



Kids Parsha Packet

פ"ש לילדים

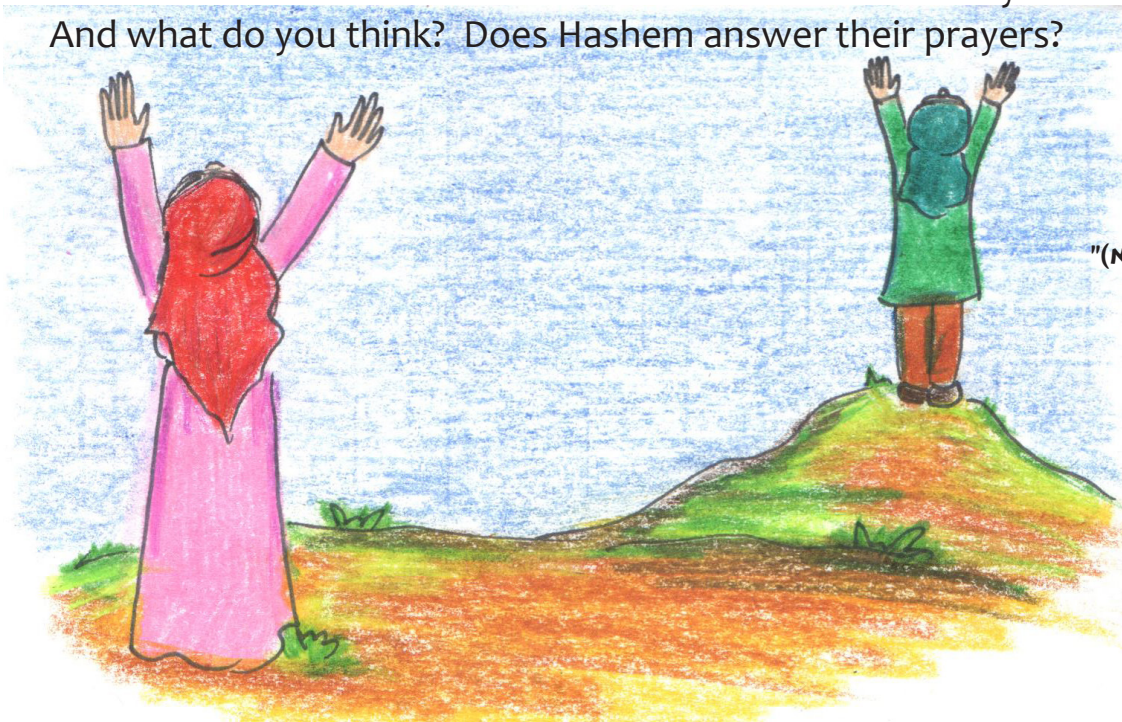
Parshat Toldot

Last Week in Parshat Chayei Sarah:

Yitzchak and Rivkah meet for the first time and get married.

When things are hard, you pray...

Do you remember the emotional meeting between Yitzhak and Rivka? Many years have passed since then, and Yitzchak and Rivka do not have children because Rivka is barren. What does that mean? It means that Rivka cannot have children. But just a minute... Hashem promised Yitzchak that a big nation will come from him, so how can Rivka not be able to have children? If you recall, Sarah was also barren and could not have any children, but at the age of 90 she gave birth to Yitzchak. Hashem keeps his promises, but sometime he tests us. Hashem tests Avraham and Sarah for many years until Yitzchak is born, and now he gives Yitzchak and Rivka a test too. What do Yitzchak and Rivka do? Do they pass their test? The Torah tells us that Yitzchak and Rivka daven to Hashem. Each one of them davens and prays to Hashem that Rivka should not be barren and that they will have children. And what do you think? Does Hashem answer their prayers?



"ויעתר יצחק לה'

לנכח אשתו

כי עקרה הוא (היא)"

(כ"ה, כ"א)

"Isaac
entreated
Hashem
opposite his
wife, because
she was
barren"
(25:21)



Have you ever felt that you are being tested?

