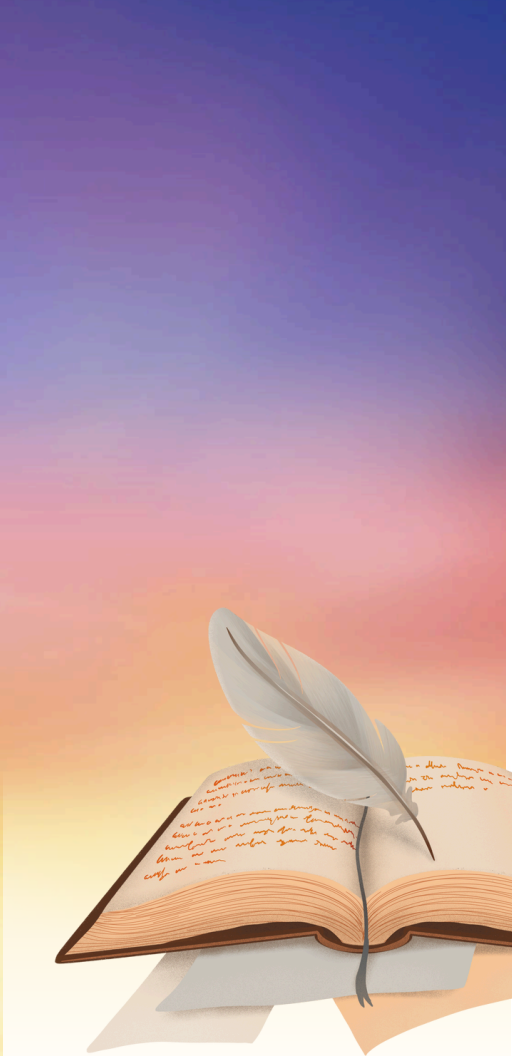
Take a moment to reflect on this story. What ingredients for success in life can you cull from R. Akiva's beginnings?

Even though large goals are accomplished in small steps, the steps are not always forward! Check out this fascinating insight.

Seven times the righteous man falls and rises...
Proverbs 24:16

"Most people understand this verse that despite the righteous man falling seven times he continues to rise. The truth is however that what makes this man rise to righteousness is the fact that he falls and gets up!"
R. Yitzchok Hutner

Can you identify a time in your life where you fell but used your descent as a stepping stone for success?



LET'S GET PRACTICAL

How to become more persistent?

1. Motivate yourself to start an initiative and reward yourself at given milestones.
2. Create a realistic timeline to accomplish your goal.
3. Break larger goals into smaller digestible and attainable goals.
4. Eliminate distraction. If there is a constant or constants that distract you, figure out a way to cut them out.
5. Find a mentor or friend to be your cheerleader/accountability partner.

What's the first step you will take today?

BEING PERSISTENT WAS SO IMPORTANT TO NIV

As you take this week to upgrade your life by focusing on acting with determination, please **use this QR code or this link to send a message to Niv's family.**

It will mean the world to them!

JOIN US NOW

OLAMI.ORG/LEGACIES

The Michael and Andrea Leven Family Foundation Legacies Initiative

OLAMI MENTORSHIP