

Parasha Thinking



- 1) How do you think Ya'akov felt, running away from Esav?
- 2) Imagine you were Rachel. How would you feel, sharing your secret signs with Leah?
- 3) How does the word, animal, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

Ya'akov (Jacob) left his town called Be'er-sheva because Esav (Esau) wanted to harm him, and headed towards Charan. On the way, he stops on a mountain and arranged twelve rocks to protect him from wild animals, whilst he slept. He had a dream of malachim (angels) going up the ladder and different malachim coming down the ladder. Those that were climbing up had been protecting him in the land of Cena'an (now Israel) and those that were coming down, would protect him once he passed the borders of Israel and goes to Charan. Hashem (G-d) appeared and promised that the land where he was resting, will be given to his descendants. In the morning, Ya'akov woke up and lifted one of the rocks, and made it holy, promising that the Beit HaMikdash (Jewish Temple) will be built there.

Ya'akov stayed with his uncle, Lavan (Laban). He offered to work for Lavan and shepherded for him. Lavan saw Ya'akov's success and expertise and offered to pay him, in order to keep him and ensure the expansion and good quality of his flock. Ya'akov didn't want money, he asked to marry Lavan's youngest daughter, Rachel. Lavan agreed to give him his younger daughter, Rachel, as a wife, in return for seven years of work. Knowing that Lavan was a trickster, Rachel and Ya'akov agreed on three secret signs, that they would share with each other at the wedding, in case he switched the bride. On the wedding day, Lavan gave his older daughter, Leah, the wedding dress and veil. Rachel saw what was happening and even though she was full of grief, she did not want her sister to get embarrassed and she shared the secret signs with her. Lavan deceived Ya'akov into marrying Leah and Ya'akov only discovered that it was her, in the morning. In those days, men were allowed more than one wife and Ya'akov married Rachel, seven days later, after agreeing to work for Lavan for another seven years.

Leah has six sons; Reuven (Reuben), Shimon (Simeon), Levi, Yehuda (Judah), Yisachar (Issachar) and Zevulun (Zebulun), and a daughter called Dina. Sadly, Rachel was childless. Rachel gave Ya'akov her maid, Bilhah, as a wife, to have children instead of her, and two more sons, Dan and Naphtali, were born. Leah also gave her maid (Zilpa) to Ya'akov and she gave birth to Gad and Asher. Rachel's prayers were answered and she gave birth to Yosef (Joseph).

Ya'akov lived in Charan for 14 years, and was ready to return home but Lavan convinced him to stay, and offered him sheep, for all his hard work. Even though Lavan tried to swindle him out of the promised sheep, Ya'akov prospered greatly. After six more years, Ya'akov left Charan secretly, as he was afraid that Lavan would stop him and his family. When Lavan awoke, he chased after Ya'akov but Hashem warned him that he mustn't harm him. Lavan and Ya'akov made a pact on Mt Gal-Ed, and Ya'akov returned to Cena'an.

Discovery

Did you know that on his way to Charan, Ya'akov stopped for 14 years at a Yeshiva (place of Torah learning) and wasn't scared that Esav would find him, as he knew Esav wouldn't enter there.

Did you know that the mountain where Ya'akov slept was Har HaMoriya – where the Beit HaMikdash was built. The kotel is on Har HaMoriya.

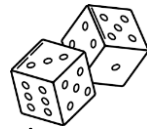
Did you know that Leah's veil was so thick that her face couldn't be seen and she kept it on for the entire wedding. That's a second reason why she wasn't discovered.



Who has done something special for you this week and what did they do? (If they are present, go up to them and say thank you!)

Games

1) Off your chairs – parasha quiz



All children are in the middle, sitting on a chair. There are two competing team players – one for Team A and one for Team B. The children’s service leader asks a child in the middle a question based on the Parasha summary. If they get it right, they pick up their chair and join team A. If they get it wrong, they pick up their chair, give it to team B and come and stand back in the middle. Next, the children’s service leader asks a different child in the middle a question based on the Parasha summary. If they get it right, they pick up their chair and join team B. If they get it wrong, they have to give their chair to team A and come and stand back in the middle. Teams get 2 points for every person and one point for every chair. The winning team is the one with the most points.

2) Answer the previous person’s question

Link: Lavan would trick people and try to convince them he wasn’t tricking them at all.

Everyone sits in a circle and the leader asks the first person how old are you? They don’t answer. The next person is asked how many arms do you have and they have to answer the previous person’s question (11). How old is your teacher? What is your favourite colour? What did you have for Shabbat dinner last night? What colour is milk? How many people sit at your table at school? Where are you going after shul? Where does King Charles Live? What’s the most undercover place in London? Stop there or carry on with your own questions.

3) Mazal Tooooooooooooooooooooooov

Link: When Jewish people get married we wish them Mazal Tov.

Each person is timed saying Mazal Tooooooooooooooooooooooov. The person who can keep it going for the longest, wins.

Story



(One of the children can read this out loud – encourage them to use expression.)

“DARE!” squealed Noah but when he found out what he had to do, he shouted, “No way, that’s so embarrassing,” and he blushed. “DO IT, DO IT, DO IT!” teased Barry, Seb and Martin. “You might think it’s some big joke but I’m the one that has to endure the embarrassment. Nope! No way!” he cried.

Martin looked at Noah and mocked in a really mean tone, “too much of a baby, are you?” Noah responded, “if you think it’s so grown up to wear a green curly wig to school for an entire day, why don’t YOU do it?”

Martin laughed it off and said, “Me? Ha, ha, no way, I can’t, um, I have football um training and then um swimming – can’t swim with a green wig on, can I?” “Oh but why ever not? – is it too embarrassing?” Noah scorned.

Martin looked at Seb and declared, “Seb should wear it, he’d actually suit it!” Seb said, “Give over, I’m making a speech in assembly about the new school pond – I’d be a laughing stock!” “Oh, so you’d also find it embarrassing, would you?” Noah criticised.

Seb looked down and thought for a moment. “Barry, Bazza, youuuuu should wear it! Someone has to!” Barry looked at his friends and softly said, “Why are we doing this to each other? – We’re friends. We shouldn’t try to embarrass anyone at all, especially our mates. No one should wear the wig. No one has to keep that dare. Let’s just be good to each other.” The four friends never forgot how important it was not to embarrass anyone & even when they left primary and went to high school, they were best friends.

1) What can we learn from this story?

2) Have you ever saved someone from embarrassment?

3) In your opinion, should criminals be spoken about on the news or saved from embarrassment by not featuring them on the news?