



PARSHA NATION



Published by the National Council of Young Israel

Dear Youth Directors, Youth chairs, and Youth Leaders,

NCYI is excited to continue our very successful Parsha Nation Guides. I hope you're enjoying and learning from Parsha Nation as much as we are. Putting together Parsha Nation every week is indeed no easy task. It takes a lot of time and effort to ensure that each section, as well as each age group, receives the attention and dedication it deserves.

We inspire and mold future leaders. The youth leaders of Young Israel have the distinct honor and privilege to teach and develop the youth of Young Israel. Children today are constantly looking for role models and inspirations to latch on to and learn from. Whether it is actual sit down learning sessions, exciting Parsha trivia games, or even just walking down the hall to the Kiddush room, our youth look to us and watch our every move.

It's not always about the things we say, it's about the things we do. Our children hear and see everything we do whether we realize it or not. This year we are taking our Youth Services to new heights as we introduce our Leadership Training Shabbaton. This engaging, interactive shabbaton led by our Youth Services Coordinator, Sammy, will give youth leader's hands on experience and practical solutions to effectively guide your youth department.

Informal education is key. What the summer shows us as educators is that informal education can deliver better results and help increase our youth's connection to Hashem. More and more shuls are revamping their youth program to give their children a better connection to shul and to Hashem. The NCYI is here to help you reconnect with your youth departments and bring more participation.

Thank you for being a light to future generations. You are doing incredible work that should not be taken lightly. You should be proud to call yourself a Young Israel Youth Leader as you have the unique opportunity to make a real difference in so many young people's lives. Keep up the amazing work.

We are looking forward to hearing great things from everyone.

Our doors are always open.

Shana Tova.

Ari Matityahu
Assistant Director

Sammy Schaechter
Youth Services Coordinator



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Program Guide Breakdown

Theme- Each year our curriculum will focus on a theme. By centering the entire year around one overarching theme, our youth group participants will understand different characteristics and concepts that will help them achieve this lofty goal. This year's theme is Manhigut (leadership). Our goal is for our children to view themselves as leaders and to inspire them to play a leadership role every day.

Parsha Review- Each week group leaders will have the opportunity to roundup the parsha in two or three paragraphs. By giving over the parsha in a short and simple way, group participants will be able to grasp the parsha as a whole and to get them to think globally and conceptually.

Parsha Questions- No Shabbat morning group is complete without a list of parsha questions. These questions allow group participants the opportunity to win fun prizes while increasing their Torah knowledge. Questions vary from basic understanding of story line to challenging source-based material. The answers are provided as well.

Tefillah Treasure- Many youth directors have asked for help when it comes to teaching tefillah to children. This is a problem that not only shuls are dealing with. Schools, camps, and youth organizations are having trouble developing creative ideas to help children understand tefillah. Over the course of the year, this section will highlight one aspect of davening by providing both the Hebrew and English text, and one explanatory idea. The older the age group, the more we delve into the idea. This section is designed to help group participants follow the flow of tefillah while understanding what they are saying.

Group Activity- Now the fun begins! We start off with a GOAL. Each game has a purpose. The youth leaders should familiarize themselves with the goal before implementing the game.

Discussion Portion- After the game is over and the participants are settled down, the youth leaders should facilitate a discussion. The guidelines for this discussion are broken down into easy to use instructions. Youth leaders should review the discussion topics and goals before the start of morning groups.

Story- Each week we will include a story that addresses a modern day concern with lesson taken from that week's parsha.

Jewish Leader of the Week- In keeping with our theme of Manhigut, every week a different Jewish Leader from modern Jewish history will be highlighted. This will allow group participants to expand their knowledge of history and to learn how they can be a Jewish leader in today's society.

Teen Minyan Packet- This packet is filled with stories, riddles, points to ponder, and more.

Leader Tip- Each section has some great tips for leaders and how they should conduct that section.



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Shabbat Morning Groups Lesson Plan

Time Duration	Activity	Notes
5 min	Registration	Welcome parents and children in to the group room.
10-35 min	Davening	Depending on your group size and level.
5 min	Introduction to Yearly Theme (Manhigut)	Refer to Handout
5 min	Parsha Review	Prep participants for parsha questions.
10 min	Parsha Questions	Prizes and awards should also be given out if participants answer correctly
2 min	Understanding the Goal	Leaders should start prepping for Shabbat activity
30 min	Activities	Your choice of two games to play
10 min	Follow Up Discussion	Refer to materials
10 min	Parsha Song	This is for younger groups only.
20 min	Free Game Play	Groups can break for free game play or continue their own programing.
5 min	Story	Assemble in a circle and have participants read sections of the story out loud.
5-10 min	Discussion	Refer to handout
4 min	Jewish Leader of the Week	Refer to handout
4 min	Tefillah Treasures	Refer to Handout
5 min	Parent Pick up/Dismissal	Parents pick up their children.
Total Time:	2 hours & 40 min of programing!	



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GRADES K - 2

VAYECHI REVIEW

Yaakov lived the last seventeen years of his life in Egypt and when he felt that his time was coming to an end, he asked Yosef to promise him that he would be buried in Israel. Yosef brought his two sons, Menashe and Efraim, to Yaakov. Yosef put Menashe, the first born, to Yaakov's right, and Efraim to Yaakov's left. Yaakov crossed his hands, placing his right – more prestigious – hand on Efraim's head. He blessed them saying the words: "Hamalach hagoel oti mi kol ra yivarech et hanearim v'kareh bahem shemi, b'shem avotai Avrahaam v'Yitzchak, v'yidgu larov b'kerev ha'aretz", "May the angel who redeemed me from all harm bless the youths, and may they be called by my name and the name of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac, and may they multiply abundantly like fish, in the midst of the land." Yosef was bothered that Yaakov put his right hand on Efraim, the younger son. Yaakov explained that Efraim would be greater and his children will fill the nations. Yaakov blessed both of them saying that all of Israel will bless each other by saying: "May Hashem make you like Efraim and Menashe." Yaakov gathered all his sons and gave each of them a special parting personal message. delivered to each a poetic, and sometimes cryptic, parting personal message. Reuven was reprimanded for going into his father and mother's tent. Shimon and Levi were rebuked for their anger, which turned into them killing the city of Shechem and the attempted killing of Yosef. Yehudah was blessed with being the leader, success in battle, and an abundance of wine and milk in his portion of the land. Zevulun was blessed with success in his sea-trades. Yaakov compared Yissachar to a strong donkey who finds both rest and plentiful work. Dan was blessed with the persistence of a serpent and the ability to judge. Gad was blessed with bravery in battle. Asher's blessing was an abundance of olive oil. Naftali was blessed with the speed of a deer. Yosef was recognized for his charm, suffering, and righteousness, and was showered with a variety of blessings. Binyamin was compared to a wolf. Yaakov passed away at the age of 147. After returning to Egypt after burying Yaakov, Yosef's brothers were scared that now after Yaakov had passed away, Yosef would take revenge from them for selling him into slavery. Yosef reassured them that he had no hard feelings towards them at all. Yosef lived until the age of 110. Before passing away he told his brothers that Hashem would eventually take them out of Egypt and bring them to Israel. Yosef asked his brothers to promise that when that time came they would carry his remains with them, and bury him in Israel.

