



Dear Youth Directors, Youth chairs, and Youth Leaders,

**NCYI is excited to continue our very successful Parsha Nation Guides.** I hope you're enjoying and learning from Parsha Nation as much as we are. Putting together Parsha Nation every week is indeed no easy task. It takes a lot of time and effort to ensure that each section, as well as each age group, receives the attention and dedication it deserves.

**We inspire and mold future leaders.** The youth leaders of Young Israel have the distinct honor and privilege to teach and develop the youth of Young Israel. Children today are constantly looking for role models and inspirations to latch on to and learn from. Whether it is actual sit down learning sessions, exciting Parsha trivia games, or even just walking down the hall to the Kiddush room, our youth look to us and watch our every move.

**It's not always about the things we say, it's about the things we do.** Our children hear and see everything we do whether we realize it or not. This year we are taking our Youth Services to new heights as we introduce our Leadership Training Shabbaton. This engaging, interactive shabbaton led by our Youth Services Coordinator, Sammy, will give youth leader's hands on experience and practical solutions to effectively guide your youth department.

**Informal education is key.** What the summer shows us as educators is that informal education can deliver better results and help increase our youth's connection to Hashem. More and more shuls are revamping their youth program to give their children a better connection to shul and to Hashem. The NCYI is here to help you reconnect with your youth departments and bring more participation.

**Thank you for being a light to future generations.** You are doing incredible work that should not be taken lightly. You should be proud to call yourself a Young Israel Youth Leader as you have the unique opportunity to make a real difference in so many young people's lives. Keep up the amazing work.

We are looking forward to hearing great things from everyone.

Our doors are always open.

**NCYI Department of Synagogue Services**

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## **Program Guide Breakdown**

**Theme-** Each year our curriculum will focus on a theme. By centering the entire year around one overarching theme, our youth group participants will understand different characteristics and concepts that will help them achieve this lofty goal. This year's theme is Manhigut (leadership). Our goal is for our children to view themselves as leaders and to inspire them to play a leadership role every day.

**Parsha Review-** Each week group leaders will have the opportunity to roundup the parsha in two or three paragraphs. By giving over the parsha in a short and simple way, group participants will be able to grasp the parsha as a whole and to get them to think globally and conceptually.

**Parsha Questions-** No Shabbat morning group is complete without a list of parsha questions. These questions allow group participants the opportunity to win fun prizes while increasing their Torah knowledge. Questions vary from basic understanding of story line to challenging source-based material. The answers are provided as well.

**Tefillah Treasure-** Many youth directors have asked for help when it comes to teaching tefillah to children. This is a problem that not only shuls are dealing with. Schools, camps, and youth organizations are having trouble developing creative ideas to help children understand tefillah. Over the course of the year, this section will highlight one aspect of davening by providing both the Hebrew and English text, and one explanatory idea. The older the age group, the more we delve into the idea. This section is designed to help group participants follow the flow of tefillah while understanding what they are saying.

**Group Activity-** Now the fun begins! We start off with a GOAL. Each game has a purpose. The youth leaders should familiarize themselves with the goal before implementing the game.

**Discussion Portion-** After the game is over and the participants are settled down, the youth leaders should facilitate a discussion. The guidelines for this discussion are broken down into easy to use instructions. Youth leaders should review the discussion topics and goals before the start of morning groups.

**Story-** Each week we will include a story that addresses a modern day concern with lesson taken from that week's parsha.

**Jewish Leader of the Week-** In keeping with our theme of Manhigut, every week a different Jewish Leader from modern Jewish history will be highlighted. This will allow group participants to expand their knowledge of history and to learn how they can be a Jewish leader in today's society.

**Teen Minyan Packet-** This packet is filled with stories, riddles, points to ponder, and more.

**Leader Tip-** Each section has some great tips for leaders and how they should conduct that section.



# PARSHA NATION

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## Shabbat Morning Groups Lesson Plan

Time Duration	Activity	Notes
5 min	Registration	Welcome parents and children in to the group room.
10-35 min	Davening	Depending on your group size and level.
5 min	Introduction to Yearly Theme (Manhigut)	Refer to Handout
5 min	Parsha Review	Prep participants for parsha questions.
10 min	Parsha Questions	Prizes and awards should also be given out if participants answer correctly
2 min	Understanding the Goal	Leaders should start prepping for Shabbat activity
30 min	Activities	Your choice of two games to play
10 min	Follow Up Discussion	Refer to materials
10 min	Parsha Song	This is for younger groups only.
20 min	Free Game Play	Groups can break for free game play or continue their own programing.
5 min	Story	Assemble in a circle and have participants read sections of the story out loud.
5-10 min	Discussion	Refer to handout
4 min	Jewish Leader of the Week	Refer to handout
4 min	Tefillah Treasures	Refer to Handout
5 min	Parent Pick up/Dismissal	Parents pick up their children.
<b>Total Time:</b>	<b>2 hours &amp; 40 min of programing!</b>	



## MIKEITZ REVIEW

Paroh had two dreams. In the first dream, there were seven fat cows that came out from the Nile, followed by seven skinny cows. The skinny cows then ate the fat cows. In his second dream, seven healthy stalks of grain were eaten by seven thin stalks. In the morning, none of Paroh's wise men were able to interpret the dreams to Paroh's liking. Paroh's butler came over to him and told him that while he was in jail there was a man named Yosef who was able to interpret dreams. Paroh ordered for Yosef's release, and he told Yosef about his dreams. Yosef told Paroh that both dreams were relaying the same message that there would be seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine. Yosef told Paroh to save the extra food from the years of plenty to be prepared for the years of famine. Paroh made Yosef as second in command of Egypt, and put him in charge of collecting all the food. Yosef married Osnat, the daughter of Poti-phaera, and they had two sons: Menashe and Efraim. When the years of famine started, Yosef had enough stored food that he sold to anyone who needed. Meanwhile, in nearby Canaan, Yaakov sent his sons – all of them except Binyamin – to Egypt to buy food. The brothers came to Egypt and stood before Yosef, but didn't recognize him after the many years of being apart. When the brothers asked to buy food, Yosef was very harsh with them accusing them of being spies and sent them to jail for three days. On the third day, Yosef released them all, except for Shimon, who he held hostage. He told the rest of the brothers to go back to Canaan and come back with their youngest brother, Binyamin. The brothers realized that they were being punished for selling Yosef years ago and regretted it tremendously. Yosef told his servants to put money in the sacks of grain the brothers were given. The brothers got back to Canaan and told the entire story of what happened to Yaakov. Yaakov was very bothered by what happened and refused to send Binyamin, reluctant to consider the possibility of losing Rachel's only other son. Eventually, though, after they were getting low on food, and Yehudah personally guaranteed Binyamin's safe return and Yaakov agreed to send him. The brothers arrived back in Egypt and Yosef invited the brothers to join him for a meal where they were reunited with Shimon. When Yosef saw Binyamin, he was so overwhelmed with emotion, but he kept it in. In the morning the brothers left, but not before Yosef had his royal goblet put in Binyamin's sack of food. Yosef then sent his guards to catch the brothers and "find" the planted goblet. The brothers were all brought back to Yosef, who demanded that the "thief," Binyamin alone, stay back as his slave.

