



KMS Family Parsha

LEARN ABOUT THE PARSHA WITH THE KMS YOUTH DEPARTMENT
Compiled By Rabbi Aaron and Elisheva Levitt

וישב/חנוכה - VaYeshev/Chanukah
12.12.20

PARSHA QUESTIONS

ANSWERS ARE ON THE BACK

- 1) Who was Yaakov's favorite child? Why? What special gift did he give him?
- 2) Describe Yosef's 2 dreams.
- 3) What did the brothers want to do to Yosef at first? What plan did Reuven recommend to them instead? What plan did Yehudah recommend in the end?
- 4) According to Rashi (37:34) how many years did Yaakov not see Yosef? How is that number Middah Keneged Middah?
- 5) According to Rashi (39:3) how did Potifar know that Hashem was with Yosef?
- 6) How did Yosef interpret the dreams of the butler and the baker that he met in prison?
- 7) According to Rashi (40:23) how was Yosef punished for asking the butler for help?
- 8) What is the special reading of the Torah each day of Chanukah?
- 9) What is the debate about lighting candles between Hillel and Shammai about? Who do we follow?
- 10) Which do we light 1st on Friday: Neiroi Shabbat or Neiroi Chanukah? What about on Saturday night? Why?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Discussion starter for your Shabbat table..

**If you saw a
real miracle?**

DID YOU KNOW?

Chanukah vs. Purim

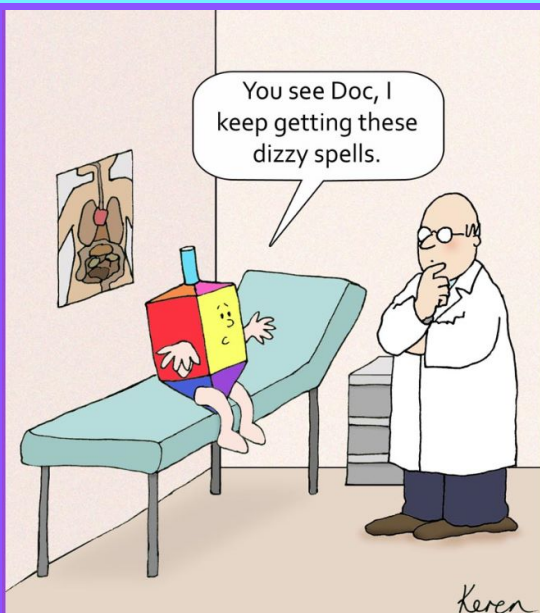
Chanukah and Purim are the 2 Rabbinic holidays. On each one we recite Al HaNissim.

Question: Which story happened 1st in history? [Answer below]

Question: Why on Chanukah do spin a Dreidel, which we hold from the top, but on Purim we swing a Gragger, which we hold from from the bottom?

The answer is that these 2 games represent the difference between the two miracles. On Purim, the miracle came about from "below." In the Purim story, the Jews fasted and prayed, while the miracle itself seemed to be hidden within events that unfolded within nature. On Chanukah, we don't really find that the Jews necessarily were "worthy." It was out of G-d's great mercy that He intervened from above with openly revealed miracles. Thus, on Purim, we swing the gragger from below and on Chanukah we spin the dreidel from above (Sefer Taamei Minhagim 859).

As to which holiday happened 1st: Many people mistakenly think that Chanukah happened 1st. This may be because Chanukah comes earlier in the Jewish calendar each year. But the truth is that the Purim story took place several hundred years earlier, in the period between the 1st and 2nd Beit HaMikdash (around 357 BCE). The Chanukah story, on the other hand, took place later during the period of Bayit Sheni (around 165 BCE).



PARSHA ANSWERS

- 1) Yosef was the firstborn of Yaakov's beloved wife Rachel who died. He gave him a special Ketonet Pasim, a coat of many colors.
- 2) In the 1st dream, all 11 of the brothers' stalks of wheat bowed to Yosef's stalk of wheat. In the 2nd dream the sun, moon, and 11 stars all bowed down to Yosef.
- 3) The brothers wanted to kill Yosef. Reuven convinced them to throw him in a pit. Ultimately, he was sold as a slave.
- 4) Yaakov's 22 years without seeing Yosef, correspond to the 20 years he spent with Lavan and 2 years travelling home until he finally could see his parents and perform Kibbud Av V'Em again.
- 5) Yosef mentioned Hashem often in his speech.
- 6) Yosef said that the butler would soon be set free and go back to work for Pharaoh, but the baker would be hung. Both came true!
- 7) Yosef remained in prison an additional two years. He should have relied instead on Hashem.
- 8) We read about the gifts of the Nesiim (heads of the 12 tribes) at the inauguration of the Mishkan (Bamidbar 7:1-8).
- 9) Shammai - start with 8 candles and subtract one each night. Hillel - start with 1 candle and add one each night. We follow Hillel.
- 10) On Erev Shabbat we light the Chanukiyah 1st because once we light Neirot Shabbat it would be forbidden to light other candles. On Motzaei Shabbat, in shul we light Chanukah candles 1st to ensure Pirsumei Nisa (publicizing the miracle) but at home we make Havdalah 1st since that is the more common mitzvah.

ELISHEVA'S PARSHA CHALLAH



IN THIS WEEK'S PARSHA YAAKOV GIVES HIS BELOVED SON YOSEF A SPECIAL GIFT OF A KETONET PASSIM –COAT OF MANY COLORS. TO SOME IT SEEMS LIKE FAVORITISM, WHILE TO OTHERS IT'S SIMPLY A GIFT OF LOVE. THE LESSON WE CAN THINK ABOUT IS NOT ABOUT FAVORITISM OR LOVE NECESSARILY BUT, AS YAAKOV DID, FINDING THE SPECIAL QUALITIES THAT EVERY CHILD POSSESSES. YAAKOV SAW SOMETHING SPECIAL IN YOSEF AND THEREFORE WANTED TO BOOST HIM SO THAT HE WOULD ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS. THE CHALLENGE IS HOW TO DO THE SAME FOR EVERY CHILD. FINDING EVERY CHILD'S UNIQUE QUALITIES IS SO IMPORTANT!

DVAR TORAH

Shayna Kagan - 12th Grade

Shabbat Shalom. In last week's Parsha we left off with Yaakov making his journey back to Mitzrayim. In this week's parsha, Parshat Vayeishev, it tells us the story of Yosef and his journey leading up to him getting thrown into jail. While imprisoned Yosef gets to know two of his jail mates. He creates very strong bonds with them. They had dreams and long story short they both asked him to interpret their dreams. Yosef interprets these dreams and finds out that one of the inmates, the cupbearer, or the modern day definition of a bartender, will be released in three days. Before the cupbearer (bartender) leaves, Yosef kindly asked the cupbearer (bartender) to mention him to Pharaoh, so that he can be released as well. As Yosef predicts, the cupbearer (bartender) was released but he did not remember Yosef.

The pasuk says וְלֹא־זָכַר שְׂרֵה־הַמִּשְׁקִים אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיִּשְׁכַּחְהוּ AND THE CUPBEARER DID NOT REMEMBER YOSEF AND HE FORGOT HIM. Rashi asks, why does it say he did not remember him and he forgot him. Why is there a double language? Yosef was relying on the bartender for causing his release when he should have had his faith in Hashem. What the pasuk is saying is that the Cupbearer did not remember him, and Hashem forgot Yosef, as a punishment. We can learn something from Yosef's mistakes here, that whenever we get held back by something we should always know that Hashem has our backs, and even in our lowest points we need to know that Hashem is still there for us. Shabbat Shalom!