LEADER TIP: As we finish Bereishit, try to review with the kids on what they've learned over the past number of weeks

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PARSHA QUESTIONS

Questions

1. What did Yaakov ask Yosef to promise him?
2. Who was the older of Yosef's two sons?
3. When Yosef brought Efraim and Menashe to be blessed, how did he place them in front of Yaakov?
4. How did Yaakov place his hands on them? Why did Yaakov do this?
5. What 2 brachot did Yaakov give to Efraim and Menashe?
6. How long was Yaakov in Egypt and how old was he when he died?
7. Where was Yaakov buried?
8. What were the brothers worried about after Yaakov died?
9. What did Yosef promise them to make them not worry?
10. Before Yosef passed away, what did he make the brothers promise him?
11. How old was Yosef when he died?
12. What do we say when we complete a book of Chumash? What does it mean?

LEADER TIP: Bring back all the questions from past Bereishit Parashot and see if the kids remember any of the answers!

Answers

1. To bury him in Israel
2. Menashe
3. He put Menashe, the first born, to Yaakov's right and Efraim to Yaakov's left
4. He switched his hands putting his right, more prestigious, hand on Efraim's head and his left hand on Menashe's head. He did this because Efraim was going to be greater.
5. He blessed them with the words of Hamalach HaGoel as well as that all of Israel would bless their children by saying "May Hashem make you like Efraim and Menashe"
6. Yaakov was in Egypt for 17 years and died when he was 147.
7. Ma'arat HaMachpelah with Avraham, Yitzchak, Sarah, Rivka and Leah. (And Adam and Chavah)
8. That now that Yaakov died, Yosef would take revenge on them for selling him into slavery.
9. He promised them that he had no hard feelings whatsoever and that they shouldn't worry
10. That they would carry his remains with them when they finally go back to Israel
11. Yosef was 110 when he died.
12. "Chazak chazak v'nitchazek"- "We should continue to be strong"

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: For the kids to review a little bit about what they learned in Sefer Bereishit.

ACTIVITY: “Edible Family Tree”

Prepare beforehand as many names as you can from all the stories in Sefer Bereishit cut up into pieces (one name per piece). Bring in Twizzlers and pretzel sticks (or any other two “stick like” snacks) as well. Start off by introducing this week’s Parsha and telling the kids that this week will be finishing all of Sefer Bereishit. Sefer Bereishit talks all about the beginning of the Jewish people going from Adam and Chava all the way through the 12 shvatim. Family is what makes us who we are. We learn from our ancestors how to live our lives and how to be the best people we can be. Using the Twizzlers, pretzel sticks, and names, work together as a group to make a big family tree. Use the Twizzlers to connect spouses and the pretzel sticks to connect parents and children. As you create the big family tree as best as possible, try to tell the story about each person as you get to them. No need to make it into a long story, but be sure to ask the kids if they remember who each person was and in a few words tell them who they were and why they were important. Once you finish the family tree, yes, you may let the kids eat the Twizzlers and pretzels!

You can include Adam, Chava, Noach, and his children and just skip from them to Avraham not worrying about the generations in between

LEADER TIP: There is no “Discussion” section since the entire activity is one big discussion reviewing the entire Sefer so try to discuss as much as possible!

“Bereishit Timeline”

Print out one sentence summaries about different stories that happened in Sefer Bereishit and work together to put them all in order. Talk the stories out a little bit to make sure that the kids know everything that happened in each story.

1. Seven days of Creation
2. Adam, Chavah and Gan Eden
3. Noach and the Flood
4. Migdal Bavel
5. Avraham leaving his home
6. Destroying Sedom
7. Akeidat Yitzchak
8. Sarah dies and Avraham buries her in Maarat HaMachpelah
9. Yaakov and Esav
10. Yaakov’s dream with the ladder and angels

11. Yaakov marries Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, and Zilpah
12. Yaakov and Esav meet again
13. The brothers sell Yosef
14. Yosef interprets dreams in jail
15. Yosef becomes second in command in Egypt
16. The brothers come down to Egypt to get food during the famine
17. The brothers and Yosef reunite
18. Yaakov blesses Efraim, Menashe, and the 12 tribes

PARSHA STORY

Before you read: One sign of a good, honest person is that he keeps his promises. In this week's Parsha, Yosef promises Yaakov that after he passes away Yosef will make sure Yaakov is buried next to his ancestors in Chevron, and not in idolatrous Egypt (where they were currently living). Even though it was risky and difficult to approach the Egyptian king and get him to agree, Yosef did just that - in order to keep his promise and to teach us the value of keeping ours.

PROMISING START

'*ONE MORE DAY!*' Liz smiled as she read the scribbly note her younger sister Gail had taped to her door. For the past week, the kid had excitedly been 'counting down' the days left until her birthday - and the days until Liz would take her out to the cool new pizza parlor, like she'd promised.

Well, why not? thought Liz. She liked her little sister (most of the time, anyway) and they *both* really liked good pizza.

The next day came around and Gail was bouncing around the house like a super-ball waiting for Liz to get changed so they could go on their big 'pizza-date.'

Then the phone rang. "Liz, it's for you!" Gail yelled "But talk fast okay - 'cuz we've gotta go!"

"Hi Liz, it's Tiff. You're never going to believe it. Jan's cousin works at the auditorium and he just called and told her there's five unclaimed VIP seats for this afternoon's Circus Amaze-Us show and he promised to give them to us free if we zip over there right now. I saved one last place in the car for you!"

Liz really *couldn't* believe it. The Circus Amaze-Us show was the hit of the season and even if you could afford the tickets - they were next to impossible to get.

She was about to say *I'll be right over*, when she felt a tug on her sweater. "Hurry up, Liz. It's time to go," Gail was pleading. Suddenly Liz felt torn in two and her tongue tied in a thousand knots.

"Hey, you didn't faint or anything, did you, Liz?" came the voice on the other end of the phone."

"Um, no - Tiff, I'm here. Just give me a second, okay?" Liz mumbled and turned to face her little sister's bright, expectant face.

"Um, Gail, you really want to go out now, right?"

"You bet! Let's go!"

"Yeah ... but I got this call now and I'm not so sure if... Maybe, do you think we could like go tomorrow instead?" Liz could hardly watch as her sister's face went from sunny to cloudy to stormy dark.

"Not go today? But Liz - today's my *birthday*, and I've been waiting so long."

"I know, Gail, but you see, my friends..."

"But you PROMISED!!!" The young girl started to cry.

"Liz? Where did you go? Are you coming or not?" Tiff asked. Liz wanted so much to go with her friends - yet she knew how much Gail was counting on her and she also knew from experience how bad it felt when someone promises something then backs out. She lifted the phone receiver that suddenly felt as heavy as a lead weight.