**LEADER TIP:** As soon as the kids come into groups, pretend to be suspicious of them being spies just like the brothers



# PARSHA QUESTIONS

## Questions

1. What were Paroh's two dreams?
2. Who suggested to Paroh that Yosef interpret his dreams?
3. What was the message of Paroh's dreams?
4. What did Yosef recommend that they do in response to Paroh's dreams?
5. Who did Yosef marry and what were their sons' names?
6. What honor did Paroh bestow upon Yosef?
7. Which of the brothers originally came to Mitzrayim to buy food?
8. Did the brothers recognize Yosef? Did Yosef recognize the brothers?
9. What did Yosef accuse the brothers of doing when they got to Mitzrayim?
10. What did Yosef make the brothers do to prove they weren't spies?
11. Who does Yosef take as a hostage?
12. When does Yaakov agree to send Binyamin to Mitzrayim?
13. When the brothers return back to Mitzrayim, how does Yosef greet them?
14. When the brothers leave, what do they find in Binyamins bag? How did it get there?
15. What does Yosef do in response to finding the goblet?

## Answers

1. In the first dream, there were seven fat cows that came out from the Nile, followed by seven skinny cows. The skinny cows then ate the fat cows. In his second dream, seven healthy stalks of grain were eaten by seven thin stalks.
2. Paroh's butler that met Yosef in jail
3. That there would be seven years of plenty of food followed by seven years of famine.
4. That Paroh should store food during the plentiful years to prepare for the years of famine.
5. Yosef married Osnat and their sons were Menashe and Efraim
6. He made him governor and second in command of Mitzrayim
7. Everyone except for Binyamin
8. The brothers didn't recognize Yosef but Yosef recognized them.
9. Yosef accused the brothers of being spies
10. Go back to Canaan and bring back their other brother Binyamin
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12. When Yehudah takes personal responsibility for him
13. He invites them to a big meal in his home
14. Yosef's silver goblet. Yosef put it there before they left
15. He sends his guards after the brothers to find the goblet and keeps Binyamin as a slave

**LEADER TIP:** As a joke, warn the kids that next Shabbat there may be a shortage of candy and the group must save some during this week.

# PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** In this week's Parsha we again see the importance of dreams. We really need to stop, think and ask ourselves, what does it mean to dream? Not just the strange things that go on inside our heads when we sleep, but the kind of dreams Martin Luther King spoke of when he uttered those immortal words, "I have a dream". To be able to honestly assess our situation and ourselves and develop real goals for the future is an amazing thing to be able to do.

## **ACTIVITY: "Mad Libs"**

Create a funny, crazy, and silly story and write it out either on a big poster board to show the rest of the group or just read it to them. You can also search online for readymade "Mad Libs" stories as well. Make sure to leave random spaces throughout your story for the kids to fill in the blanks. Print out a bunch of different words or pictures and spread them all over the room for the kids to choose from. You can either put them right in front of them or hide them around the room. Make a list of all the blanks you left in your story so that the kids can fill them in. For example: (boy's name) was super (adjective) when he got home and saw his favorite celebrity (famous person's name) sitting on his (noun). The kids must fill in the words before you read the story to them. You will help them come up with different nouns, verbs, adjectives, names, etc. to help complete the story. This is where the printed out words and pictures will come in handy. When all the needed words are chosen, place them into the given slots in the story and read it aloud to the kids. Needless to say, hilarity will most definitely ensue. Come up with a few stories as the kids will have a great time making up their own stories!

**DISCUSSION:** Everyone has dreams but the question is, how many of us remember them every day? There are the dreams we have when we sleep at night which sometimes it's hard to remember. There are also dreams that we have every day that remind us to keep working hard and become better people. Having dreams means having goals and aspirations. There are smaller dreams such as doing well playing a board game or making it on time to the movies. There are also bigger dreams such as doing well in school, winning an award, or becoming a professional basketball player. We see between this week's parsha and last week's parsha the importance that dreams play. Dreams come true with the help of Hashem but not without our own personal work and effort as well. In these games, we had a certain goal in mind that we wanted to accomplish. Even if it may not have been the biggest of goals or dreams, it was something that we really wanted to accomplish. We couldn't do it on our own and we used the help of our fellow teammates to help us succeed and fulfill our "dreams". Dreams don't take much work or effort to think of, what does take work is accomplishing them. But that being said, the feeling of accomplishing dreams, especially the ones that you work hard for, is incomparable to anything. It means you've taken a step higher in the ladder of becoming the best you can. Keep dreaming, and keep working hard to accomplish as much as you can and become the person your dreams remind you you can be.

**LEADER TIP:** Try to think of a dream that you have that you've always been too nervous to try and work hard for. No matter if it's big or small, any goal you accomplish is a big deal.

# PARSHA STORY

**Before you read:** In this week's Parsha, the Torah takes us into the world of dreams. We see Yosef's childhood dreams coming to fruition after many years. We learn of Paroh's prophetic dreams, and how Yosef's skilled interpretations of them averted a worldwide famine. There are many types of dreams. We all have dreams and sincere yearnings of how we would like to see our lives in the future. Others may try to tell us to forget about them, and settle for something less. But Hashem knows and understands our deepest yearnings, and leads us in the direction that we truly want to go. So if we trust in Hashem, and hold on to our dreams, many times He will make them come true!

## "ANIMAL CRACKERS"

"If it's furry, four-legged, flies, or has fins, it's a friend of Mike Walder's", his pals would joke. And it was true - the boy just seemed to have a natural, and deep love for animals.

