

A Rabbinic Perspective *By Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom*

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Even If You Are Afraid to Ask



Some thirty-five years ago, Dr. David Reuben wrote a best seller called *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex... But Were Afraid to Ask*. The title itself spawned a genre of books in the *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About... But Were Afraid to Ask* model.

But why were we “afraid to ask” about these topics? For some, they had taboo status. But for most, it was simply that everyone assumed they were supposed

to know this stuff, and so were embarrassed to reveal their lack of knowledge by asking.

The *Talmud* teaches us “A bashful person never learns.” Embarrassment should never be an impediment to knowledge, especially knowledge we assume we are supposed to be conversant with.

I think there are many of us, adults, competent in our fields, who feel this way about Judaism. There is so much stuff that we think we are supposed to know but don't. And because we are “supposed to” know it already, we are afraid to ask.

Well, I have a course just for you. Basic. Lightning quick. Informative. I am calling it “Judaism in a Flash” and I will be teaching it on four Sunday mornings in March. The first class will be on March 6, 2005, and the last on March 27, 2005, from 10:00 AM to 11:15 PM.

We will use as our text Rabbi Milton Steinberg's classic *Basic Judaism*. Each week's discussion will be devoted to a different topic — Holy Scripture; The Jewish Life Cycle; the Jewish Home; and, What It All Means — Transcendent Issues.

Registration is required. Please fill out the coupon on page 5 and send it back to the synagogue with payment. Each registration is \$20 for synagogue members, which includes the book. Friends who are non-members are also welcome, at \$35.

If this is your first course in Judaism, or if you are looking for a refresher; or perhaps you are just looking for some interesting new friends and conversation around Jewish topics, you will find Judaism in a Flash interesting and informative, and definitely not embarrassing.

CONGREGATION
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