

## Michael Webber on *Lech Lecha*

Shabbat shalom. The beginning of my parashah begins with the Lord saying to Abram, “Leave your land, your family, and your paternal home and go to the land that I will point out to you.” This is the beginning to the parashah, Lech-Lecha. I think that this torah portion is about trust and commitment to God. If Abram wasn’t committed then he would have never gone to the new land. Abram was a very reflective man; He had his uncertainties, his doubts, and his questions about this journey. However, when it came down to his decision he was able to look past the bad things, trust in God and go on this journey. I think that Abram made the right choice in going on this journey and trusting to God. He showed his commitment in god by doing this. This is what makes him such an interesting person. His attitude was determined by his faith. After he made this journey, God changed Abram’s name to Abraham. Abram was an extraordinary person because he had a commitment with God so strong, that he left his whole life because god told him to go and explore the land that God would point out. I don’t know anyone that would do that. He was also an extraordinary person because he was a free thinker. He didn’t believe the many conceptions that everyone followed in his time. No matter what happened Abram would always stay true to what he thought. Abraham didn’t do something just because everyone was doing it. I think I am also a free thinker because I don’t do things just because of peer pressure. I do what I think is right for me, and this is how I am like Abram. Abram will always be very well known in the Jewish community because of this journey and the fact that he always followed what he thought and never believed anything else.

Since I was little my parents have taught me that it is very important to always help those less fortunate than I am. Being a huge sports fan, the possibility to help support kids less fortunate play the sport that they love made me want to pursue this further. So, I did some research and got involved with one of the best charity organizations for this cause called “Roberto’s Kids.” Roberto’s Kids has brought joy to those who don’t always get the opportunity to play baseball. It is an organization headed by Steve Pindar to continue the legacy and commitment to social responsibility of the late, great Roberto Clemente. Roberto Clemente always believed that every chance you have to help someone else you should help them. He was also well known all across the world as one of the best and most generous people in the world. At Roberto’s Kids, their global reach and leadership bridges the gap between different cultures through baseball. Their organization partners with communities as they develop and nurture social responsibility. They achieve that through the collection and distribution of new and gently used baseball equipment and working with people and organizations from around the world so everyone can get a chance to enjoy the great game of baseball. I have been collecting in my community; cleats, gloves, catchers equipment, hats, jerseys, baseballs, bats, anything baseball related. I hope that the kids in the countries where the equipment is going to such as the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and some other countries get the opportunity that which they deserve. This Bar Mitzvah project is related to the torah because when God wanted to destroy the land of Sodom, Abraham pleaded with God to save the innocent lives that lived there. These were the lives of people who did nothing wrong. Roberto Clemente always wanted to help the poor kids in the world because they didn’t do anything to deserve the environment they lived in. They were just

born in a underprivileged society. Therefore, they wanted to help out the innocent people who didn't deserve the unfortunate things in life that were to come to them or already came to them.

I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to this great cause. This couldn't have happened without you. I would also like to thank Rhonda Holtman, Rabbi Small, Judy Fox, all my Hebrew school teachers, Moshe Pinchover, and Cantor Cohn who couldn't be with us today for helping me prepare for this day.