"Thanks a million, Tiff. You guys go have a great time - but I've got to pass." She thought she heard something like the words 'out of your mind' coming out of the phone as she hung up.

"Okay! Let's go!" Liz said, with as big a smile as she could manage.

The sisters got to the pizza parlor and as they ate Liz tried her best not to think about the amazing time her friends were having.

"Hey, there are all your friends," Gail said, pointing to the door. Liz turned and sure enough, Tiff and the crew were marching in, looking really down.

"What are you guys doing *here*?" asked Liz. "Aren't you supposed to be at the show?"

"We got there and not only were there no tickets, but the guy who was supposed to give them to us had gone home! Promises, promises, promises - you can't count on anybody nowadays, can you?" sputtered Tiff.

Liz nodded sympathetically while inside she felt so glad she'd shown her kid sister that she could count on her.

Discussion Questions:

Q. How did Liz feel when her friend first invited her to the show?

A. She felt like she wanted to break her promise, and go with her.

Q. How did she feel in the end?

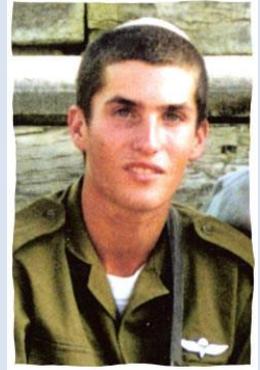
A. She was really glad she'd kept her promise to her sister.

LEADER TIP: Ask the kids if they can remember any promises they've made that they haven't kept. Is it still possible to fulfill them? If not, can they apologize to the people they promised?

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Noam Apter

(October 3, 1980- December 27, 2002)



On Friday night, December 27, over a hundred Israeli teenagers and young adults sat down for Shabbat dinner at Yeshivat Otniel. Four of the students whose turn it was to be the meal's "waiters" went to prepare to serve the main course in the kitchen connected to the dining room. Noam Apter was one of them. The other three waiters were: Yehuda Bamberger, 20, Zvi Ziman, 18, and Gabriel Hoter, 17. Suddenly two terrorists dressed in Israeli army uniforms burst into the kitchen and sprayed the four waiters with fire from their M16's. Hit by the bullets and extremely wounded, Noam was faced with a painful split-second decision. Armed with a gun in his pocket, he could either try to shoot the terrorists, run away, or run to lock the door. Noam used his last strength to run to the door connecting the kitchen and the dining room. He closed it, locked it, and threw the key away. He then collapsed and died, lying against the door. The terrorists tried to open the door. Seeing it locked, they sprayed gunfire through a small glass window into the dining room. After realizing that this fire was inaccurate and wild (it wounded six more students) and having already killed the four student waiters, the terrorists ran away, later to be hunted down and killed by the Israeli army. Yaacov Ohana, an 18-year-old wounded survivor of the attack, said that "Our great luck was that Noam succeeded in locking the door to the dining room and throwing the key into a dark corner. Had he not locked that connecting door during his final moments many more people would have been killed that night. Noam's parents, Yossi and Pirchia Apter, say they consider their son's heroic death "a natural extension of the way he lived." Noam's decision to die saving his fellow students "wasn't a random, spontaneous action. It was an accumulation of a lifetime of giving to others," Apter said. "Noam was always busy with volunteer projects and helping the needy." He chose to save lives as opposed to killing. Noam, who regularly volunteered with youth who were disabled enjoyed spending his free time getting together with them as well as giving talks to their counselors about the nature of giving and loving. Noam was and will always be a hero, role model, and inspiration to the entire Jewish people.

LEADER TIP: As hard as it is, can you imagine making split second decisions like Noam did? Can anyone be a hero like Noam? How?

TEFILLAH TREASURES

Shemoneh Esrei: Hashiveinu Avinu

In this bracha, we ask Hashem to help us return to His ways as all of us have, in one way or another, drifted away from our responsibilities. The word teshuvah, commonly translated as repentance, more literally means a return. We ask Hashem to bring us closer to Him but whether or not we return completely is up to us. People have free will and Hashem does not force us to be close to Him but if we make the tiniest effort, Hashem will carry us in the proper direction. In this bracha, we refer to Hashem as “our Father,” something only done in two of the nineteen other brachot, the other is the bracha for forgiveness, which comes next. That is because in regard to asking Hashem to bring us closer to him and asking him for forgiveness, we need a Father’s compassion for His children. If a child goes away from home, he is always welcomed back by his parents. Similarly, if we away from Hashem, we shouldn’t be afraid to return since He will surely welcome us back. The end of the bracha hints to this also, since it doesn’t say that Hashem accepts our return to Him but that He really really wants it.

LEADER TIP: What small steps can we take to bring ourselves closer to Hashem?



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GRADES 3-4

VAYECHI REVIEW

Yaakov lived the last seventeen years of his life in Egypt and when he felt that his time was coming to an end, he asked Yosef to promise him that he would be buried in Israel. Yosef brought his two sons, Menashe and Efraim, to Yaakov. Yosef put Menashe, the first born, to Yaakov's right, and Efraim to Yaakov's left. Yaakov crossed his hands, placing his right – more prestigious – hand on Efraim's head. He blessed them saying the words: "Hamalach hagoel oti mi kol ra yivarech et hanearim v'kareh bahem shemi, b'shem avotai Avrahaam v'Yitzchak, v'yidgu larov b'kerev ha'aretz", "May the angel who redeemed me from all harm bless the youths, and may they be called by my name and the name of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac, and may they multiply abundantly like fish, in the midst of the land." Yosef was bothered that Yaakov put his right hand on Efraim, the younger son. Yaakov explained that Efraim would be greater and his children will fill the nations. Yaakov blessed both of them saying that all of Israel will bless each other by saying: "May Hashem make you like Efraim and Menashe." Yaakov gathered all his sons and gave each of them a special parting personal message. delivered to each a poetic, and sometimes cryptic, parting personal message. Reuven was reprimanded for going into his father and mother's tent. Shimon and Levi were rebuked for their anger, which turned into them killing the city of Shechem and the attempted killing of Yosef. Yehudah was blessed with being the leader, success in battle, and an abundance of wine and milk in his portion of the land. Zevulun was blessed with success in his sea-trades. Yaakov compared Yissachar to a strong donkey who finds both rest and plentiful work. Dan was blessed with the persistence of a serpent and the ability to judge. Gad was blessed with bravery in battle. Asher's blessing was an abundance of olive oil. Naftali was blessed with the speed of a deer. Yosef was recognized for his charm, suffering, and righteousness, and was showered with a variety of blessings. Binyamin was compared to a wolf. Yaakov passed away at the age of 147. After returning to Egypt after burying Yaakov, Yosef's brothers were scared that now after Yaakov had passed away, Yosef would take revenge from them for selling him into slavery. Yosef reassured them that he had no hard feelings towards them at all. Yosef lived until the age of 110. Before passing away he told his brothers that Hashem would eventually take them out of Egypt and bring them to Israel. Yosef asked his brothers to promise that when that time came they would carry his remains with them, and bury him in Israel.

