

Ribbis: Matters of Interest

Learning With The Lender

*Reuven*

*borrowed money from Shimon, and Shimon used the opportunity to inquire if*

*Reuven would want to setup a chavrusa session with him. Is this an issue of ribbis?*

The Shulchan

*Aruch* writes that a borrower may not tutor the lender, nor the lender's son, unless he had been doing so previously. Some *poskim* write that this is forbidden even if the lender has other *chavrusa* opportunities.

It is possible, however, that this only applies to tutoring, which is usually done for money or as a favor, and not to learning *chavrusa*-style in yeshivah, which is normally done without payment.

However, if he definitely would have not selected him as a *chavrusa* it would not be permitted.

It is important to note that where Shimon clearly expresses his desire to study with Reuven as a *condition* for the loan, it would be forbidden under *all* circumstances. Hence, it is important to avoid mentioning this, even in casual connection to the loan ("Okay, I'll lend you money, but please learn with me...").