בס"ד

 **Middah Master Lesson 10**

כֹּבֶד רֹאשׁ **– Koved Rosh (Seriousness, proper mindset)**
Opposite: קַלּוּת רֹאשׁ – Kalus Rosh (flippancy, silliness).

## Case 1: Before Davening

The boys sat at their desks with their siddurim ready. Rebbi was about to begin Shacharis, but a few boys weren’t sitting quietly. Two were making silly faces across the room, and another opened and closed his siddur like a puppet, saying in a goofy voice, “I’m hungry, feed me pages!” The others nearby burst out laughing.

Yossi held his siddur in his hands. He knew tefillah was about to start, and this wasn’t the way to get ready. *Koved Rosh* means showing that davening is important by being calm and serious. Yossi had to choose whether to copy the silliness or to set the right example.

Solve it: What should Yossi do?

* A) Join the jokes so the boys will laugh at his silliness. (❌ Not good – This shows Kalus Rosh and takes away from the seriousness of tefillah.)
* B) Sit quietly, open his siddur, and prepare to daven with focus. (✅ Best – This shows Koved Rosh, approaching davening with respect and thoughtfulness.)
* C) Tell the boys to keep joking but promise he’ll be serious later. (⚠️ Okay – At least he admits the need for seriousness, but he misses the chance to show Koved Rosh right now.)

## Case 2: During Chumash Learning

Rebbi opened his Chumash and began teaching the pasuk. Most boys were following along, but in the back row, Naftali and Chaim were fooling around. Naftali made paper airplanes out of his scrap paper, and Chaim tried to launch one when Rebbi’s back was turned. A few boys nearby snickered.

Moshe wanted to listen to Rebbi, but the noise and silliness made it hard to pay attention. He thought about how Torah is Hashem’s words, and it deserves kavod. *Koved Rosh* means showing respect by learning with focus, not treating the lesson like playtime. Moshe had to decide whether to join the fun, ignore it, or step up and help keep the class serious.

Solve it: What should Moshe do?

* A) Politely remind the boys to quiet down, since the class is learning Torah. (✅ Best – This shows Koved Rosh by honoring Torah learning.)
* B) Join the laughing so he won’t feel left out. (❌ Not good – This shows Kalus Rosh and disrespects Torah.)
* C) Stay quiet but just try to ignore them. (⚠️ Okay – This avoids silliness, but it doesn’t help create an atmosphere of Koved Rosh.)

## Teacher’s Note

Koved Rosh means approaching Torah and tefillah with seriousness and focus. It doesn’t mean being sad or gloomy — it means showing that these moments are important. Yossi showed Koved Rosh when he prepared for davening quietly, and Moshe showed it when he tried to keep learning time calm and respectful. Without Koved Rosh, Torah and tefillah can feel like just another activity. With Koved Rosh, we give honor to Hashem and make our avodah strong.

## Quick Facilitation Tips

* Focus Drill: Ask the boys to sit quietly with their siddurim closed for 30 seconds, thinking about how they are about to speak to Hashem. Then discuss: How did it feel to get ready with Koved Rosh?
* Role-Play: Pretend some boys are fooling around right before davening. Have one student model how to set the right tone with seriousness and focus.
* Exit Ticket: Each boy writes or says one way he showed Koved Rosh today in learning or davening.