LEADER TIP: As we finish Bereishit, try to review with the kids on what they've learned over the past number of weeks

PARSHA QUESTIONS

Questions

1. What did Yaakov ask Yosef to promise him?
2. Who was the older of Yosef's two sons?
3. When Yosef brought Efraim and Menashe to be blessed, how did he place them in front of Yaakov?
4. How did Yaakov place his hands on them? Why did Yaakov do this?
5. What 2 brachot did Yaakov give to Efraim and Menashe?
6. What rebuke did Reuven, Shimon, and Levi get from Yaakov?
7. What bracha did Yehudah get from Yaakov?
8. What were Zevulun, Yissachar, Dan, Naftali, Gad, Asher, Yosef, and Binyamin blessed with?
9. How long was Yaakov in Egypt and how old was he when he died?
10. Where was Yaakov buried?
11. What were the brothers worried about after Yaakov died?
12. What did Yosef promise them to make them not worry?
13. Before Yosef passed away, what did he make the brothers promise him?
14. How old was Yosef when he died?
15. What do we say when we complete a book of Chumash? What does it mean?

LEADER TIP: Bring back all the questions from past Bereishit

Answers

1. To bury him in Israel
2. Menashe
3. He put Menashe, the first born, to Yaakov's right and Efraim to Yaakov's left
4. He switched his hands putting his right, more prestigious, hand on Efraim's head and his left hand on Menashe's head. He did this because Efraim was going to be greater.
5. He blessed them with the words of Hamalach HaGoel as well as that all of Israel would bless their children by saying "May Hashem make you like Efraim and Menashe"
6. Reuven was rebuked for entering the tent of his father and mother. Shimon and Levi were rebuked for killing the city of Shechem and almost killing Yosef.
7. Yehudah was blessed with being the leader, kingship, success in battle, and abundance of wine and milk in his portion of the land.
8. Zevulun was blessed with success in his sea trades. Yissachar was compared to a strong donkey who finds both rest and plentiful work. Dan was blessed with the persistence of a serpent and the ability to judge. Naftali was blessed with the speed of a deer. Gad was blessed with bravery in battle. Asher was blessed with an abundance of olive oil. Yosef was recognized for his charm, suffering, and righteousness and was given many blessings. Binyamin was compared to a wolf.
9. Yaakov was in Egypt for 17 years and died when he was 147.
10. Ma'arat HaMachpelah with Avraham, Yitzchak, Sarah, Rivka and Leah. (And Adam and Chavah)
11. That now that Yaakov died, Yosef would take revenge on them for selling him into slavery.
12. He promised them that he had no hard feelings whatsoever and that they shouldn't worry
13. That they would carry his remains with them when they finally go back to Israel
14. Yosef was 110 when he died.
15. "Chazak chazak v'nitchazek"- "We should continue to be strong"

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: For the kids to review a little bit about what they learned in Sefer Bereishit.

ACTIVITY: “Bereishit Timeline”

Print out one sentence summaries about different stories that happened in Sefer Bereishit and work together to put them all in order. Talk the stories out a little bit to make sure that the kids know everything that happened in each story.

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12. Yaakov and Esav meet again
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15. Yosef becomes second in command in Egypt
16. The brothers come down to Egypt to get food during the famine
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18. Yaakov blesses Efraim, Menashe, and the 12 tribes

“Headbands”

Start off by introducing this week’s Parsha and telling the kids that this week will be finishing all of Sefer Bereishit. Sefer Bereishit talks all about the beginning of the Jewish people going from Adam and Chava all the way through the 12 shvatim. Family is what makes us who we are. We learn from our ancestors how to live our lives and how to be the best people we can be. Prepare index cards with names (or things) from Sefer Bereishit. Have a few kids come in front of the group at a time. Give each kid an index card but don’t let them look at what it says! Have them put the index card on their forehead so that the rest of the crowd can see what it says but they can’t. One by one have the kids ask “yes or no” questions to the rest of the group in order to try and figure out who they are. For example, “Am I a person?” “Do I get along with my siblings?” “Am I a boy?” “Am I one of the Avot or Imahot?” Have the kids keep asking questions one at a time until they all figure out who they are. Make sure while answering the “yes or no” questions the kids don’t give away any more hints aside from just answering yes or no! People/things to include can be: Adam, Chavah, the snake, Noach, Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov, Yosef, Sarah, Rivka, Rachel, Leah, ketonet passim, the forbidden fruit, the pit Yosef was thrown in, the soup Yaakov sold Esav, Maarat HaMachpelah, etc.

LEADER TIP: There is no “Discussion” section since the entire activity is one big discussion reviewing the entire Sefer so try to discuss as much as possible!

PARSHA STORY

Before you read: One sign of a good, honest person is that he keeps his promises. In this week's Parsha, Yosef promises Yaakov that after he passes away Yosef will make sure Yaakov is buried next to his ancestors in Chevron, and not in idolatrous Egypt (where they were currently living). Even though it was risky and difficult to approach the Egyptian king and get him to agree, Yosef did just that - in order to keep his promise and to teach us the value of keeping ours.

PROMISING START

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Then the phone rang. "Liz, it's for you!" Gail yelled "But talk fast okay - 'cuz we've gotta go!"

"Hi Liz, it's Tiff. You're never going to believe it. Jan's cousin works at the auditorium and he just called and told her there's five unclaimed VIP seats for this afternoon's Circus Amaze-Us show and he promised to give them to us free if we zip over there right now. I saved one last place in the car for you!"

Liz really *couldn't* believe it. The Circus Amaze-Us show was the hit of the season and even if you could afford the tickets - they were next to impossible to get.

She was about to say *I'll be right over*, when she felt a tug on her sweater. "Hurry up, Liz. It's time to go," Gail was pleading. Suddenly Liz felt torn in two and her tongue tied in a thousand knots.

"Hey, you didn't faint or anything, did you, Liz?" came the voice on the other end of the phone."

"Um, no - Tiff, I'm here. Just give me a second, okay?" Liz mumbled and turned to face her little sister's bright, expectant face.

"Um, Gail, you really want to go out now, right?"

"You bet! Let's go!"

"Yeah ... but I got this call now and I'm not so sure if... Maybe, do you think we could like go tomorrow instead?" Liz could hardly watch as her sister's face went from sunny to cloudy to stormy dark.

"Not go today? But Liz - today's my *birthday*, and I've been waiting so long."

"I know, Gail, but you see, my friends..."

"But you PROMISED!!!" The young girl started to cry.

"Liz? Where did you go? Are you coming or not?" Tiff asked. Liz wanted so much to go with her friends - yet she knew how much Gail was counting on her and she also knew from experience how bad it felt when someone promises something then backs out. She lifted the phone receiver that suddenly felt as heavy as a lead weight.

"Thanks a million, Tiff. You guys go have a great time - but I've got to pass." She thought she heard something like the words 'out of your mind' coming out of the phone as she hung up.

"Okay! Let's go!" Liz said, with as big a smile as she could manage.