Mike would spend whatever spare time he had, taking in stray baby birds, squirrels, or any other creature in need. His greatest dream, ever since he could remember, was to one day be able to spend all day doing what he loved - helping animals. He would share his dream with anyone who would listen. Many of his friends really encouraged him about his dream, but others were less enthusiastic, and some guys would even make fun of him.

One day, Mike and his best friend, Randy were walking home from school, when he heard his name being called. He turned around.

"Hey Walder!" called out Tim, a kid from the neighborhood to whom he had recently told of his dream. "Here's your big chance! There's a sick ant over here on the sidewalk. Come on over here and give him C.P.R. before it's too late!"

He let out a loud laugh, as if it was the funniest joke in the world. But to Mike it really hurt.

The boys kept walking. "What a mean thing to say!" said Randy indignantly.

Mike sighed. "But maybe he's right," he said to Randy. "Maybe I do go too overboard about animals, and my desire to spend my life taking care of them is just a foolish dream."

Randy shook his head. "No way, Mike." he said, "Don't pay any attention to guys like that. They've probably just given up on their own dreams, and want to kill other people's dreams too. If your dream is worthwhile, and it's important to you, God's gonna make it happen some day. Just don't give it up, buddy, and you'll see."

Mike smiled and appreciated his friend's encouraging words. Then and there, he told himself, that he would hold onto his dream until it came true, no matter what.

A number of years passed, and the boys got older and busier. Mike tried to stay focused on his dream even though sometimes he felt tempted just to let it fade away. Now as the school year was almost over, Mike and his friends, who would be starting high school next year, were all trying to make plans for summer vacation. Mike was hoping to line up an interesting summer job that would give him some extra pocket money. He had applied several weeks ago to a local nature park for a job as a guide, and was waiting to hear back.

One afternoon, he decided to go visit his old friend, Randy, who had moved across town, and he hadn't seen for a long time. As the boys reminisced, Randy said with a sincere smile, "I hope you're still holding on to your special dream of helping animals."

Mike smiled back and nodded pensively. He hadn't thought about it for a while, but Randy's comment brought back old memories, and made him realize just how much his dream still meant to him. Mike recalled his friend's inspiring words from long ago, "...If it's worthwhile, and important to you, God's gonna make it happen" But when? thought Mike, But how?

At that very moment, his cell-phone rang, and brought him out of his reverie. It was the park authority. Mike held his breath, hoping he got the job. "We can see from your application that you really appreciate nature, and would be great for the job," said the voice on the other end of the line. Mike perked up. "But," the voice went on, "we're really sorry - all the guide jobs are filled."

The boy felt really disappointed, but as a last attempt, blurted out, "Are you sure? Isn't there *any* kind of a job?"

The man on the phone was silent for a moment. "Well, there *is* one job that just became available, but I don't know if you'll want it." Mike listened, and silently prayed. "It happens to be that we're opening up a new petting zoo at the park, and the head veterinarian needs an assistant to help him take care of the animals. It doesn't pay that much, and you will be busy all day with the animals... You interested?"

The boy nearly dropped the phone, but not before he blurted out a hearty "Yes!"

As he hung up, his friend looked at him and said, "What's up, Mike? You look like you're walking on a cloud."

Mike just shook his head in amazement. He was so grateful that he had never given up dreaming. He turned to his friend, smiling ear-to-ear, and said, "Well Randy, what can I tell you? How else should someone look who just heard his dream come true?"

**Discussion Questions:** Q. How did Mike feel after Tim teased him about his dream of taking care of animals?

A. The boy's scoffing made him feel deflated, and he wanted to abandon his dream.

Q. How did he feel after he got offered the job?

A. He felt great, and was glad that he never gave up on his dream.

Q. What's one of your dreams?

**LEADER TIP:** In order to accomplish our goals and dreams, it's important to have people we know we can count on. Who are those people for you?

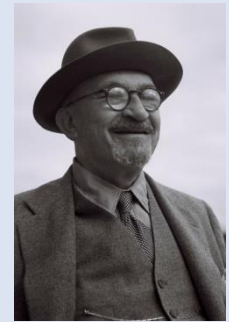
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# JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

## Chaim Weizmann

(November 27, 1874- November 9, 1952)



Chaim Weizmann was born in Motol, Russia in 1874. He studied biochemistry in Switzerland and Germany. Already in Geneva, he became active in the Zionist movement. In 1905 he moved to England, and was elected to the General Zionist Council. Weizmann helped forces in World War I which brought him in contact with British leaders, allowing him to play a key role in the creating the Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917 where Britain dedicated itself to the establishment of a Jewish home in Palestine. Chaim Weizmann again served as President of the WZO from 1935-1946. During the years that led up to World War II, he worked extremely hard in creating the Jewish Brigade. After the end of World War II, Weizmann was vital in the approval of the Partition Plan by the United Nations on November 29, 1947, and in the recognition of Israel by the United States. With the declaration of the State of Israel, Weizmann was chosen to serve as the first President of Israel. This role he filled until his death in 1952.

**LEADER TIP:** Some people dream of bigger things not only for themselves, but for the greater Jewish people or community as a whole. What does that mean to you?

# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## Shemoneh Esrei- Ata Kadosh

The idea of the third bracha is Hashem's holiness. We know that the Torah is holy, Israel is holy and Hashem is holy, but what exactly is "holiness?" Kadosh, which means "holy," more specifically means that something is special and set apart from the rest. Something being "special" means unique as well. Being that Hashem is the most unique being, since He is One of a kind, He is the Most Holy and the source of all holiness. The bracha talks to Hashem, saying that "Your holy ones will praise You every day, forever." On one level, this is talking about Hashem's supporting angels, who praise Him constantly. On another level, it can be talking about the Jewish people who praise Hashem daily with davening. During chazarat hashatz, this bracha is where Kedusha is said. In this prayer, we follow the ways that the angels praise Hashem. For example, this is why we stand with our feet together, since angels are described as having a single "straight leg" (Ezekiel 1:7). We say pesukim praising Hashem's qualities of holiness. During the Aseret Yamei Teshuvah from Rosh Hashana through Yom Kippur, the end of this bracha, normally "ha(k)El haKadosh" ("the holy God") is replaced by "haMelech haKadosh" ("the holy King"). This hints to the time of year's greater attribute of justice (as opposed to that of mercy, which has more influence the rest of the year).

