

Remote Youth Groups!!!

Parshas Vayeishev
November 27th 2021
23 Kisleiv 5782

Tefillah Explanation - Brachos

When we say brachos in the morning, we are thanking Hashem for the amazing things he has given us: the ability to think, being a Jew, having various levels of Mitzvah obligation, are just some of them.

Look through the various blessings, and try to figure out what they are thanking G-d for.

We are also taught that the blessings are said in order of importance, i.e. the ability to think is the first one and rated higher than being a Jew, etc.. See if you think these are as important to you as our prayers have established.

Parsha Summary and Discussion

Yaakov is now 100 years old, he decides to stay in Hebron with his twelve sons. He loves his son Yosef more than his other sons and so he gives him a special many-colored coat as a gift. Yosef's brothers are jealous of him. Yosef then tells his brothers about two dreams that he has in which he rules over them, and this gets them even more upset at him.

Discuss- Jealousy – what is the source of jealousy? How can we avoid it? The brothers go to fields near Shechem to bring their sheep to the pastures there.

Yosef stays behind to keep Yaakov company but, after a bit, Yaakov sends him his brothers to see how they are doing. Shimon and Levi decide to kill Yosef but Reuben convinces them not to; he suggests rather that they throw Yosef into a pit, thinking he'll go back and save him from the pit later. Reuben then goes back home to Yaakov because it is his turn to take care of him, and while he's away Judah sells Yosef to a caravan of Ishmaelites. When Reuben finds out that Yosef was sold, he is very upset.

Discuss- Why did Reuben take responsibility to save Yosef? (because he was the oldest brother) What are the responsibilities of the oldest child?

The brothers then deceive their father Yaakov, by dipping Yosef's special coat into the blood of a goat, which is similar to the blood of a person, so Yaakov thinks that Yosef was killed by a wild animal. Yaakov tears his clothing in mourning as he mourns Yosef and no one is able to comfort him. The Ishmaelites then sell Yosef to Medianites who take him to Egypt and sell him to Potiphar, a minister of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

Yosef is blessed by G-d: he is well liked by everyone and everything he does is successful. He is soon put in charge of running Potiphar's house. One day though, Potiphar's wife lies, saying that Yosef tried to hurt her. So Yosef is sent to prison, and even in prison people are impressed with Yosef, with his attitude and his way of talking to others. He becomes an important person in the prison and becomes in charge of the other prisoners there.

Discuss – What made it that other people liked Yosef? What are attributes that are likable in a person? Why do you like your friends? Why do your friends like you? (What are good middos that are likable)

At one point Yosef meets two important people in prison: Pharaoh's chief butler who was in charge of the wine and the chief baker who was in charge of the bread baked for Pharaoh. They both have dreams which they cannot understand, and Yosef is able to explain the dreams. He tells them that in three days the butler will be freed from prison and that the baker will be hanged. Yosef asks the butler to ask Pharaoh to free him once he himself is freed. Indeed, Yosef's dream interpretation's come to pass--the chief butler is freed and the chief baker is killed. But the butler forgets about Yosef and Yosef continues to languish in prison.

Mitzvah of the week

Kibbud Av Veam

Yosef listened to his father to go and check on his brothers even though he knew that they disliked him. It is a positive commandment to honor your parents and fear them. In fact, this is one of the ten commandments. We honor our parents by serving them food and drink and we fear them by not sitting in their seat, by standing up when they walk in the room, by not contradicting their words. The reward for honoring parents is written in the Torah – one will merit a long life if they properly honor their parents.

Parsha Questions

Q: Which son did Yaakov like the best?

A: Yosef

Q: What did Yaakov give to Yosef?

A: A coat of many colors

Q: What did Yosef tell his brothers that made them more upset with him?

A: About his two dreams

Q: What did Yaakov ask Yosef to do?

A: Check on his brothers near Shechem

Q: What did Shimon and Levi want to do?

A: Kill Yosef

Q: What did Reuven suggest to do?

A: to sell Yosef

Q: How did the brothers trick Yaakov?

A: They dipped the coat into blood of a goat to trick him into thinking that Yosef was killed by an animal

Q: Where did Yosef end up being sent to?

A: Egypt

Q: What happened to Yosef in Egypt?

A: He was accused of hurting the wife of Potiphar and put in prison

Q: Who did Yosef meet in prison?

A: The butler and the baker

Q: What did Yosef do for them?

A: He interpreted their dreams

Q: What did Yosef ask from the butler?

A: to ask Pharaoh to free him

Q: Did the butler ask Pharaoh?

A: No, he forgot

Harder Questions:

1. "*These are the offspring of Yaakov: Yosef....*" Give three reasons why Yosef is considered Yaakov's main offspring.
37:2 - (a) Yosef was the son of Rachel, Yaakov's primary wife. (b) Yosef looked like Yaakov. (c) All that befell Yaakov befell Yosef.
2. What was praiseworthy about the fact that Yosef's brothers did not speak to him in a friendly manner?
37:4 - They did not act hypocritically.
3. How do we see from Yosef's dream about the sun, moon and stars that all dreams contain some untrue element?
37:10 - The moon represented Rachel. Since she had already died, it was impossible for that element of the dream to come true.
4. Who brought Yosef down to Egypt?
37:28 - A caravan of Midianites.
5. Where was Reuven when Yosef was sold?
37:29 - He was attending to Yaakov.
6. In addition to the brothers, who else knew that Yosef was alive?
37:33 - Yitzchak.
7. Why didn't G-d reveal prophetically to Yaakov that Yosef was alive?
37:33 - Because the brothers had issued a ban against revealing the truth to Yaakov, and G-d, so to speak, abided by their ban.
8. For how long did Yaakov mourn the loss of Yosef?
37:34 - Twenty-two years.
9. Verse 37:35 states "his father wept." To whom does this refer?
37:35 - Yitzchak, who wept because of Yaakov's suffering.
10. Who was Tamar's father?
38:24 - Shem.
11. In what merit did Tamar deserve to have kings as her descendants?
38:26 - In the merit of her modesty.
12. Why is the word "*hand* " mentioned four times in connection to the birth of Zerach?
38:30 - To allude to his descendent, Achan, who sinned with his hand by taking four things from the spoils of Jericho.
13. Why does the Torah relate the incident with Potiphar's wife immediately after the incident of Yehuda and Tamar?

39:1 - To teach us that just as Tamar acted with pure motives, so did Potiphar's wife.

14. How did Potiphar "see" that G-d was with Yosef?

39:3 - Yosef mentioned G-d's name frequently in his speech.

15. Who in this week's Parsha pretended to be sick?

39:11 – Potiphar's wife.

16. Why were the butler and the baker imprisoned?

40:1 - The butler was imprisoned because a fly was found in the king's goblet, and the baker was imprisoned because a pebble was found in the king's bread.

17. For how long were the butler and the baker in prison?

40:4 - Twelve months.

18. How did the baker know that Yosef had correctly interpreted the butler's dream?

40:5 - The baker dreamed the interpretation of the butler's dream.

19. What prompted the butler and baker to tell Yosef their dreams?

40:6 - Yosef asked them why they looked troubled.

20. How was Yosef punished for asking the butler for help?

40:23 - He remained in prison an additional two years.

Good Shabbos!!!