

PreK-12 EDUCATION & RACE

In Genesis 12:1, Adonai said to Avram, "Go forth from your native land and from your father's house to the land that I will show you." And Avram goes. In a midrash on this verse, the sages ask - what on earth could motivate Avram to leave all of these places? And the sages respond: Rabbi Isaac taught: The story of Abraham can be compared to a man who was travelling from place to place when he saw a palace going up in flames. The traveler screamed out "where is the owner of the palace? [Who is going to extinguish the flames]?... Similarly, Abraham, our father, wondered, "Is it conceivable that the world is without an owner?" This text is a metaphor in which the traveler = Abraham, the palace = Our World, the palace owner = God, and the flames = the flames of injustice.

Rabbi ben Gamla taught that when a parent was for any reason unable to teach the child, the responsibility to teach became the community's obligation.

Quotes from Listening Circles:

- "Education – gets back to the core of so many things. It's the one thing that's supposed to be a level playing field in this country and it's failing miserably in a lot of ways. If the education system were level, then 30 years from now when our kids are sitting here it would level the playing field of many other things."
- "My grandchildren live in a bubble. They go to school in south Charlotte but they don't interact with many African-Americans. My sons lived in a more diverse society than my grandchildren do."
- "I want to see kids from lower economic status get the same opportunities as students from higher income [families]."

Did you know:

1. As poverty levels increase in CMS schools, so does the percentage of Black and Hispanic students enrolled.
2. As school poverty level increases, college and career readiness rates decline.
3. There are achievement gaps among racial groups not just between, but within, schools of every poverty level.
4. Summer learning loss is cumulative and disproportionately affects poor children.

(Sources: CMS, Read Charlotte)