**LEADER TIP:** What does it mean to be holy? As the Jewish people, we are considered holy people. Remind yourself that every day and never forget how unique, special, and holy you are.



## MIKEITZ REVIEW

Paroh had two dreams. In the first dream, there were seven fat cows that came out from the Nile, followed by seven skinny cows. The skinny cows then ate the fat cows. In his second dream, seven healthy stalks of grain were eaten by seven thin stalks. In the morning, none of Paroh's wise men were able to interpret the dreams to Paroh's liking. Paroh's butler came over to him and told him that while he was in jail there was a man named Yosef who was able to interpret dreams. Paroh ordered for Yosef's release, and he told Yosef about his dreams. Yosef told Paroh that both dreams were relaying the same message that there would be seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine. Yosef told Paroh to save the extra food from the years of plenty to be prepared for the years of famine. Paroh made Yosef as second in command of Egypt, and put him in charge of collecting all the food. Yosef married Osnat, the daughter of Poti-phaera, and they had two sons: Menashe and Efraim. When the years of famine started, Yosef had enough stored food that he sold to anyone who needed. Meanwhile, in nearby Canaan, Yaakov sent his sons – all of them except Binyamin – to Egypt to buy food. The brothers came to Egypt and stood before Yosef, but didn't recognize him after the many years of being apart. When the brothers asked to buy food, Yosef was very harsh with them accusing them of being spies and sent them to jail for three days. On the third day, Yosef released them all, except for Shimon, who he held hostage. He told the rest of the brothers to go back to Canaan and come back with their youngest brother, Binyamin. The brothers realized that they were being punished for selling Yosef years ago and regretted it tremendously. Yosef told his servants to put money in the sacks of grain the brothers were given. The brothers got back to Canaan and told the entire story of what happened to Yaakov. Yaakov was very bothered by what happened and refused to send Binyamin, reluctant to consider the possibility of losing Rachel's only other son. Eventually, though, after they were getting low on food, and Yehudah personally guaranteed Binyamin's safe return and Yaakov agreed to send him. The brothers arrived back in Egypt and Yosef invited the brothers to join him for a meal where they were reunited with Shimon. When Yosef saw Binyamin, he was so overwhelmed with emotion, but he kept it in. In the morning the brothers left, but not before Yosef had his royal goblet put in Binyamin's sack of food. Yosef then sent his guards to catch the brothers and "find" the planted goblet. The brothers were all brought back to Yosef, who demanded that the "thief," Binyamin alone, stay back as his slave.

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# PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** In this week's Parsha we again see the importance of dreams. We really need to stop, think and ask ourselves, what does it mean to dream? Not just the strange things that go on inside our heads when we sleep, but the kind of dreams Martin Luther King spoke of when he uttered those immortal words, "I have a dream". To be able to honestly assess our situation and ourselves and develop real goals for the future is an amazing thing to be able to do.

## **ACTIVITY: "Mad Libs"**

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## **"Team Story"**

The idea of this game is to say one big connected story all together as a group. Sit in one big circle all together. Have a group leader start off the story such as "Once upon a time" or "In a small town in the middle of Wisconsin" or anything else they can come up with. Then pass it to the next person in the circle and have them say one sentence to continue the story and then pass it to the person next to them. They must continue the story using one sentence at a time. The story should definitely get pretty funny, but it may take some group leader help to make sure things stay somewhat making sense and end help end the story when you see it getting out of control. Once you say a couple stories using one sentence at a time, see if you can do it only one word at a time! If you want, you can also start off the game with each person saying a few sentences at a time to get their feet wet a little bit.

**DISCUSSION:** Everyone has dreams but the question is, how many of us remember them every day? There are the dreams we have when we sleep at night which



sometimes it's hard to remember. There are also dreams that we have every day that remind us to keep working hard and become better people. Having dreams means having goals and aspirations. There are smaller dreams such as doing well playing a board game or making it on time to the movies. There are also bigger dreams such as doing well in school, winning an award, or becoming a professional basketball player. We see between this week's parsha and last week's parsha the importance that dreams play. Dreams come true with the help of Hashem but not without our own personal work and effort as well. In these games, we had a certain goal in mind that we wanted to accomplish. Even if it may not have been the biggest of goals or dreams, it was something that we really wanted to accomplish. We couldn't do it on our own and we used the help of our fellow teammates to help us succeed and fulfill our "dreams". Dreams don't take much work or effort to think of, what does take work is accomplishing them. But that being said, the feeling of accomplishing dreams, especially the ones that you work hard for, is incomparable to anything. It means you've taken a step higher in the ladder of becoming the best you can. Keep dreaming, and keep working hard to accomplish as much as you can and become the person your dreams remind you you can be.

**LEADER TIP:** Try to think of a dream that you have that you've always been too nervous to try and work hard for. No matter if it's big or small, any goal you accomplish is a big deal.

# PARSHA STORY

**Before you read:** In this week's Parsha, the Torah takes us into the world of dreams. We see Yosef's childhood dreams coming to fruition after many years. We learn of Paroh's prophetic dreams, and how Yosef's skilled interpretations of them averted a worldwide famine. There are many types of dreams. We all have dreams and sincere yearnings of how we would like to see our lives in the future. Others may try to tell us to forget about them, and settle for something less. But Hashem knows and understands our deepest yearnings, and leads us in the direction that we truly want to go. So if we trust in Hashem, and hold on to our dreams, many times He will make them come true!

## "ANIMAL CRACKERS"

"If it's furry, four-legged, flies, or has fins, it's a friend of Mike Walder's", his pals would joke. And it was true - the boy just seemed to have a natural, and deep love for animals.

Mike would spend whatever spare time he had, taking in stray baby birds, squirrels, or any other creature in need. His greatest dream, ever since he could remember, was to one day be able to spend all day doing what he loved - helping animals. He would share his dream with anyone who would listen. Many of his friends really encouraged him about his dream, but others were less enthusiastic, and some guys would even make fun of him.

One day, Mike and his best friend, Randy were walking home from school, when he heard his name being called. He turned around.

"Hey Walder!" called out Tim, a kid from the neighborhood to whom he had recently told of his dream. "Here's your big chance! There's a sick ant over here on the sidewalk. Come on over here and give him C.P.R. before it's too late!"

He let out a loud laugh, as if it was the funniest joke in the world. But to Mike it really hurt.

The boys kept walking. "What a mean thing to say!" said Randy indignantly.

