

SOUTH HEAD YOUTH PARASHA SHEET

PARASHAT TOLDOT

Yitzchak and Rivka are married for twenty years. They love each other very much, however they are both very sad. They have been married for so long but have been unable to have any children! Both Yitzchak and Rivka daven to Hashem and ask Him to bless them with a child. Finally, after a very very long time, their prayers are answered and Rivka becomes pregnant. However, Rivka does not experience a very easy pregnancy. For months she walks around with a battle going on in here belly. Rivka just doesn't know what her child wants!



When she walks past a Shule or a Yeshiva there is a big kick in her belly, but that's not all! When Rivka walks past a place of idol worship the baby also kicks very hard! Rivka just doesn't know what's going on! Could it be that here child has a very mixed up personality? How could her child be kicking for both, a Shule and a place of idol worship? Well Rivka wastes no time and immediately goes to the local prophet of Hashem.

The prophet takes one look at Rivka, and in the name of Hashem tells her the news - there is good news and bad news! The good news is that Rivka is not just having one

baby, she is having two! Rivka is having twins! The bad news is that the twins are battling inside Rivka's belly between good and evil. One baby only wants to do good things. He wants to listen to Hashem and only do Torah and Mitzvot. However, the other baby is not so righteous. He does not want to follow Hashem's Torah and Mitzvot. Rivka is told that she will have to experience this war in her belly for the rest of her pregnancy! Well that's go to be quite painful!

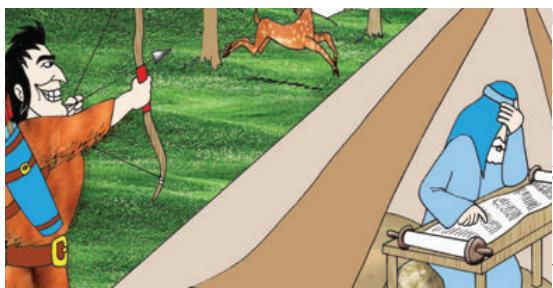
Finally Rivka gives birth to twin boys and boy oh boy are they different! In fact, these two brothers are complete opposites! The first son, Esav is born as hairy as a fur ball and his skin is completely red, like fire! The second son, Yakov, has skin as smooth as a baby's bottom! He is born with his hand wrapped around Esav's heel, which symoblizes the battle between good and evil which the two brothers will fight.

As Esav and Yakov grow up, they become even more opposite! Yakov is a very good and righteous man. He spends all of his time learning Torah. However, Esav is a hunter! He spends his time in the field running after animals. The trouble is that their father, Yitzchak does not know this. Yitzchak is blind and so he cannot see. He thinks that Esav is a very good boy because he always returns from the field with a very delicious meat platter for his father - this is great Kibud Av V'em (the Mitzvah to honour your parents). He does not know that Esav does not study Torah. However, Yitzchak's wife, Rivka realizes who Esav really is. She sees that Yakov is a great Torah scholar and loves him very much.



One day, Esav comes home from the field very hungry. He sees that Yakov has prepared a delicious lentil soup and demands that Yakov give him some at once. Now Yakov had made the lentil soup for his dear father Yitzchak. This is because it was the day of Avraham's funeral and it is customary for a mourner to drink lentil soup. Since Avraham was Yitzchak's father, Yakov made lentil soup for his father to drink. Now there was no way that Yakov was just going to give Esav the lentil soup for free. So Yakov thinks quickly and comes up with a plan. 'My dear Esav', he says, 'I will give you some of my delicious lentil soup, but only if you sell me your birthright'. Right now, Esav is so hungry that he is happy to give Yakov anything just to get some soup. So Yakov and Esav make the deal, Esav sells his birthright to Yakov and then Yakov takes the pot of lentils and pours it right down Esav's throat. Esav is so hungry and tired that he manages to eat the whole pot of lentils in just one very big gulp!

