

# 119

## MINISTRIES

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### **Parashah Points: Vayera – Do the Works of Abraham**

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Vayera, which is Hebrew for “He appeared,” and it goes from Genesis 18:1 to Genesis 22:24.

This parashah tells the stories of Abraham’s three visitors and his bargaining with God over the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18).

It also speaks of Lot’s two visitors and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19).

Abraham travels to Gerar and he once again tries to pass off his wife, Sarah, as his sister (Genesis 20).

Then there’s the story of the birth of Isaac, and the sending away of Hagar and Ishmael (Genesis 21).

Finally, the parashah concludes with the powerful story of the binding of Isaac (Genesis 22).

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re just going to present a thought about the value of hospitality.

#### **Hebrews 13:2**

[Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.](#)

When Abraham was visited by three guests in Genesis 18:1-7, he literally ran to show them kindness and hospitality. The passage says that he “[ran from the tent door to meet them](#)”. He insisted that they rest and their feet be washed, and he rushed to prepare a meal for them. When you read the passage, you can sense the urgency in Abraham’s attitude and behavior. He truly wanted his guests to feel welcomed and cared for.

When we think of Abraham, we often remember him as a man of great faith. He’s talked about at length

in Hebrews 11, which has come to be called the “faith hall of fame.” But in addition to looking up to him for his faith, we should look to him as a role model for how we ought to be hospitable toward others. Hospitality is an expression of loving our neighbor, which is the second greatest commandment according to our Messiah. And indeed, Yeshua said, if we are Abraham’s children by faith, we ought to do the works of Abraham (John 8:39).

Can you imagine the impact the body of Messiah would have on this world if we still valued hospitality to the degree that Abraham did? We are called to be a light to this hurting world that so desperately needs a touch from God, and one way we can shine the Messiah’s light is through hospitality. Sometimes the simplest acts of kindness have the biggest impact in bringing healing and life to those around you.

So how often do you invite people over to your home for Shabbat? How often do you look for ways to serve people? How often do you put in extra effort to make people feel loved and valued? How often do you really take the time to listen to people and hear their stories while offering your comfort and friendship?

We think it’s probably safe to say that we, as believers, don’t do this quite enough.

Don’t let our self-centered, “all-about-me” culture influence your attitude as a disciple of Yeshua. It’s time that we as believers get back to being hospitable. We need to get back to really loving our neighbors as ourselves, and we express that love through acts of kindness. If we are children of Abraham, we ought to do the works of Abraham by showing not just God that we love Him, but our neighbors too.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

*We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at [www.testeverything.net](http://www.testeverything.net)*

**Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.**

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