Mike sighed. "But maybe he's right," he said to Randy. "Maybe I do go too overboard about animals, and my desire to spend my life taking care of them is just a foolish dream."

Randy shook his head. "No way, Mike." he said, "Don't pay any attention to guys like that. They've probably just given up on their own dreams, and want to kill other people's dreams too. If your dream is worthwhile, and it's important to you, God's gonna make it happen some day. Just don't give it up, buddy, and you'll see."

Mike smiled and appreciated his friend's encouraging words. Then and there, he told himself, that he would hold onto his dream until it came true, no matter what.

A number of years passed, and the boys got older and busier. Mike tried to stay focused on his dream even though sometimes he felt tempted just to let it fade away. Now as the school year was almost over, Mike and his friends, who would be starting high school next year, were all trying to make plans for summer vacation. Mike was hoping to line up an interesting summer job that would give him some extra pocket money. He had applied several weeks ago to a local nature park for a job as a guide, and was waiting to hear back.

One afternoon, he decided to go visit his old friend, Randy, who had moved across town, and he hadn't seen for a long time. As the boys reminisced, Randy said with a sincere smile, "I hope you're still holding on to your special dream of helping animals."

Mike smiled back and nodded pensively. He hadn't thought about it for a while, but Randy's comment brought back old memories, and made him realize just how much his dream still meant to him. Mike recalled his friend's inspiring words from long ago, "...If it's worthwhile, and important to you, God's gonna make it happen" But when? thought Mike, But how?

At that very moment, his cell-phone rang, and brought him out of his reverie. It was the park authority. Mike held his breath, hoping he got the job. "We can see from your application that you

really appreciate nature, and would be great for the job," said the voice on the other end of the line. Mike perked up. "But," the voice went on, "we're really sorry - all the guide jobs are filled."

The boy felt really disappointed, but as a last attempt, blurted out, "Are you sure? Isn't there *any* kind of a job?"

The man on the phone was silent for a moment. "Well, there *is* one job that just became available, but I don't know if you'll want it." Mike listened, and silently prayed. "It happens to be that we're opening up a new petting zoo at the park, and the head veterinarian needs an assistant to help him take care of the animals. It doesn't pay that much, and you will be busy all day with the animals... You interested?"

The boy nearly dropped the phone, but not before he blurted out a hearty "Yes!"

As he hung up, his friend looked at him and said, "What's up, Mike? You look like you're walking on a cloud."

Mike just shook his head in amazement. He was so grateful that he had never given up dreaming. He turned to his friend, smiling ear-to-ear, and said, "Well Randy, what can I tell you? How else should someone look who just heard his dream come true?"

**Discussion Questions:** Q. Why do you think that holding on to our dreams helps them to come true?

A. When we maintain a commitment to our goal, or dream, we are in a sense asking God to make it happen, and showing Him how important it is to us. God listens to our sincere prayers, and sees how badly we're trying to fulfill our dreams. Out of His love for us, many times He sets up circumstances that will help us to make our dream a reality.

Q. Is every dream worthwhile? How can we know whether our dream is worth hanging on to?

A. It's great to dream. Just to have that feeling of wanting to reach beyond our present selves is valuable. However some dreams are more worthwhile than others. Dreams that will lead us to become better people and enable us to give something of value to the world are especially worthwhile and we should make an extra effort to try to see them through.

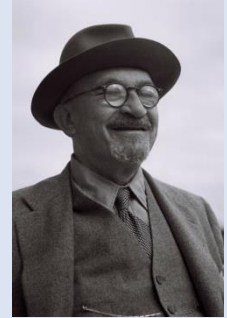
Q. What's one of your dreams?

**LEADER TIP:** In order to accomplish our goals and dreams, it's important to have people we know we can count on. Who are those people for you?

# JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

## Chaim Weizmann

(November 27, 1874- November 9, 1952)



Chaim Weizmann was born in Motol, Russia in 1874. He studied biochemistry in Switzerland and Germany. Already in Geneva, he became active in the Zionist movement. In 1905 he moved to England, and was elected to the General Zionist Council. Weizmann helped forces in World War I which brought him in contact with British leaders, allowing him to play a key role in the creating the Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917 where Britain dedicated itself to the establishment of a Jewish home in Palestine. In 1918, Weizmann was chosen as the head of the Zionist Commission sent to Palestine by the British government to guide the future development of the country. There, he set the foundation of Hebrew University. That same year Weizmann met in Aqaba with Emir Feisal, the leader of the Arab movement, to discuss visions of reaching an understanding on the establishment of independent Arab and Jewish states. Chaim Weizmann again served as President of the WZO from 1935-1946. During the years that led up to World War II, he worked extremely hard in creating the Jewish Brigade. After the end of World War II, Weizmann was vital in the approval of the Partition Plan by the United Nations on November 29, 1947, and in the recognition of Israel by the United States. With the declaration of the State of Israel, Weizmann was chosen to serve as the first President of Israel. This role he filled until his death in 1952.

**LEADER TIP:** Some people dream of bigger things not only for themselves, but for the greater Jewish people or community as a whole. What does that mean to you?

# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## Shemoneh Esrei- Ata Kadosh

The idea of the third bracha is Hashem's holiness. We know that the Torah is holy, Israel is holy and Hashem is holy, but what exactly is "holiness?" Kadosh, which means "holy," more specifically means that something is special and set apart from the rest. Something being "special" means unique as well. Being that Hashem is the most unique being, since He is One of a kind, He is the Most Holy and the source of all holiness. In this prayer, we follow the ways that the angels praise Hashem. For example, this is why we stand with our feet together, since angels are described as having a single "straight leg" (Ezekiel 1:7). We end the third bracha of Shemoneh Esrei by praising Hashem for being Holy, "Blessed are You, Hashem, the holy G-d." By praising Hashem's holiness, we show that despite the overwhelming presence of materialism in our world, we accept our mission to recognize Hashem functioning behind the scenes. When we accomplish that mission, we incorporate Hashem's presence with the physical world. We thereby fulfill the purpose of this world, which is to connect everything physical with its spiritual meaning. This bracha of Ata Kadosh teaches us the true purpose of our material physical world. The idea of Hashem's holiness and our own holiness has a useful, concrete effect on how we live our lives. The Torah says, "Kedoshim ti'hiu - You shall be holy, for I, Hashem your G-d, am holy." Kedushah is the way we focus our thoughts of spiritual missions and holiness. Rav Yisrael Salanter, the great originator of the mussar movement, teaches that holiness does not apply only to spirituality and holy tasks. What makes a Jew holy? The Torah says, "Don't steal; pay your workers on time; don't lie; deal honestly with others..." Hashem stresses that we be holy down here on earth, sanctifying our lives through our connections with others. The more we understand Hashem's holiness, the more we recognize our own potential holiness as individuals; we are made "b'tzelem Elokim," and as nation, we are Hashem's messengers to the world.