The One who hears our prayers...

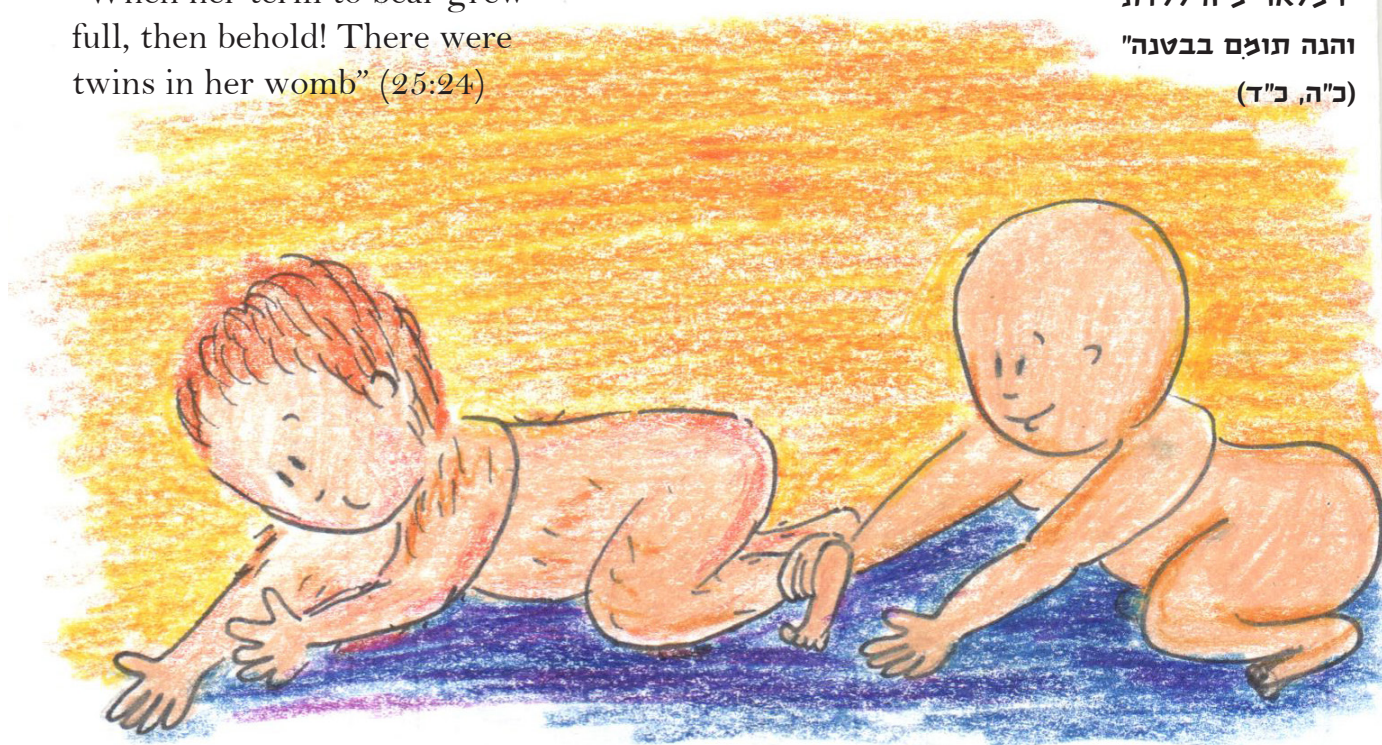
What a blessing! Rivkah is pregnant, and she has twins! Their prayers are answered. But Rivkah is suffering. She feels very strong movements in her stomach that do not stop, and she is afraid that she is dying. Hashem tells her not to worry. He tells her that there are two babies in her stomach who will become great men, and each one of them will start a great nation. But they will not live together. The family will be divided and the younger brother will rule over the older brother. Is this good news or not? Rivkah does not tell Yitzchak what she learned, and the babies are born. The first baby that comes out is hairy and red, and they name him Esav. Immediately afterwards the second baby comes out, and he does something very strange! The second baby is grabbing the ankle of the first one, as if he is trying to pull the first baby back in, so that he could be the firstborn. They name this baby Yaakov (from the Hebrew word Eikev which means heel). Yaakov grabbing the heel of Esav represents the tension that will exist between the brothers throughout their lives, the tension between the younger and older brother.

