



## 5776/2015-2016: HILCHOT BRACHOT

*\*Note: All פסקי הלכה taught in this course follow the rulings stipulated in ספר ותן ברכה by Rabbi Yisroel Pinchos Bodner (Feldheim Publishers, 1989).*

### **WEEK #1, LESSON #5: BRACHA RISHONA ("BEFORE" BRACHA) - HAGEFEN / REVIEW**

- I. The Bracha that is third in importance is **בורא פרי הגפן**. TorahLive covers this one as well and it is significantly shorter than the unit on grain products. The reason for this is simple. This Bracha is only made on two foods: wine and grape juice (the only two beverages whose Bracha is not Shehakol).
  - A. The Classroom Presentation has just two graphics for this one. Main Menu --> Before Blessing --> Hagefen.
  - B. The speaking notes for this section are on pages 86-88 of the Instructors Guide pdf file, right after the section on Hamotzi and Mezonot. All of the information and relevant Halachot are there, including: (20 minutes)
    1. Why חז"ל chose to institute a special blessing on wine and why this reasoning applies to grape juice as well.
      - a) \*This is not covered in the speaking notes but it would seem that a good discussion to bring up here is why Hagefen is not recited over grapes themselves when they grow on a gefen/vine and not a tree! It would seem Hagefen would be a more "accurate" Bracha. (See if the students can come up with the Gemara's reasoning on their own). חז"ל wanted to "reserve" a special Bracha for the product produced when grapes reach their highest and most *Chashuv* state - i.e. wine. Therefore grapes get the same Bracha as other fruit so that the Bracha on wine is truly special. It's the same reason why bread gets a different Bracha than raw grain kernels (see above) - because it's the most *Chashuv* state that the grain will ever reach (Brachot 35b).
      2. What happens if you dilute wine?
      3. Unique laws that apply to wine and grape juice, such as:
        - a) The fact that they are not covered by a Hamotzi as other beverages are.
        - b) The Bracha of Hagefen has the ability to exempt other beverages from both a Bracha Rishona and a Bracha Acharona in the same way that bread exempts other foods eaten at the same meal.
        - c) How much do you need to drink to have the Bracha cover other beverages?
      4. Practical applications with regard to Kiddush on שבת, hearing vs. saying the Bracha.
      5. The origins of the custom of saying "L'Chaim!" when drinking wine. Not Halacha obviously, but it's definitely interesting.
- II. Assuming you've actually gotten through all of the material, please spend the remainder of this class period reviewing the basics of lessons 1-4. Kol HaKavod for finishing!