

South Head Youth Parasha Sheet

PARASHAT MIKEITZ

Pharaoh awakes in the middle of the night from a terrible dream! He dreams that he is standing at the edge of the Nile river, when seven fat cows come running out of the river.

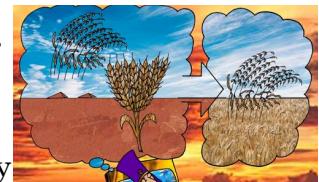


Sneaking up behind the seven fat cows, are seven very skinny cows. Suddenly, with no warning at all, the seven skinny cows open their mouths up wide and eat up the seven fat cows in just one big gulp! Now you would expect these skinny cows to be satisfied after eating such a big meal. But this is not so. Something strange happens. After eating

the fat cows, the skinny cows remain just as skinny as they were before they ate the fat cows. There is no sign at all that they each just ate a super big meal.

Pharaoh wakes up with a fright! What on earth can such a dream mean? He is about to call his advisors to explain the dream to him when he falls back into yet another deep sleep. It is not long before Pharaoh is once again woken by another frightening dream. This time he dreams that there are seven fat ears of grain sprouting out of a single stalk. Each kernel on these ears is so full that they are about to burst! Suddenly Pharaoh notices seven very skinny stalks of grain. Before Pharaoh even has a chance to blink his eyes, the seven skinny stalks eat up the seven fat stalks. And once again something very strange happens. The seven skinny stalks remain just as skinny, if not skinnier, than they were before they ate the seven fat stalks.

Pharaoh's eyes are opened wide with fear! What could these dreams possibly mean? Pharaoh is so disturbed that he cannot wait until the morning for his dreams to be interpreted. Pharaoh wants to know the meaning of his dreams and he wants to know the meaning right now! He quickly sends for all his advisors and ministers and they all come running to see why Pharaoh is calling for them in the middle of the night. What could be so urgent that it can't wait until the morning? Pharaoh tells them all his dreams and demands an explanation. Immediately, they all begin to say what they believe the dreams mean. The first advisor says, 'My dear Pharaoh, the dream means that you will have seven daughters but they'll all die'. Pharaoh is not happy with this interpretation so he turns to his second advisor. 'My Majesty', he says, 'you'll conquer seven countries but they will all rebel against you'.



Pharaoh is very unhappy with these explanations. His advisors continue to interpret his dreams, but the more they try, the wackier the interpretations become. Just as Pharaoh is about to give up, the butler remembers Yosef the dream interpreter from the jail. Immediately, he tells Pharaoh that there is a man in jail named Yosef, who knows how to interpret dreams. Pharaoh sends for Yosef at once. When Yosef hears Pharaoh's dreams, he begins to tell him what they mean. But before that, Yosef makes sure to tell Pharaoh that Hashem, the One and only True G-d, is the One who told him what the dreams mean. Yosef then goes on to say the meaning of the dreams. 'My dear Pharaoh', he says, 'for seven years,



Egypt will have plenty of food. In fact it will have more food than it has ever had, but at the end of the seven years there will be a famine. The famine will be so great that no one will remember the seven years of plenty in which there was an abundance of food'. Pharaoh is quite frightened! What will he do about the famine? How can he stop it?

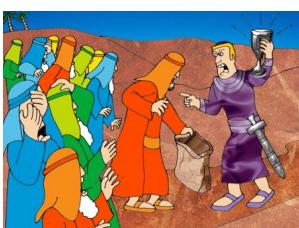
Lucky for Pharaoh, Yosef is a very wise man. 'Pharaoh', he says, 'if you store food during the seven years of plenty, and save it for the seven years of famine, we will have plenty of food

and no one will go hungry'. 'This man is a genius!' Pharaoh exclaims. Pharaoh removes his ring from his finger and places it on Yosef's finger. He then commands his servants to dress Yosef in the finest clothing, suitable for a king. In front of his whole palace, Pharaoh announces, 'Yosef is now my viceroy. He is second in command. Everyone must honour him and respect him'! While Yosef is viceroy, he marries a very fine young woman. Yosef's wife gives birth to two baby boys. They name one Ephraim and the other Menashe.



It is not long before Yosef's interpretations become true! There are seven years of plenty which are then followed by seven years of famine. No one in any part of the world has food, except Yosef who had stored food in Egypt. So everyone makes their way down to the country of Egypt to buy some food. Yosef realizes that if the entire world is tied up in this famine, his brothers are bound to travel down to Egypt to buy some food too.

When Yosef's brothers finally come down to Egypt to purchase food, Yosef immediately recognises them, but they do not recognise him. As the brothers approach Yosef, they bow down to him. Now Yosef's dream about his brothers bowing down to him is becoming true! But Yosef notices that something is wrong. His brother Binyamin is not here. Yosef wants to see if his brothers are truly sorry for selling him, so without revealing his true identity,



Yosef questions his brothers and then accuses them of being spies. He throws them into jail and sets them free after three days. He warns his brothers that the next time they come to buy grain, they'd better bring their brother Binyamin with them. To ensure that the brothers come back with Binyamin, Yosef holds Shimon hostage.

The brothers are distraught. They do not know what to do. When they arrive home and tell Yakov what happened in Egypt. Yakov is very upset. He does not want to send his son Binyamin to Egypt. Yakov just cannot risk losing both of Rachel's sons. But Yakov knows he has no choice. The only way he will be able to see Shimon again, is if he sends Binyamin down to Egypt and so he agrees.

When the brothers arrive they all bow down to Yosef. Still without giving away his true identity, Yosef asks the brothers how their father is. He then turns to Binyamin and has a conversation with him and finds out that Binyamin has truly missed his brother. Yosef then invites all of his brothers over for dinner. As they are eating dinner, Yosef commands his son Menashe to fill up his brothers' sacks with grain. He also tells him to hide his very special silver goblet in Binyamin's sack.

When the brothers are half way back to Israel, Menashe comes running after them with a troop of Egyptian soldiers. They accuse the brothers of stealing Yosef's goblet and when the brothers insist that they are innocent, the Egyptian soldiers insist that they search the brothers' bags. Sure enough, they find the silver goblet in Binyamin's sack. The brothers immediately tear their clothes in mourning. They realise that they have been framed and that Binyamin is in big trouble. Yosef tells his brothers that they are all free to go except for Binyamin. He must live his life as a slave in Egypt. Yehudah begs Yosef to take him as a slave instead, but Yosef refuses. They are afraid to return home to Yakov without their brother Binyamin. They have no idea what they are going to tell their father.

Mission of the week: Light the Menorah!

**It was great seeing you in Shule!
We hope you enjoy reading this Parasha Sheet and quizzing your family!
Shabbat Shalom and Chanukah Sameach from Brookie and the South Head Youth Crew**