**LEADER TIP:** What does it mean to be holy? As the Jewish people, we are considered holy people. Remind yourself that every day and never forget how unique, special, and holy you are.





## MIKEITZ REVIEW

Paroh had two dreams. In the first dream, there were seven fat cows that came out from the Nile, followed by seven skinny cows. The skinny cows then ate the fat cows. In his second dream, seven healthy stalks of grain were eaten by seven thin stalks. In the morning, none of Paroh's wise men were able to interpret the dreams to Paroh's liking. Paroh's butler came over to him and told him that while he was in jail there was a man named Yosef who was able to interpret dreams. Paroh ordered for Yosef's release, and he told Yosef about his dreams. Yosef told Paroh that both dreams were relaying the same message that there would be seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine. Yosef told Paroh to save the extra food from the years of plenty to be prepared for the years of famine. Paroh made Yosef as second in command of Egypt, and put him in charge of collecting all the food. Yosef married Osnat, the daughter of Poti-phaera, and they had two sons: Menashe and Efraim. When the years of famine started, Yosef had enough stored food that he sold to anyone who needed. Meanwhile, in nearby Canaan, Yaakov sent his sons – all of them except Binyamin – to Egypt to buy food. The brothers came to Egypt and stood before Yosef, but didn't recognize him after the many years of being apart. When the brothers asked to buy food, Yosef was very harsh with them accusing them of being spies and sent them to jail for three days. On the third day, Yosef released them all, except for Shimon, who he held hostage. He told the rest of the brothers to go back to Canaan and come back with their youngest brother, Binyamin. The brothers realized that they were being punished for selling Yosef years ago and regretted it tremendously. Yosef told his servants to put money in the sacks of grain the brothers were given. The brothers got back to Canaan and told the entire story of what happened to Yaakov. Yaakov was very bothered by what happened and refused to send Binyamin, reluctant to consider the possibility of losing Rachel's only other son. Eventually, though, after they were getting low on food, and Yehudah personally guaranteed Binyamin's safe return and Yaakov agreed to send him. The brothers arrived back in Egypt and Yosef invited the brothers to join him for a meal where they were reunited with Shimon. When Yosef saw Binyamin, he was so overwhelmed with emotion, but he kept it in. In the morning the brothers left, but not before Yosef had his royal goblet put in Binyamin's sack of food. Yosef then sent his guards to catch the brothers and "find" the planted goblet. The brothers were all brought back to Yosef, who demanded that the "thief," Binyamin alone, stay back as his slave.

**LEADER TIP:** As soon as the kids come into groups, pretend to be suspicious of them being spies just like the brothers

# PARSHA QUESTIONS

*Taken from Ohr.edu*

1. What did the fat cows being eaten symbolize?  
**41:4 - That all the joy of the plentiful years would be forgotten. (Not that the good years would provide food for the bad years.)**
2. How did Pharaoh's recollection of his dream differ from Nevuchadnetzar's recollection of his dream?  
**41:8 - Pharaoh remembered the contents of his dream but didn't know its meaning. Nevuchadnetzar forgot even the contents of his dream.**
3. What was significant about the fact that Pharaoh dreamed repeatedly?  
**41:32 - It showed that the seven good years would start immediately.**
4. What does "*Tsafnat Panayach*" mean?  
**41:45 - He who explains things that are hidden and obscure.**
5. What happened to the Egyptians' grain that was stored in anticipation of the famine?  
**41:55 - It rotted.**
6. What did Yosef require the Egyptians to do before he would sell them grain?  
**41:55 - Become circumcised.**
7. Did Yaakov and his family still have food when he sent his sons to Egypt? If yes, why did he send them?  
**42:1 - Yes, but he sent them because he did not want to cause envy in the eyes of those who did not have food.**
8. What prophetic significance lay in Yaakov's choice of the word "*redu*" – "descend" (and not "*lechu*" – "go")?  
**42:2 - It hinted to the 210 years that the Jewish people would be in Egypt: The word "*redu*" has the numerical value of 210.**
9. Why does the verse say "Yosef's brothers" went down to Egypt (and not "Yaakov's sons")?  
**42:3 - Because they regretted selling Yosef and planned to act as brothers by trying to find him and ransom him at any cost.**
10. When did Yosef know that his dreams were being fulfilled?  
**42:9 - When his brothers bowed to him.**
11. Under what pretext did Yosef accuse his brothers of being spies?  
**42:12 - They entered the city through 10 gates rather than through one gate.**
12. Why did the brothers enter the city through different gates?  
**42:13 - To search for Yosef throughout the city.**
13. Who was the interpreter between Yosef and his brothers?  
**42:23 - His son Menashe.**
14. Why did Yosef specifically choose Shimon to put in prison?  
**42:24 - Because he was the one who cast Yosef into the pit and the one who said,**

**"Here comes the dreamer." Alternatively, to separate him from Levi, as together they posed a danger to him.**

15. How does the verse indicate that Shimon was released from prison after his brothers left?  
**42:24 - The verse says Shimon was bound "in front of their eyes," implying that he was bound only while in their sight.**
16. What was Yaakov implying when he said to his sons: "I am the one whom you bereaved"?  
**42:36 - That he suspected them of having slain or sold Shimon, and that they may have done the same to Yosef.**
17. How did Reuven try to persuade Yaakov to send Binyamin to Egypt?  
**42:37 - He said, "Kill my two sons if I fail to bring back Binyamin."**
18. How long did it take for Yaakov and family to eat all the food that the brothers brought back from Egypt? Give the answer in terms of travel time.  
**43:2,10 - Twice the travel time to and from Egypt.**
19. How much more money did the brothers bring on their second journey than they brought on the first journey? Why?  
**43:12 - Three times as much, in order to repay the money they found in their sacks and to buy more even if the price had doubled.**
20. How did the brothers defend themselves against the accusation of theft?  
**44:8 - They said, "We returned the money we found in our sacks; can it be that we would steal?"**

**LEADER TIP:** As a joke, warn the kids that next Shabbat there may be a shortage of candy and the group must save some during this week.