The sisters got to the pizza parlor and as they ate Liz tried her best not to think about the amazing time her friends were having.

"Hey, there are all your friends," Gail said, pointing to the door. Liz turned and sure enough, Tiff and the crew were marching in, looking really down.

"What are you guys doing *here*?" asked Liz. "Aren't you supposed to be at the show?"

"We got there and not only were there no tickets, but the guy who was supposed to give them to us had gone home! Promises, promises, promises - you can't count on anybody nowadays, can you?" sputtered Tiff.

Liz nodded sympathetically while inside she felt so glad she'd shown her kid sister that she could count on her.

Discussion Questions:

Q. What life lesson do you think someone could learn from this story?

A. The way a person keeps his promises says a lot about what kind of person he is. Liz faced a tough choice, but she kept her word and not only made her sister feel good, but she felt good about herself, too.

Q. Is there ever a time it's okay not to keep our promises?

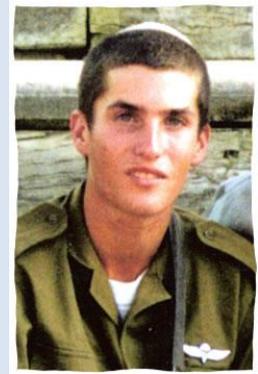
A. Though generally we should keep our word even when it's difficult, there could be times that we promise something seriously destructive, either under pressure or by mistake. In such a case, it's okay to back out. If we can, it could be worthwhile to first talk it out with someone whose opinion we respect.

LEADER TIP: Ask the kids if they can remember any promises they've made that they haven't kept. Is it still possible to fulfill them? If not, can they apologize to the people they promised?

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Noam Apter

(October 3, 1980- December 27, 2002)



On Friday night, December 27, over a hundred Israeli teenagers and young adults sat down for Shabbat dinner at Yeshivat Otniel. Four of the students whose turn it was to be the meal's "waiters" went to prepare to serve the main course in the kitchen connected to the dining room. Noam Apter was one of them. The other three waiters were: Yehuda Bamberger, 20, Zvi Ziman, 18, and Gabriel Hoter, 17. Suddenly two terrorists dressed in Israeli army uniforms burst into the kitchen and sprayed the four waiters with fire from their M16's. Hit by the bullets and extremely wounded, Noam was faced with a painful split-second decision. Armed with a gun in his pocket, he could either try to shoot the terrorists, run away, or run to lock the door. Noam used his last strength to run to the door connecting the kitchen and the dining room. He closed it, locked it, and threw the key away. He then collapsed and died, lying against the door. The terrorists tried to open the door. Seeing it locked, they sprayed gunfire through a small glass window into the dining room. After realizing that this fire was inaccurate and wild (it wounded six more students) and having already killed the four student waiters, the terrorists ran away, later to be hunted down and killed by the Israeli army. Yaacov Ohana, an 18-year-old wounded survivor of the attack, said that "Our great luck was that Noam succeeded in locking the door to the dining room and throwing the key into a dark corner. Had he not locked that connecting door during his final moments many more people would have been killed that night. Noam's parents, Yossi and Pirchia Apter, say they consider their son's heroic death "a natural extension of the way he lived." Noam's decision to die saving his fellow students "wasn't a random, spontaneous action. It was an accumulation of a lifetime of giving to others," Apter said. "Noam was always busy with volunteer projects and helping the needy." He chose to save lives as opposed to killing. Noam, who regularly volunteered with youth who were disabled enjoyed spending his free time getting together with them as well as giving talks to their counselors about the nature of giving and loving. Noam was and will always be a hero, role model, and inspiration to the entire Jewish people.

LEADER TIP: As hard as it is, can you imagine making split second decisions like Noam did? Can anyone be a hero like Noam? How?

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TEFILLAH TREASURES

Shemoneh Esrei: Hashiveinu Avinu

In this bracha, we ask Hashem to help us return to His ways as all of us have, in one way or another, drifted away from our responsibilities. The word teshuvah, commonly translated as repentance, more literally means a return. We ask Hashem to bring us closer to Him but whether or not we return completely is up to us. People have free will and Hashem does not force us to be close to Him but if we make the tiniest effort, Hashem will carry us in the proper direction. In this bracha, we refer to Hashem as “our Father,” something only done in two of the nineteen other brachot, the other is the bracha for forgiveness, which comes next. That is because in regard to asking Hashem to bring us closer to him and asking him for forgiveness, we need a Father’s compassion for His children. If a child goes away from home, he is always welcomed back by his parents. Similarly, if we away from Hashem, we shouldn’t be afraid to return since He will surely welcome us back. The end of the bracha hints to this also, since it doesn’t say that Hashem accepts our return to Him but that He really really wants it. We end this bracha by asking for “teshuvah sheleima”, a complete perfect repentance. Is there any other kind of teshuvah besides a perfect teshuvah? Is anything less than a perfect teshuvah acceptable? The following parable from the Chofetz Chaim provides the answer: A merchant, who regularly did business with a certain supplier, made several large orders for goods but was unable to pay. When he again made a large order, the supplier decided he had had enough. He told the merchant, “No payment, and no goods. How can I trust you?” The merchant decided to attempt to win back the supplier’s trust by ordering a small shipment and immediately paying for it with cash. He reasoned that by selling the small amount of goods, he would earn the cash to order and pay for more goods, thereby regaining the supplier’s trust once again. Over time, he was able to repay his debt to the supplier and eventually rebuild his business. Oftentimes we decide to change our ways and to return completely to Hashem. However, similar to the merchant, we often find ourselves short of the task. How then do we go about winning Hashem’s trust? Says the Chofetz Chaim, just as the merchant realized that he did not have to pay his debt all at once to win the supplier’s confidence, we too can return to Hashem by changing our behavior in small, doable ways. In this way, we can regain Hashem’s trust.

LEADER TIP: What small steps can we take to bring ourselves closer to Hashem?



