



SOUTH HEAD YOUTH PARASHA SHEET

PARASHAT VAYEITZEI



This week's Parasha begins with Yakov running away from his hometown and his family in Israel. Do you remember why Yakov has to run away? That's right! Yitzchak had promised Esav that if he prepared him a meal, then he would bless him. However, Yakov prepared a meal much faster than Esav. He then dressed up as Esav and served Yitzchak a delicious meal. Yitzchak thought that Yakov was really Esav and so he blessed him. When Esav found out that Yakov had received his blessings, he was furious! So Yakov had no choice but to run away from his hometown, the land of Israel, before Esav could hurt him.

Yakov's destination is his uncle Lavan in Charan. On his way he makes a short pit-stop, well not so short actually. Yakov stops at the Yeshiva of the prophets Shem and Ever and studies Torah for fourteen years! Once Yakov finishes his learning, he continues journeying to Charan. As he approaches the gates of Charan, Yakov realises that while he was traveling he passed a very important place and he had forgotten to stop there to pray! This holy place is Mount Moriah. This is the place where Avraham offered Yitzchak as a sacrifice to G-d. It is also the place where the holy Beit Hamikdash will be built in the future. Yakov decides that he must turn around and walk all the way back to Mount Moriah to pray to Hashem on this holy place.



Yakov arrives at Mount Moriah at sunset. He quickly prays the evening prayer and heads to bed, but there are no beds in sight! So Yakov places twelve rocks around his head as a pillow and goes to sleep. As Yakov falls asleep the rocks all begin to fight! They all want to be the special rock that the Tzaddik sleeps on, so Hashem makes a miracle and all the rocks turn into one giant rock! Now they all merited to have Yakov sleep on top of them!

As Yakov sleeps he dreams of a ladder which stretches all the way from the ground up to the sky! On the ladder there are lots of angels walking up the ladder and many angels walking down the ladder. The angels walking up the ladder are all the angels which protected Yakov when he was in Israel and all the angels coming down the ladder will protect Yakov when he is living in Charan with Lavan. Hashem also appears to Yakov in the dream and promises him that He will protect him. When Yakov wakes up he realizes that this place is even holier than he thought! 'I would never have slept here if I would have known how holy this place is', says Yakov.



Finally after a very long detour, Yakov arrives in the city of Charan. Yakov has no idea where to find his uncle, so he decides to go to the well and ask the people there. After all, the well was the place where people gathered to socialise. At the well, Yakov sees many shepherds and their sheep just hanging around the well. Yakov is surprised, 'why are the shepherds not giving their sheep water to drink?' he thought. Then Yakov looks at the well and he sees that there is a huge rock covering the well. The shepherds had placed a really large rock on top of the well that could only be removed with the combined effort of all the shepherds. As Yakov is speaking to the shepherds, Rachel arrives at the well. Yakov immediately lifts up the heavy stone and waters Rachel's sheep. The shepherds are amazed. Here, three of them were unable to lift up the stone with their combined strength, yet Yakov is able to lift the stone with just one hand! After watering the sheep, Yakov then tells Rachel that he is her cousin. Rachel immediately takes Yakov to meet her father.

Lavan gives Yakov the job of tending his sheep. Beforehand, Rachel was required to take care of the sheep because Lavan had no sons. But now that Yakov is here, Lavan hands over the shepherd job to him. Yakov takes the job graciously, but he tells Lavan that in return for tending his sheep for seven years, he wants permission to marry Rachel.

After seven long years of working, the wedding day finally arrives. Yakov is so happy that he will finally marry Rachel! But Lavan tricks him! You see Lavan had an older daughter named Leah and she was not married. Lavan did not want Rachel to get married before her older sister, so he marries Yakov to Leah instead! Since Leah was wearing a veil, Yakov did not realise that Lavan had switched his bride for Leah, until it was too late! When Yakov realised he was furious! 'I worked seven years to marry Rachel and you marry me to Leah?' Yakov says. 'I will allow you to marry Rachel if you work for me for another seven years,' replies Lavan. Yakov has no choice, but to work another seven



years. But there is no way that he will wait seven years to marry Rachel, so he marries her just one week later and then continues working for Lavan until the seven years are up.



Now that he is married, Yakov's family begins to grow. Leah gives birth to four boys: Reuven, Shimon, Levi and Yehudah. Yakov marries both Rachel and Leah's maidservants, (Bilha and Zilpah) and they both give birth to two boys each named, Dan, Naphtali, Gad and Asher. While Yakov is having children from these three wives, Rachel still does not have any children. Leah becomes pregnant three more times and has more children, two boys and one girl, Issachar, Zevulun and Dinah. Finally after a long time Rachel has a baby boy and names him Yosef. Later on Rachel has another baby boy named Binyamin.

Yakov has been away from his parents for a very long time and they have not met his family, so he decides to return to Israel. He knows that his father-in-law Lavan will not be very happy about his departure so he waits until one day when Lavan goes on a three day trip and then he quickly leaves with his whole family.

Unbeknownst to Yakov, Rachel decides to take away all of her father's idol worship too. She does not want her father to continue to serve idols. When Lavan returns home he is furious. Not only has Yakov fled with his whole family, but he has taken all of the idols too! Lavan runs after Yakov and finally manages to catch up to him. Lavan tells Yakov that someone has taken his idols. Yakov insists that no one took them. But Lavan knows that they are gone. He insists that he check the whole family to see who has taken his idols. He checks everyone but he does not find the idols. When he comes to Rachel, she tells her father that she has excruciating stomach pains. It is too painful for her to get off her donkey for him to check her belongings. Lavan allows her to stay on her donkey. However, he is furious that he has not found his idols. In order to prove to Lavan that no one in his family stole his idols, Yakov states, 'whoever took your stolen goods, shall die'. Yakov had no idea that his beloved Rachel was sitting right on top of the idols, for if he did, he would never have said such a thing.

Be sure to read next week's Parasha sheet to find out what happens next!

Mission of the week: Catch yourself before you laugh at someone or say something that will make him/her feel bad.

PARASHA QUESTIONS:

1. What is this weeks Parasha?

This weeks Parasha is Parashat Vayeitzei

2. Where is Yakov traveling to and why?

Yakov is traveling to his uncle Lavan in Charan. He is running away from home because Esav is furious with him for 'stealing' his blessings.

3. What holy place does Yakov pass and why does he decide to walk all the way back to this place?

Yakov passes the holy site of Mount Moriah. He decides to walk all the way back to this holy place because he had forgotten to stop there to pray. Mount Moriah is a very holy place, it's the place where Avraham sacrificed Yitzchak and the future site of the holy Beit Hamikdash. Yakov did not want to miss out on praying at such a holy place.

4. Why does Yakov work for Lavan for seven years?

Yakov works for Lavan for seven years in order to marry Lavan's daughter Rachel.

5. How long after marrying Leah does Yakov marry Rachel?

Yakov marries Rachel just one week after he marries Leah. However, he still has to work for Lavan for another seven years as payment for marrying Rachel.

It was great seeing you in Shule!

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

Shabbat Shalom from Brookie and the South Head Youth Crew