# PARSHA ACTIVITY

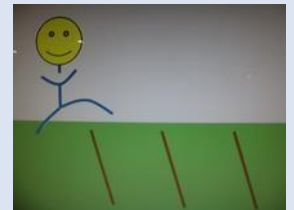
**GOAL:** In this week's Parsha we again see the importance of dreams. We really need to stop, think and ask ourselves, what does it mean to dream? Not just the strange things that go on inside our heads when we sleep, but the kind of dreams Martin Luther King spoke of when he uttered those immortal words, "I have a dream". To be able to honestly assess our situation and ourselves and develop real goals for the future is an amazing thing to be able to do.

## **ACTIVITY: "Mad Libs"**

Create a funny, crazy, and silly story and write it out either on a big poster board to show the rest of the group or just read it to them. You can also search online for readymade "Mad Libs" stories as well. Make sure to leave random spaces throughout your story for the kids to fill in the blanks. Print out a bunch of different words or pictures and spread them all over the room for the kids to choose from. You can either put them right in front of them or hide them around the room. Make a list of all the blanks you left in your story so that the kids can fill them in. For example: (boy's name) was super (adjective) when he got home and saw his favorite celebrity (famous person's name) sitting on his (noun). The kids must fill in the words before you read the story to them. You will help them come up with different nouns, verbs, adjectives, names, etc. to help complete the story. This is where the printed out words and pictures will come in handy. When all the needed words are chosen, place them into the given slots in the story and read it aloud to the kids. Needless to say, hilarity will most definitely ensue. Come up with a few stories as the kids will have a great time making up their own stories!

## **"Three Sticks"**

For this game, you'll need a big open space and three "stick like" objects. Place the three sticks on the ground, an equal and small distance away from each other. Have the group line up a few feet behind the first stick. Take turns one person at a time trying to jump in the spaces between the sticks without touching the sticks or jumping in the same space twice. Once you go through an entire round of people and everyone gets a turn, whoever succeeded moves on to the next round. Space the sticks farther away from each other, creating a bigger space between them. Keep repeating these steps until you have only one person left who is declared the winner!



**DISCUSSION:** Everyone has dreams but the question is, how many of us remember them every day? There are the dreams we have when we sleep at night which sometimes it's hard to remember. There are also dreams that we have every day that remind us to keep working hard and become better people. Having dreams means having goals and aspirations. There are smaller dreams such as doing well playing a

board game or making it on time to the movies. There are also bigger dreams such as doing well in school, winning an award, or becoming a professional basketball player. We see between this week's parsha and last week's parsha the importance that dreams play. Dreams come true with the help of Hashem but not without our own personal work and effort as well. In these games, we had a certain goal in mind that we wanted to accomplish. Even if it may not have been the biggest of goals or dreams, it was something that we really wanted to accomplish. We couldn't do it on our own and we used the help of our fellow teammates to help us succeed and fulfill our "dreams". Dreams don't take much work or effort to think of, what does take work is accomplishing them. But that being said, the feeling of accomplishing dreams, especially the ones that you work hard for, is incomparable to anything. It means you've taken a step higher in the ladder of becoming the best you can. Keep dreaming, and keep working hard to accomplish as much as you can and become the person your dreams remind you you can be.

**LEADER TIP:** Try to think of a dream that you have that you've always been too nervous to try and work hard for. No matter if it's big or small, any goal you accomplish is a big deal.



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The boy nearly dropped the phone, but not before he blurted out a hearty "Yes!"

As he hung up, his friend looked at him and said, "What's up, Mike? You look like you're walking on a cloud."

Mike just shook his head in amazement. He was so grateful that he had never given up dreaming. He turned to his friend, smiling ear-to-ear, and said, "Well Randy, what can I tell you? How else should someone look who just heard his dream come true?"

**Discussion Questions:** Q. What do our sages mean when they say that "God leads a person in a direction he wants to go"?

A. God has given each of us free choice, and allowed us to build ourselves into the type of people we will become on the basis of these choices. He doesn't push us in one way or another, but rather facilitates us to reach where we want to go, and allows us to experience the natural consequences of that decision. For this reason, our dreams and goals, if sincere and persistent, are likely to be realized. We can maximize this opportunity by trying to set for ourselves the most positive and spiritual dreams possible.

Q. Why do you think some people scoff at the dreams of others?

A. Much of it comes from misunderstanding. Since each of us is unique, with a special spiritual mission to accomplish in this lifetime, it only follows that one person's soul will inspire him to have a different dream, or life goal, than that of another. No one except ourselves will ever be able to fully understand why we dream as we do. Nor will we ever fully understand the dreams of another. The challenge is to try to respect the dreams of others, while remaining true to our own, unique calling.

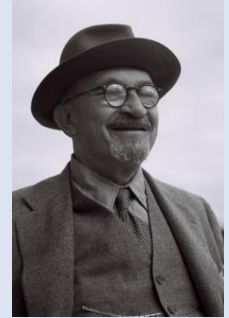
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**LEADER TIP:** In order to accomplish our goals and dreams, it's important to have people we know we can count on. Who are those people for you?

# JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

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# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## Shemoneh Esrei- Ata Kadosh

We end the third bracha of Shemoneh Esrei by praising Hashem for being Holy, “Blessed are You, Hashem, the holy G-d.” By praising Hashem’s holiness, we show that despite the overwhelming presence of materialism in our world, we accept our mission to recognize Hashem functioning behind the scenes. When we accomplish that mission, we incorporate Hashem’s presence with the physical world. We thereby fulfill the purpose of this world, which is to connect everything physical with its spiritual meaning. This bracha of Ata Kadosh teaches us the true purpose of our material physical world. The idea of Hashem’s holiness and our own holiness has a useful, concrete effect on how we live our lives. The Torah says, “Kedoshim ti’hiu - You shall be holy, for I, Hashem your G-d, am holy.” Kedushah is the way we focus our thoughts of spiritual missions and holiness. Rav Yisrael Salanter, the great originator of the mussar movement, teaches that holiness does not apply only to spirituality and holy tasks. What makes a Jew holy? The Torah says, “Don’t steal; pay your workers on time; don’t lie; deal honestly with others...” Hashem stresses that we be holy down here on earth, sanctifying our lives through our connections with others. The more we understand Hashem’s holiness, the more we recognize our own potential holiness as individuals; we are made “b’tzelem Elokim,” and as a nation, we are Hashem’s messengers to the world. The idea of holiness is a very important one. The Torah commands us to be holy because Hashem is Holy. This is certainly our most important mission in life and from it flows all our other responsibilities toward mankind. The Sforno adds a unique element to the concept of kedushah as it applies to Hashem and Am Yisrael—that of eternity. In Vayikra, the Sforno says that “...holiness is everlasting and eternal.” Since Hashem says that the people of Israel shall be a “kingdom of priests and a holy people”, the nation will never perish; it holds the force of eternity, which is an integral part of kedushah. By declaring Hashem’s holiness, we recognize the holiness He has invested in the world and in us.