PARSHA NATION

GRADES 5-6



VAYECHI REVIEW

Yaakov lived the last seventeen years of his life in Egypt and when he felt that his time was coming to an end, he asked Yosef to promise him that he would be buried in Israel. Yosef brought his two sons, Menashe and Efraim, to Yaakov. Yosef put Menashe, the first born, to Yaakov's right, and Efraim to Yaakov's left. Yaakov crossed his hands, placing his right – more prestigious – hand on Efraim's head. He blessed them saying the words: "Hamalach hagoel oti mi kol ra yivarech et hanearim v'kareh bahem shemi, b'shem avotai Avrahaam v'Yitzchak, v'yidgu larov b'kerev ha'aretz", "May the angel who redeemed me from all harm bless the youths, and may they be called by my name and the name of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac, and may they multiply abundantly like fish, in the midst of the land." Yosef was bothered that Yaakov put his right hand on Efraim, the younger son. Yaakov explained that Efraim would be greater and his children will fill the nations. Yaakov blessed both of them saying that all of Israel will bless each other by saying: "May Hashem make you like Efraim and Menashe." Yaakov gathered all his sons and gave each of them a special parting personal message. delivered to each a poetic, and sometimes cryptic, parting personal message. Reuven was reprimanded for going into his father and mother's tent. Shimon and Levi were rebuked for their anger, which turned into them killing the city of Shechem and the attempted killing of Yosef. Yehudah was blessed with being the leader, success in battle, and an abundance of wine and milk in his portion of the land. Zevulun was blessed with success in his sea-trades. Yaakov compared Yissachar to a strong donkey who finds both rest and plentiful work. Dan was blessed with the persistence of a serpent and the ability to judge. Gad was blessed with bravery in battle. Asher's blessing was an abundance of olive oil. Naftali was blessed with the speed of a deer. Yosef was recognized for his charm, suffering, and righteousness, and was showered with a variety of blessings. Binyamin was compared to a wolf. Yaakov passed away at the age of 147. After returning to Egypt after burying Yaakov, Yosef's brothers were scared that now after Yaakov had passed away, Yosef would take revenge from them for selling him into slavery. Yosef reassured them that he had no hard feelings towards them at all. Yosef lived until the age of 110. Before passing away he told his brothers that Hashem would eventually take them out of Egypt and bring them to Israel. Yosef asked his brothers to promise that when that time came they would carry his remains with them, and bury him in Israel.

LEADER TIP: As we finish Bereishit, try to review with the kids on what they've learned over the past number of weeks

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PARSHA QUESTIONS

Taken from *Ohr.edu*

1. Why is kindness towards the dead called "*chesed shel emet*" – kindness of truth?
47:29 - Because the giver expects no reward from the recipient.
2. Give three reasons Yaakov didn't want to be buried in Egypt.
47:29 - a) Egypt's ground was to be plagued with lice; b) At the time of the resurrection, those buried outside Israel will suffer; c) So the Egyptians wouldn't make him into an idol.
3. How do you treat a "fox in his time" (i.e., a commoner who rules)?
47:31 - Bow to him.
4. "When I was coming from Padan, Rachel died on me... I buried her there on the way to Efrat..."
Why did Yaakov say all this to Yosef?
48:7 - Yaakov thought Yosef harbored resentment since Yaakov had not buried Yosef's mother, Rachel, in the *Ma'arat HaMachpela*.
5. Initially, why was Yaakov unable to bless Efraim and Menashe?
48:8 - The *Shechina* departed from him.
6. What does *pillalti* mean?
48:11 - "I thought."
7. What does "*Shechem*" mean as used in this week's parsha? (two answers)
48:22 - a) The actual city of Shechem; b) A portion.
8. Which individual is called "the *Emori*"? Why? Give two reasons.
48:22 - Esav. a) He acted like an Emorite; b) He trapped his father with words (*imrei pi*).
9. What did Yaakov want to tell his sons but was unable to?
49:1 - When *mashiach* will come.
10. What privileges did Reuven lose due to his rash actions?
49:3 - Priesthood and Kingship.
11. What congregation from Yaakov's offspring did Yaakov not want to be associated with?
49:6 - Korach and his congregation.
12. What did Yehuda do after he heard Yaakov rebuke Reuven, Shimon and Levi? Why?
49:8 - He drew back. He was afraid that Yaakov would rebuke him for the incident with Tamar.
13. What does milk do to teeth?
49:12 - It makes them white.
14. Why is Yissachar like a "strong-boned donkey"?
49:14 - Just as a donkey bears a heavy burden, so the tribe of Yissachar bears the yoke of Torah.

15. With what resource did both Yaakov and Moshe bless Asher?
49:20 - Oil-rich land.
16. In Yosef's blessing, Yaakov said, "They embittered him..." Who are "they"?
49:23 - Yosef's brothers, Potifar and his wife.
17. Which descendants of Binyamin "will divide the spoils in the evening"?
49:27 - Mordechai and Esther.
18. From whom did Yaakov buy his burial place?
50:5 - From Esav.
19. What oath did Yosef make to Pharaoh?
50:6 - Yosef swore not to reveal Pharaoh's ignorance of Hebrew.
20. Which two sons of Yaakov did not carry his coffin? Why not?
50:13 - Levi, because he would carry the *aron* (holy ark). Yosef, because he was a king.

LEADER TIP: Bring back all the questions from past Bereishit Parashot and see if the kids remember any of the answers!

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: For the kids to review a little bit about what they learned in Sefer Bereishit.

ACTIVITY: “Headbands”

Start off by introducing this week’s Parsha and telling the kids that this week will be finishing all of Sefer Bereishit. Sefer Bereishit talks all about the beginning of the Jewish people going from Adam and Chava all the way through the 12 shvatim. Family is what makes us who we are. We learn from our ancestors how to live our lives and how to be the best people we can be. Prepare index cards with names (or things) from Sefer Bereishit. Have a few kids come in front of the group at a time. Give each kid an index card but don’t let them look at what it says! Have them put the index card on their forehead so that the rest of the crowd can see what it says but they can’t. One by one have the kids ask “yes or no” questions to the rest of the group in order to try and figure out who they are. For example, “Am I a person?” “Do I get along with my siblings?” “Am I a boy?” “Am I one of the Avot or Imahot?” Have the kids keep asking questions one at a time until they all figure out who they are. Make sure while answering the “yes or no” questions the kids don’t give away any more hints aside from just answering yes or no! People/things to include can be: Adam, Chavah, the snake, Noach, Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov, Yosef, Sarah, Rivka, Rachel, Leah, ketonet passim, the forbidden fruit, the pit Yosef was thrown in, the soup Yaakov sold Esav, Maarat HaMachpelah, etc.

“Berei-Skits”

Split the group into a few different smaller groups. Print out one sentence summaries about different stories that happened in Sefer Bereishit. Depending on how many kids there are, you can give each group one skit to act out or split into two groups and have them go back and forth acting out skits. You also don’t need to do all these skits, since it will take a very long time, so you can just pick a few of them. You can also combine stories as well. Here are a list of examples.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Seven days of Creation | 11. Yaakov marries Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, and Zilpah |
| 2. Adam, Chavah and Gan Eden | 12. Yaakov and Esav meet again |
| 3. Noach and the Flood | 13. The brothers sell Yosef |
| 4. Migdal Bavel | 14. Yosef interprets dreams in jail |
| 5. Avraham leaving his home | 15. Yosef becomes second in command in Egypt |
| 6. Destroying Sodom | 16. The brothers come down to Egypt to get food during the famine |
| 7. Akeidat Yitzchak | 17. The brothers and Yosef reunite |
| 8. Sarah dies and Avraham buries her in Maarat HaMachpelah | 18. Yaakov blesses Efraim, Menashe, and the 12 tribes |
| 9. Yaakov and Esav | |
| 10. Yaakov’s dream with the ladder and angels | |

LEADER TIP: There is no “Discussion” section since the entire activity is one big discussion reviewing the entire Sefer so try to discuss as much as possible!