One day Rivka hears Yitzchak telling Esav to go to the field and to catch an animal so he can prepare a delicious



meal for Yitzchak. Yitzchak tells Esav that after he has finished eating the meal, he will give him lots of blessings. When Rivka hears this, she is determined that Yakov receive the Blessings and not Esav. She quickly cooks up two young goats and tells Yakov to give the food to his father. But Yakov is worried! Remember we said that Esav's skin was hairy and Yakov's was soft! If Yitzchak touches Yakov he will definitely know that he is not Esav! Then Rivka remembers that Esav had given her his fury coat. Rivka puts the coat on Yakov, gives him the meat and tells him to give it to

his father, Yitzchak. At first Yakov is worried, ‘what if Yitzchak realises that it is Yakov and not Esav giving him the food?!’ But Rivka tells Yakov not to worry.

Yakov enters Yitzchak’s room and says to his father, ‘Please rise and sit up, eat from my dish so that you may bless me’. Now although Yitzchak was blind, he was not deaf! He immediately realized that this is not Esav’s voice! Esav had a rough and growly voice, whereas Yakov had a very soft and sweet voice. So Yitzchak calls over Yakov and feels his skin. Now Yitzchak is really confused and he says, ‘the voice is the voice of Yakov, but the hands are the hands of Esav!’ Yitzchak is quite confused. Nevertheless, he eats the meal and then blesses Yakov (thinking that he is blessing Esav). Yitzchak blesses Yakov that Hashem should grant him wealth. He also tells Yakov that he will rule over Esav. He promises Yakov that Hashem’s promise to Avraham that the Jewish people will be as many as the stars and that the Jewish people will inherit the land of Israel, will all continue through Yakov.



When Yitzchak finishes blessing Yakov, Yakov thanks his father and quickly runs out of his father’s tent. As he leaves, Esav enters the tent and in a very growly voice shouts, ‘Hi dad, here’s your food. Now give me my blessings!’ Yitzchak replies, ‘my dear Esav, I have already given you your blessings!’ Immediately Esav realizes that he has been tricked and that Yakov has stolen his blessings. Now Esav is not a very happy champ. Esav is furious with Yakov. He storms out of Yitzchak’s tent and goes to find Yakov. Meanwhile Yakov has already escaped and is running to his uncle Lavan in Charan in order to keep safe from his brother.

Mission of the week: Say the prayer Modeh Ani in the morning when you wake up. Let your first words be words of thanks to Hashem!

PARASHA QUESTIONS:

- What is the name of this week’s Parasha?

The name of this week’s Parasha is Parashat Toldot.

- Why are Yitzchak and Rivka very sad?

Yitzchak and Rivka are sad because they have been married for 20 years and have not had any children

- Why does Rivka have a very hard pregnancy?

Rivka has a very hard pregnancy because there is a constant battle in her belly. Whenever she passes a Shule or a Yeshiva, the baby kicks and whenever she passes a place of idol worship, the baby kicks!
Rivka is worried that her child likes good and evil.

- What do the baby boys look like when they are born?

Esav is very hairy, like a fur ball and his skin is red like fire. Yakov however has very smooth skin.

- When Yakov is born, what is he holding? Why?

When Yakov is born, his hand is wrapped around Esav’s heel. This symbolizes that battle of good and evil which the two brothers will have to fight.

- How do we see that Yakov and Esav were very opposite brothers?

We see that Yakov and Esav were opposites because Yakov would spend his time learning Torah and doing Hashem’s Mitzvot, whereas Esav would spend his time hunting in the field. He was not interested in learning Hashem’s Torah or doing His Mitzvot.

- What does Esav do when he finds out Yakov received the blessing? What does Yakov do?

When Esav hears that Yakov received the blessing he is furious and runs to find him. Yakov knows that Esav is angry with him and wants to fight him, so he runs away to his uncle Lavan in Charan.

It was great seeing you in Shule!

We Hope you enjoy reading this Parsha Sheet and quizzing your family!

Shabbat Shalom from Brookie and the South Head Youth Crew

