



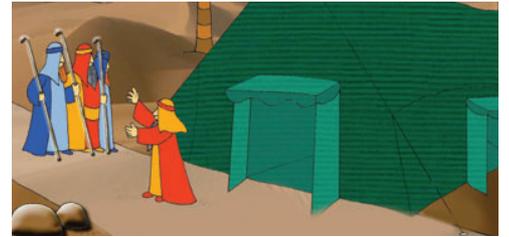
SOUTH HEAD YOUTH PARASHA SHEET



PARASHAT VAYEIRA

In this week's Parsha, Hashem commands Avraham to have a Brit. Avraham is already an old man! He is 99 years old! Usually, all Jewish boys have a Brit when they are small babies, only 8 days old. Nevertheless, Avraham prepares himself and all the men in his family to have a Brit Milah.

After his Brit, Avraham is in a lot of pain, but he does not complain. Instead, he runs to his tent ready to greet any passing travelers who might need a bed to rest on or some food to eat. Remember last week how we said that Avraham had such tremendous Hachnasat Orchim that he had an entrance on every side of the tent so that all travelers, no matter in which direction they were traveling could have a place to rest? Well even though Avraham is in a lot of pain, he is constantly on the look out for any guests who may want to rest or eat some food.



On the third day after his Brit, Avraham is in even more pain than he was before! The pain is excruciating! Hashem feels bad for Avraham and does not want him to be disturbed by any guests. So Hashem makes the sun shine very brightly. It is so hot that no one can walk outside. It is like a blazing furnace! Avraham becomes very sad because he really wants to perform the Mitzvah of Hachnasat Orchim, but he realizes that no guests or travelers will come to his tent on such a hot day. So Hashem himself comes to visit Avraham. Can you imagine if Hashem himself came to visit you? Avraham really enjoys this visit, but he still yearns for real guests to come to his tent. So Hashem sends three Angels disguised as shepherds to come and visit Avraham. Avraham is so excited to see guests that he interrupts his conversation with Hashem in order to greet them. He immediately invites them in for a meal and gives them water to wash their feet. Sarah prepares a beautiful meal for the shepherds, however since they are really angels they cannot eat the food as angels can't eat. The angels do not want to make Sarah feel bad so they pretend to eat the food and make it disappear when Sarah and Avraham aren't looking.

Now, these three angels have a mission. Hashem had given them messages to give to Sarah and Avraham. The angel named Raphael was to take away the pain from the Brit and make Avraham feel better. The angel Michael tells Sarah and Avraham that in exactly one year they will have a baby boy! Sarah can't help but laugh! 'How can I have a baby?' she says, 'I am already 90 years old!'. The third angel, Gabriel is to destroy the bad city of Sodom because of their wickedness. Do you know that in Sodom, people were punished if they invited guests to their homes? If someone invited guests, the people would hurt him and beat him up and steal his money!



Avraham loves everybody, Jew or non-Jew. He doesn't want Hashem to destroy this city so he begs Hashem to forgive them. He tells Hashem that if he can't save the whole city, He should save all the righteous people. However, there is not one righteous person in the city of Sodom! Wow, if there's not even one righteous person there, it's gotta be a pretty wicked city! But wait, there is a righteous person living in Sodom. There is just one righteous person! It is Avraham's nephew, Lot. He is a very righteous man. He disobeys the rules of the town. He goes out of his way to be nice to people and to invite guests to his home. But Hashem still cannot let the city survive. So Hashem destroys the whole city except Lot and his daughters. You're probably

thinking, well what about Lot's wife? Well Hashem did plan on saving her, but she didn't listen to Hashem's rules! Before destroying the city, the angels told Lot and his family that they are not allowed to watch the destruction of Sodom. Instead, they must face their backs towards the city so they cannot see the pain all the people experience during the destruction. Lot's wife however, did not listen. She turned around and

watched the destruction of Sedom. As a punishment, Hashem turned her into a pillar of salt!! In fact, the pillar of salt into which she turned is part of the salt in the dead sea in Israel!

Exactly one year later, a miracle occurs! Angel Michael's message from Hashem is fulfilled and Sarah gives birth to a gorgeous baby boy. The baby has a Brit Milah at only 8 days old and is named Yitzchak. Now there's a problem... many people do not believe that Yitzchak is actually Sarah's baby. After all, how is it possible for a 90 year old woman to have a baby?!? Hashem does not want people to make rumours about Sarah so He makes a few miracles to prove to the world that Yitzchak is in fact Avraham and Sarah's baby. Firstly, Sarah has so much milk that not only is she able to feed Yitzchak with her milk, but she's able to feed lots of other babies too! Another miracle is that Hashem makes Yitzchak look exactly like Avraham. Now there's no way that people can say that Yitzchak is not Avraham and Sarah's birth child!

When Yitzchak is 37 years old Hashem commands Avraham to sacrifice Issac on Mount Moriah. You could think that this is totally ridiculous! Avraham waits 99 years to have a child and then Hashem commands him to sacrifice this child! But Avraham doesn't wait around. He does exactly what Hashem wants. But wait! How can he tell Sarah that he is about to sacrifice their only child? So Avraham decides to take Yitzchak without telling Sarah. As they arrive to Mount Moriah, Avraham tells Yitzchak that he is the sacrifice and Yitzchak takes this news in stride! He obeys his fathers words and climbs up onto the altar ready to be sacrificed.

As Avraham lifts his knife to begin the sacrifice, an angel calls out from heaven, 'Avraham, Avraham, don't hurt Yitzchak!' But Avraham is so eager to perform this Mitzvah that he doesn't hear the angel and the angel has to come down and stop Avraham with force. Avraham is happy that he doesn't have to sacrifice his son, but he is sad because he wants to offer a sacrifice to Hashem. So Hashem causes a ram's horn to become entangled in a nearby tree. Avraham takes the ram and offers it as a sacrifice to Hashem



Hashem tells Avraham that this was a test which he passed with flying colours! This location at which Avraham was about to sacrifice Yitzchak becomes a very holy place - it is the place where the Beit Hamikdash is built many years later!

Mission of the week: (1) Boys - Find out the Hebrew name that you were given at your Brit. (2) Girls - Find out the Hebrew name that you were given at the Torah. (3) Boys & Girls, tell your parents and family that you want them to only call you by your Jewish name for one whole day!

PARASHA QUESTIONS:

1. What is the name of this weeks Parasha?
This weeks Parasha is called Parashat Vayeira.
2. How old is Avraham when he has his Brit Milah?
Avraham is 90 years old at the time of his Brit Milah.
3. Which very special person comes to visit Avraham?
Avraham is visited by many special people. The most important and most special is Hashem. Avraham is also visited by three holy angels.
4. What miracle occurs when Sarah is 90 years old?
When Sarah is 90 years old, she and Avraham are blessed with a child whom they name Yitzchak.
5. How does Hashem test Avraham? Does Avraham pass the test?
Hashem tests Avraham by telling him to take Yitzchak and offer him as a sacrifice on Mount Moriah. Avraham passes the test with flying colours!

**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

