



# Kids Parsha Packet

פָּרָשַׁת לֵילְדִים

## Parshat Vayeira

Last Week in Parshat Lech Lecha

Avraham comes to Eretz Canaan and starts to make it his home.

### Please come in...

Do you ever sit in front of your house waiting for people to walk down the street so that you can invite them in and offer them food and drinks? You most probably have never done this... Most of our guests are people who we know (family or friends). We set a specific time for them to arrive and wait for them to knock at the door. Avraham Avinu (our forefather) is different. He sits at the entrance to his tent (which is his house) and waits for people to pass by, and not necessarily people that he knows. When people pass by, he invites them into his house, takes care of them and offers them food and drinks. How strange! Why does Avraham do this? Avraham teaches us what hachnasat orchim (welcoming guests) means. Welcoming guests is to really care for the people that need help, people who are traveling, who do not know anyone in the area, and need a place to eat and drink. The Torah tells us

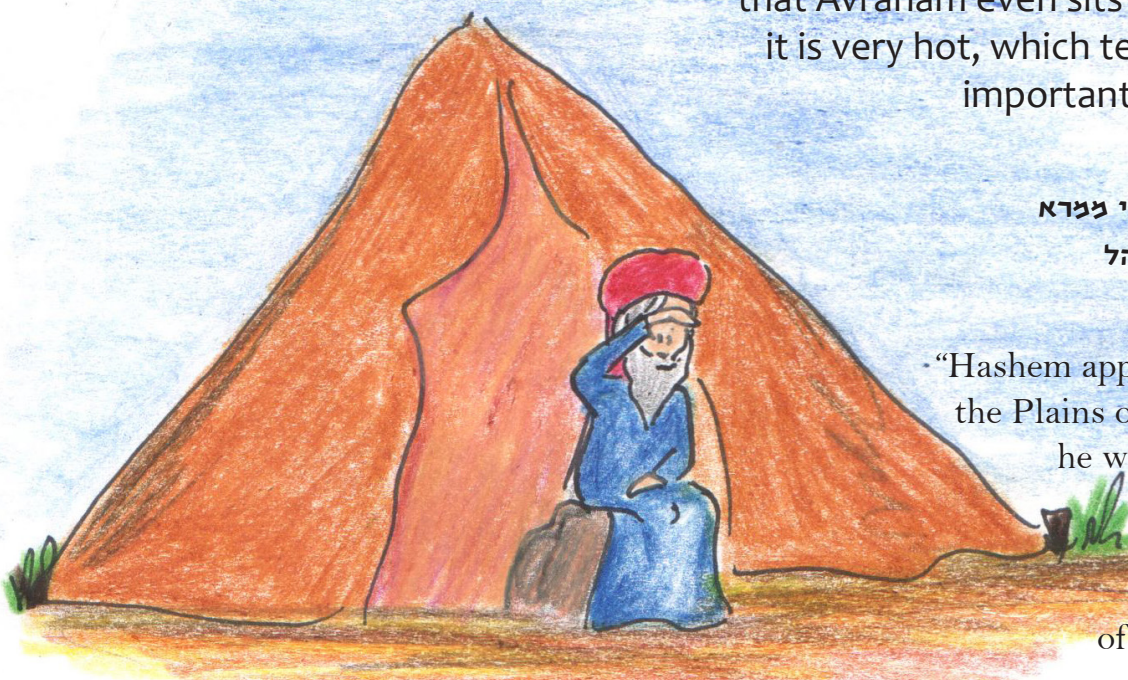
that Avraham even sits outside when it is very hot, which teaches us how important it is to him to invite guests.

וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו ה' בְּאֵלְנֵי עֵבְרָא

וְהוּא יָשָׁב פֶּתַח הָאֵהָל

כַּחַם הַיּוֹם" (י"ח, א')

“Hashem appeared to him in the Plains of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance of the tent in the heat of the day” (18,1)



### Activity

“Hachnasat Orchim”- One member of the family becomes the host, and takes care of the other “guests”.

## Hurry up, the guests have arrived

Avraham waits and finally three guests arrive! Avraham runs to them as fast as he can, and invites them to stop and rest under his tree. Avraham also suggests that they wait a little while so that he can bring them water to wash their feet and also food and drinks. The guests agree to stay. Avraham runs to the tent and tells Sarah to quickly prepare cakes. In the meantime, Avraham and his servant run quickly to the cattle to bring butter and milk. The Torah describes how Avraham does everything quickly, and how he rushes Sarah and his servant to do everything quickly as well. Why? Why does he need to do everything so quickly??? Avraham teaches us a lot about hachnasat orchim. Not only does he search for people that he can help, but he also helps them with all of his heart and wants to go above and beyond. He does not want them to have to wait or feel uncomfortable. He wants them to feel at home as much as possible.

“Let some water be brought, please, and wash your feet, and recline beneath the tree.”  
(18,4).

“יקח נא בעט גים  
ורחצו רגליכם  
והשענו תחת  
העץ”  
(י"ח, ד')



Can you get things done quickly?

### Activity

“Quickly, Quickly”- Remember the host from the previous activity?  
How quickly does he serve his guests?

## That was a good joke...

Have you ever heard something that made you laugh? It turns out that the guests who come to Avraham's tent are not regular guests. They are messengers from Hashem who come to give Avraham and Sarah some very important news. The first thing that they say is that a son will be born in one year from now. Sarah is 90 years old and Avraham is 99. Have you ever heard of people having children at their age? It's impossible, of course, so when Sarah hears the news, she laughs. How could this be? Sarah already accepted the fact that she will not bring children into the world, and now she is told that she will give birth! Obviously the only way that Sarah can give birth at such an old age is by a miracle from Hashem. Hashem promised Avraham that he will have many descendants, but he did not say at what age this will happen. We know that Hashem can make miracles at all ages... and one year later, Sarah gives birth to a son. And guess what his name is? Yitzchak (from the Hebrew word for laughter)!



"ותצחק שרה  
בקרבה"  
(י"ח, י"ב)

"And Sarah  
laughed"  
(18,12)



Do you like to laugh?

### Activity

"Let's laugh"- Everyone forces themselves to laugh together in all different tones. See when you start laughing for real.

## If only there were righteous people...

After the good news that Avraham and Sarah will have a son, they receive some upsetting news.

Hashem tells Avraham that he is going to destroy the two cities of Sodom and Amora because the people in those cities are dishonest and treat each other inappropriately. They lie to each other and harm one another. Do you remember who lives in Sodom? Lot, Avraham's nephew! Will he also get hurt? No. The messengers are on their way to Sodom to save him and his family before the city is destroyed. After the guests leave, Avraham davens to Hashem and begs him not to destroy Sodom and kill all of the people in it. If there is a righteous person in the city, says Avraham, why destroy the whole city? It is not fair to kill them along with all of the evil people! Hashem explains to Avraham that if there were even ten righteous people he would save the city, but these cities are so evil that there are not even ten righteous people! There is no choice but to destroy these two cities.



וַיֵּגֶשׁ אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר  
הֲאֵף תִּסְפֶּה צְדִיקִים עִם  
רָשָׁעִים (י"ח, כ"ג)

"Abraham came forward and said, 'will you even obliterate righteous with wicked?'" (18,23)



Who do you consider to be a righteous person? And who do you see as an evil person?

## Next Week In Parshat Chayei Sarah...

Eliezer, Avraham's servant, searches for a wife for Yitzchak...

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# Shabbat Shalom!

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 Pashut for kids

Coloring page



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