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PARSHA STORY

Before you read: One sign of a good, honest person is that he keeps his promises. In this week's Parsha, Yosef promises Yaakov that after he passes away Yosef will make sure Yaakov is buried next to his ancestors in Chevron, and not in idolatrous Egypt (where they were currently living). Even though it was risky and difficult to approach the Egyptian king and get him to agree, Yosef did just that - in order to keep his promise and to teach us the value of keeping ours.

PROMISING START

'*ONE MORE DAY!*' Liz smiled as she read the scribbly note her younger sister Gail had taped to her door. For the past week, the kid had excitedly been 'counting down' the days left until her birthday - and the days until Liz would take her out to the cool new pizza parlor, like she'd promised.

Well, why not? thought Liz. She liked her little sister (most of the time, anyway) and they *both* really liked good pizza.

The next day came around and Gail was bouncing around the house like a super-ball waiting for Liz to get changed so they could go on their big 'pizza-date.'

Then the phone rang. "Liz, it's for you!" Gail yelled "But talk fast okay - 'cuz we've gotta go!"

"Hi Liz, it's Tiff. You're never going to believe it. Jan's cousin works at the auditorium and he just called and told her there's five unclaimed VIP seats for this afternoon's Circus Amaze-Us show and he promised to give them to us free if we zip over there right now. I saved one last place in the car for you!"

Liz really *couldn't* believe it. The Circus Amaze-Us show was the hit of the season and even if you could afford the tickets - they were next to impossible to get.

She was about to say *I'll be right over*, when she felt a tug on her sweater. "Hurry up, Liz. It's time to go," Gail was pleading. Suddenly Liz felt torn in two and her tongue tied in a thousand knots.

"Hey, you didn't faint or anything, did you, Liz?" came the voice on the other end of the phone."

"Um, no - Tiff, I'm here. Just give me a second, okay?" Liz mumbled and turned to face her little sister's bright, expectant face.

"Um, Gail, you really want to go out now, right?"

"You bet! Let's go!"

"Yeah ... but I got this call now and I'm not so sure if... Maybe, do you think we could like go tomorrow instead?" Liz could hardly watch as her sister's face went from sunny to cloudy to stormy dark.

"Not go today? But Liz - today's my *birthday*, and I've been waiting so long."

"I know, Gail, but you see, my friends..."

"But you PROMISED!!!" The young girl started to cry.

"Liz? Where did you go? Are you coming or not?" Tiff asked. Liz wanted so much to go with her friends - yet she knew how much Gail was counting on her and she also knew from experience how bad it felt when someone promises something then backs out. She lifted the phone receiver that suddenly felt as heavy as a lead weight.

"Thanks a million, Tiff. You guys go have a great time - but I've got to pass." She thought she heard something like the words 'out of your mind' coming out of the phone as she hung up.

"Okay! Let's go!" Liz said, with as big a smile as she could manage.

The sisters got to the pizza parlor and as they ate Liz tried her best not to think about the amazing time her friends were having.

"Hey, there are all your friends," Gail said, pointing to the door. Liz turned and sure enough, Tiff and the crew were marching in, looking really down.

"What are you guys doing *here*?" asked Liz. "Aren't you supposed to be at the show?"

"We got there and not only were there no tickets, but the guy who was supposed to give them to us had gone home! Promises, promises, promises - you can't count on anybody nowadays, can you?" sputtered Tiff.

Liz nodded sympathetically while inside she felt so glad she'd shown her kid sister that she could count on her.

Discussion Questions:

Q. What do you think a person could do to avoid breaking promises?

A. One easy thing is not to make them in the first place. Some people who take their word seriously have a practice almost never to promise, but to say 'they will try, but they can't promise.' Of course this is no excuse to take what we say lightly and we should indeed sincerely try to do what we say we will.

Q. Is there a way a person could use promises as a tool to better achieve his goals?

A. Once we learn to take our promises seriously, if there is something we know clearly is the right thing to do but we know it will be hard to do - we can promise ourselves (or others) and use the motivating power of the promise to drive us to our goal.

LEADER TIP: Ask the kids if they can remember any promises they've made that they haven't kept. Is it still possible to fulfill them? If not, can they apologize to the people they promised?

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Noam Apter

(October 3, 1980- December 27, 2002)



On Friday night, December 27, over a hundred Israeli teenagers and young adults sat down for Shabbat dinner at Yeshivat Otniel. Four of the students whose turn it was to be the meal's "waiters" went to prepare to serve the main course in the kitchen connected to the dining room. Noam Apter was one of them. The other three waiters were: Yehuda Bamberger, 20, Zvi Ziman, 18, and Gabriel Hoter, 17. Suddenly two terrorists dressed in Israeli army uniforms burst into the kitchen and sprayed the four waiters with fire from their M16's. Hit by the bullets and extremely wounded, Noam was faced with a painful split-second decision. Armed with a gun in his pocket, he could either try to shoot the terrorists, run away, or run to lock the door. Noam used his last strength to run to the door connecting the kitchen and the dining room. He closed it, locked it, and threw the key away. He then collapsed and died, lying against the door. The terrorists tried to open the door. Seeing it locked, they sprayed gunfire through a small glass window into the dining room. After realizing that this fire was inaccurate and wild (it wounded six more students) and having already killed the four student waiters, the terrorists ran away, later to be hunted down and killed by the Israeli army. Yaacov Ohana, an 18-year-old wounded survivor of the attack, said that "Our great luck was that Noam succeeded in locking the door to the dining room and throwing the key into a dark corner. Had he not locked that connecting door during his final moments many more people would have been killed that night. Noam's parents, Yossi and Pirchia Apter, say they consider their son's heroic death "a natural extension of the way he lived." Noam's decision to die saving his fellow students "wasn't a random, spontaneous action. It was an accumulation of a lifetime of giving to others," Apter said. "Noam was always busy with volunteer projects and helping the needy." He chose to save lives as opposed to killing. Noam, who regularly volunteered with youth who were disabled enjoyed spending his free time getting together with them as well as giving talks to their counselors about the nature of giving and loving. Noam was and will always be a hero, role model, and inspiration to the entire Jewish people.

LEADER TIP: As hard as it is, can you imagine making split second decisions like Noam did? Can anyone be a hero like Noam? How?