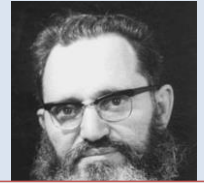
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## This Week in Jewish History

December 12, 1995

### Yahrtzeit of Rav Moshe Zvi Neria



Rabbi Moshe Tzvi Neriah founded the first Bnei Akiva yeshiva at Kfar HaRoeh, near Chadera, nearly 60 years ago. Rabbi Neriah is known as the “father of the knit kippah generation,” in a reference to the type of kippah usually worn by religious Zionists from the Bnei Akiva stream. Rabbi Neriah was born in Poland and made Aliyah to the Land of Israel at an early age, where he studied under Rabbi Avraham Yitzchak HaCohen Kook at Mercaz HaRav Yeshiva in the great rabbi's final years. Years after Rabbi Kook's death, when he saw that the public recognized the rabbi as a Chief Rabbi and great Talmid Chacham but knew very little about his uniqueness and his approach to Torah, Rabbi Neriah published the books “Chayei HaReayah,” “Moadei HaReayah,” “Likutei HaReayah” and “Tal HaReayah,” which describe the rabbi's great personality, his just and holy nature, and his belief system regarding subjects of diaspora and redemption, the rebuilding of the land, Torah and tefillah. In the year 1940, Rabbi Neriah founded the first Bnei Akiva yeshiva at Kfar HaRoeh. It educated its students along the lines of Rabbi Kook's teachings. The graduates in the initial years went on

to study at Mercaz HaRav yeshiva which began gaining fame in those days, and thus did the yeshiva world of the followers of Rabbi Kook begin to form. Later on, as demand for Torah-based education grew stronger, additional Bnei Akiva yeshivas began to be created, and an entire generation was brought up on values of Torah and its mitzvot, love of nation and land, and a partnership in the institutions that make up the State. The date of Rabbi Neriah's death is symbolic in that Kislev 19 is celebrated as the "New Year of Hassidism." Rabbi Neriah was linked in spirit to the Hassidic movement and to the Chabad stream in particular, and the Lubavicher Rebbe expressed his appreciation for Rabbi Neriah's life work. Rabbi Neriah was a great educator who taught his students with great love. He would wake up the students in the morning with a song: “Children, children, wake up to the work of the Creator.” His final words before his passing were: “Give me holiness [kedushah], it is holiness that I seek. The holiness of the Land of Israel, the holiness of the love of Israel, the holiness of the Nation of Israel...”

### **FIND...**

- Paroh
- Cows
- Grain
- Osnat
- Efraim
- Menashe
- Spies
- Goblet

### **STAT LINE OF THE WEEK- MIKETZ**

**10th of 54 sedras;**

**10th of 12 in Bereishit**

**Written on 254.6 lines in a Torah, rank: 6th**

**The sedra is a single Parsha Petucha (open)  
(the LONGEST parsha in the whole Torah)**

**146 p'sukim – ranks 8th (5th) tied with Bereishit**

**2022 words – ranks 3rd (2nd)**

**7914 letters – ranks 2nd (first)**

**MITZVOT**

**None of the 613 mitzvot are found in Mikeitz**



## TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF THE WALL SURROUNDING THE OLD CITY?

Email your answers to [YOUTH@YOUNGISRAEL.ORG](mailto:YOUTH@YOUNGISRAEL.ORG) along with your **NAME** and **AGE** for a chance to win **AWESOME PRIZES!** Each correct answer will enter your name into a raffle that will happen once a month. Behatzlacha!

#### THIS JUST IN!

- **Ketchup was sold in the 1830s as medicine.**
- **Degringolade means to fall and disintegrate.**
- **The Amazon is the world's largest river, 3,890 miles (6,259 km) long.**
- **Grapes explode when you put them in the microwave.**
- **A pound of houseflies contains more protein than a pound of beef**

For more info please feel free to contact us at [Youth@youngisrael.org](mailto:Youth@youngisrael.org)

#### Parsha Points to Ponder...

Yosef was summoned to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. He did so, as he says, with the help of Hashem. Then he advises Pharaoh how he should proceed having been informed of what lies ahead. Everyone asks the question, if he was called to merely interpret the dreams where did he get the temerity to also give uncalled for advice. A Rabbi once gave a convoluted answer to this question by telling a story. Two ministers, who were constantly seeking honors, came to the train station on the same day and found a band playing great music. Each of these ministers claimed the band was playing in his honor. There was a poor man standing there shaking from hunger. The ministers decided to approach him and ask him for whom the band was playing. He asked them for a hefty sum to answer the question and the ministers obliged. He then told them, "The band was not playing for either one of you but for me so that I should be able to earn some money to feed me and my family." Similarly, Yosef thought, Pharaoh's dreams were neither for Pharaoh nor for his Egyptian interpreters who could not solve the puzzle of the dreams. Hashem could have brought the famine without advising Pharaoh of what will happen. He realized that the dreams were for his own benefit to get him out of prison, so he offered his advice which he knew would result in placing him in charge. It is often difficult to understand why certain things happen. We must, however, believe that there is a good reason even if we cannot see it.

I	C	Z	D	V	A	M	B	M	R
U	E	N	X	D	J	I	E	T	Q
O	H	F	V	H	R	A	R	H	H
S	S	P	M	Z	G	R	I	O	D
N	A	I	G	U	O	F	W	R	V
A	N	F	R	L	B	E	C	A	E
T	E	Z	A	R	L	D	P	P	G
U	M	K	I	G	E	E	V	L	E
O	T	D	N	V	T	C	O	W	S
D	J	O	D	M	S	P	I	E	S

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