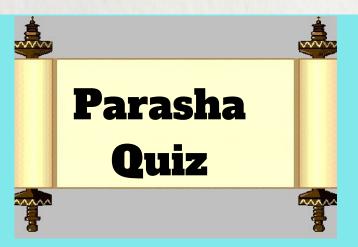
11.23.19



Elementary:

- 1) What four couples are buried in Maarat HaMachpeila?
- 2) What 2 promises did Avraham demand of Eliezer when searching for a wife for Yitzchak?
- 3) What special character trait did Eliezer seek when choosing a wife for Yitzchak?
- 4) The Torah records that Eliezer finds a wife for Yitzhak at a well. Who else in the Torah meets his wife at a well?
- 5) How old were Sarah and Avraham when they died?

Middle/High School:

- 1) According to Rashi what do we learn from the way Sarah's years are described (23:1) and the way Avraham's years are described (25:7)?
- 2) According to Rashi (24:10) what was unique about Avraham's camels?
- 3) According to Rashi (24:63) what was Yitzchak doing right before he met Rivkah?
- 4) According to Rashi (25:5) what gift did Avraham pass on to Yitzchak?
- 5) According to Rashi (25:9) how do we see that Yishmael did Teshuva later in life?

What would you do?

Discussion starter for your Shabbat table..

If you only had one hour a day would you rather spend time praying or studying Torah?

Did You Know?

This coming Thursday and Friday are Rosh Chodesh Kislev so we recite Hallel. Why do we only say "Half Hallel" on Rosh Chodesh?

According to the letter of the law there is no obligation to recite Hallel on Rosh Chodesh because Hallel is required only on days that are called Moed and when Melacha is prohibited. Rosh Chodesh is called a Moed, but Melacha is permitted.

Still, the Jewish people have accepted the practice of saying Hallel on Rosh Chodesh, in order to give expression to the sanctity of the day. To make it clear that the Hallel of Rosh Chodesh is based on Minhag, and not obligatory, we omit two paragraphs that are said when reciting the complete Hallel.



Midrash Esther Rabbah 1:8

"Rabbi Akiva was sitting and teaching, and the students were dozing off. He sought to arouse them. He said: What was Esther's merit to rule over 127 provinces? Such said the Holy One, blessed be He: Let Esther, the descendant of Sarah, who lived for 127 years, rule over 127 countries."

Rabbi Meir Goldvicht asks, what is the connection between the 127 years of Sarah's life and the 127 provinces her descendant Esther ruled over? Is this just some interesting trivia by Rebbe Akiva or is there a deeper message?

Rabbi Goldvicht suggests that Rabbi Akiva was teaching his students the importance of taking advantage of time. Every year that Sarah Imeinu lived rightously led to another province for her descendant Esther. Every month was another city. Every week another neighborhood. Every day another street. Every hour another house.

We can learn a powerful lesson from Sarah Imeinu about making every moment count.