TEFILLAH TREASURES

Shemoneh Esrei: Hashiveinu Avinu

In this bracha, we ask Hashem to help us return to His ways as all of us have, in one way or another, drifted away from our responsibilities. The word teshuvah, commonly translated as repentance, more literally means a return. We ask Hashem to bring us closer to Him but whether or not we return completely is up to us. People have free will and Hashem does not force us to be close to Him but if we make the tiniest effort, Hashem will carry us in the proper direction. In this bracha, we refer to Hashem as “our Father,” something only done in two of the nineteen other brachot, the other is the bracha for forgiveness, which comes next. That is because in regard to asking Hashem to bring us closer to him and asking him for forgiveness, we need a Father’s compassion for His children. If a child goes away from home, he is always welcomed back by his parents. Similarly, if we away from Hashem, we shouldn’t be afraid to return since He will surely welcome us back. The end of the bracha hints to this also, since it doesn’t say that Hashem accepts our return to Him but that He really really wants it. The teshuvah we ask for in this bracha is a “teshuvah shelaimah” – a “complete repentance.” The reason for this difference is because there are different levels of repentance. We can stop doing bad deeds because we’re afraid of the consequences. That’s a level of accomplishment and it should not be sold short, but there’s a much higher type of repentance. We can do what Hashem wants us to do simply because we know Hashem loves us and it is the right things to do. This is the selfless level we try to reach and we ask Hashem to help us every step of the way to get there. We end this bracha by asking for “teshuvah sheleima”, a complete perfect repentance. Is there any other kind of teshuvah besides a perfect teshuvah? Is anything less than a perfect teshuvah acceptable? The following parable from the Chofetz Chaim provides the answer: A merchant, who regularly did business with a certain supplier, made several large orders for goods but was unable to pay. When he again made a large order, the supplier decided he had had enough. He told the merchant, “No payment, and no goods. How can I trust you?” The merchant decided to attempt to win back the supplier’s trust by ordering a small shipment and immediately paying for it with cash. He reasoned that by selling the small amount of goods, he would earn the cash to order and pay for more goods, thereby regaining the supplier’s trust once again. Over time, he was able to repay his debt to the supplier and eventually rebuild his business. Oftentimes we decide to change our ways and to return completely to Hashem. However, similar to the merchant, we often find ourselves short of the task. How then do we go about winning Hashem’s trust? Says the Chofetz Chaim, just as the merchant realized that he did not have to pay his debt all at once to win the supplier’s confidence, we too can return to Hashem by changing our behavior in small, doable ways. In this way, we can regain Hashem’s trust.

LEADER TIP: What small steps can we take to bring ourselves closer to Hashem?



PARSHA NATION



Teen Minyan Kol Haniarim

This Week in Jewish History

Tenth of Tevet 3336 (425 BCE)

Asara b'Tevet



On the 10th day of the month of Tevet, in the year 3336 from Creation (425 BCE), the armies of

the Babylonian emperor Nevuchadnezzar circled the walls of Yerushalayim. Thirty months later—on 9 Tammuz 3338—the city walls were breached, and on 9 Av of that year the Beit Hamikdash was destroyed. The Jewish people were exiled to Bavel for 70 years. The 10th of Tevet is observed as a day of fasting, mourning and repentance. We refrain from food and drink from daybreak to nightfall, and add selichot and other special additions to our davening. The fast ends at nightfall or as soon as you see three medium sized stars in the sky. More recently, 10 Tevet was chosen to also serve as a “general kaddish day” for the victims of the Holocaust, many of whose day of death is unknown.

December 29, 1901

Establishment of the JNF

The Jewish National Fund (Hebrew: Keren Kayemet LeYisrael) was founded in 1901 to buy and develop land in Israel for Jewish settlement. By 2006, it owned 14% of the total land



Your Voice in Israel

in Israel. The JNF was founded at the Fifth Zionist Congress in Basel upon an earlier suggestion by Zvi Hermann Schapira to create an organization to buy and develop land in Palestine for Jewish settlement. The JNF received its first parcel of land, 200 Turkish dunams (18 hectares) east of Hadera, as a 1903 gift from the Russian Zionist leader Issac Leib Goldberg of Vilnius. It became an olive grove. In 1904 and 1905, the JNF purchased land plots near the Sea of Galilee and at Ben Shemen. In 1921, JNF land holdings reached 25,000 acres (100 km²), rising to 50,000 acres (200 km²) by 1927. At the end of 1935, JNF held 89,500 acres (362 km²) of land housing 108 Jewish communities. In 1939, 10% of the Jewish population of the British Mandate of Palestine lived on JNF land. JNF holdings by the end of the British Mandate period amounted to 936 km². From the beginning, JNF's policy was to lease land long-term rather than sell it.

FIND...

- Hamalach Hagoel
- Yesimcha
- Menashe
- Efraim
- Blessings
- Yaakov
- Tribes
- Promises

STAT LINE OF THE WEEK- VAYECHI

12th of 54 sedras;

12 of 12 in Bereishit

Written on 148.33 lines in a Torah, ranks 45

12 parshiot, 7 open and 5 closed

In addition, the first part of the sedra is the end of the previous parsha from Vayigash.

Vayechi is the only sedra that does not begin at a parsha break.

85 pesukim – ranks 44th (12th in Bereishit)

1158 words – ranks 44th (12th in Bereishit)

4448 letters – ranks 43rd (12th in Bereishit)

MITZVOT

None of the 613 mitzvot are found in Vayechi

TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHO APPOINTS JUSTICES TO THE ISRAELI SUPREME COURT?

Email your answers to SAMMYS@YOUNGISRAEL.ORG along with your **NAME** and **AGE** for a chance to win **AWESOME PRIZES!** Each correct answer will enter your name into a raffle that will happen once a month. Behatzlacha!

THIS JUST IN!

- **At latitude 60 degrees south you can sail all the way around the world.**
- **The zorilla is the smelliest animal on the planet. It's anal glands can be smelled from half a mile away.**
- **The first bomb the Allies dropped on Berlin in WWII killed the only elephant in the Berlin Zoo.**
- **A dragonfly has a lifespan of 24 hours.**
- **99% of the solar system mass is concentrated in the sun.**

For more info please feel free to contact us at sammys@youngisrael.org

Parsha Points to Ponder...

After Yosef and his brothers buried Yaakov in Me'arat Hamachpelah they all returned to Egypt. Suddenly Yosef's brothers feared that now that Yaakov was no longer alive, Yosef will take revenge upon them for selling him as a slave. They, therefore, approached him and told him that their father had instructed them to go to Yosef and tell him that he was to forgive them for what they had done to him. According to the Midrash Tanchuma (at the very end of Bereishit) what brought on this fear was the fact that when returning from the burial Yosef took a detour and went to visit the pit into which his brothers had cast him. He had gone to make the Berachah one recites at a place where a miracle happened to him. The brothers thought he went there to rekindle his anger against them. The difference in approach that Yosef and his brothers had to the same place is very striking. Normally a person would fear to return to a site where he suffered a great calamity. Yosef's approach was not of fear but of thankfulness to Hashem. What could have been a great disaster ended up a great advantage. Yosef thus went to thank Hashem at that spot. For the brothers this pit represented an evil act on their part. They were afraid to revisit the site. They could not understand Yosef's willingness and eagerness to return there. They came to the conclusion that he was gathering strength to punish them for their deed.

U Z O X Y W J I A V Q P U P
Y M I V X Q W H E F B L K H
A I V E M F C H S Z J L S R
A A N Q Y M S N X L G J T A
K R P P I A B L D Y R I V O
O F V S N B L E S S I N G S
V E E E Y R P R O M I S E S
Z Y M V B C A U K I R R T L
H B K P M N R N V U V T D T
I P F L I L Q K T W D F S J
H A M A L A C H H A G O E L
B M R V Z O M S E B I R T O
Y H M W A R O Y S L L M P G
Q V E U Q I O B O X K L O W

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