“When her term to bear grew full, then behold! There were twins in her womb” (25:24)

"ויגלאו יציה ללדת"

"והנה תוֹגֵם בבטנה"

(כ"ה, כ"ד)



Do you know any twins? Are they alike or not?

Activity

“Grab the Ankle” – Tag for the entire family. The person who is “it” needs to tag people by grabbing their ankles. Whoever is tagged then become “it”.

The blessings

Esav and Yaakov grow up. Esav likes to go out to the field and hunt, while Yaakov likes to stay at home (and learn Torah). At this point, Yitzchak is already old and he cannot see very well. He is blind. It is important to Yitzchak

to pass on the blessings that he received from Avraham and Hashem to his children. The blessings give great strength and faith to the person who receives them, and they are like a gift for the future. The blessings involve ruling over nations, wealth, and more. Yitzchak turns to Esav and tells him that he wants to bless him. He tells Esav to first go hunting and prepare delicious food, and then Yaakov will bless him. Do you know who hears this conversation? Rivka. Rivka does not want Esav to receive the blessings, she wants Yaakov to receive them! Why? We do not know all of the reasons, but we do remember that Hashem told her that the younger brother will rule over the older brother. Therefore, Yaakov must receive the blessing of great wealth and leadership. What will Rivka do? Will she tell Yitzchak that he needs to give the blessings to Yaakov instead of Esav?

"ורבקה שמעת
בדבר יצחק
אל עשו בנו"
(כ"ז, ה')

"Now
Rebecca
was listening
as Isaac spoke
to Esau his
son" (27,5)



Which blessings would you like to receive?

Activity

"Giving out blessings" – Everyone in the family gives a warm, heartfelt blessing to everyone else.

Who will receive the blessing?

Rivka tells Yaakov that she heard what Yitzchak asked of Esav. Why does she tell Yaakov? Rivka decides not to discuss this matter with Yitzchak, but to act in a different way. She tells Yaakov to quickly go and bring her a goat, and she will prepare delicious food for Yitzchak. She instructs Yaakov to wear Esav's clothes, so that Yitzchak will think that Yaakov is Esav and give him the blessings (Yitzchak is blind, remember?) Yaakov is scared! He is afraid that Yitzchak will touch his hands and realize that he is not Esav, since Yaakov's hands are smooth while Esav's are hairy. If that happens, Yitzchak will curse him instead of blessing him. Rivka calms Yaakov down and tells him that the plan will work, but that he needs to hurry before Esav returns from the field. Rivka prepares the food, and Yaakov dresses in Esav's clothes. Rivka puts goat skin on Yaakov's hands so that they will be hairy. Yaakov approaches Yitzchak, and Yitzchak senses that something strange is happening and asks to touch him. Does Yitzchak recognize Yaakov?

Yitzchak recognizes the voice of Yaakov, but when he touches Yaakov's hands he thinks that he is Esav. In the end, Yitzchak blesses Yaakov. Only afterwards does Esav return from the field and discover what happened.



"הקל

קול יעקב

והידים

ידי עשו"

(כ"ז, כ"ב)

"The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are Esau's hands"

(27,22)

Activity

"Who is who" One person closes his eyes, and tries to identify other people in the family just by touching them (you can also dress up and add accessories in order to make it more confusing).

Next Week In Parshat Vayetzei...

We will see what happens when Yaakov leaves his home.

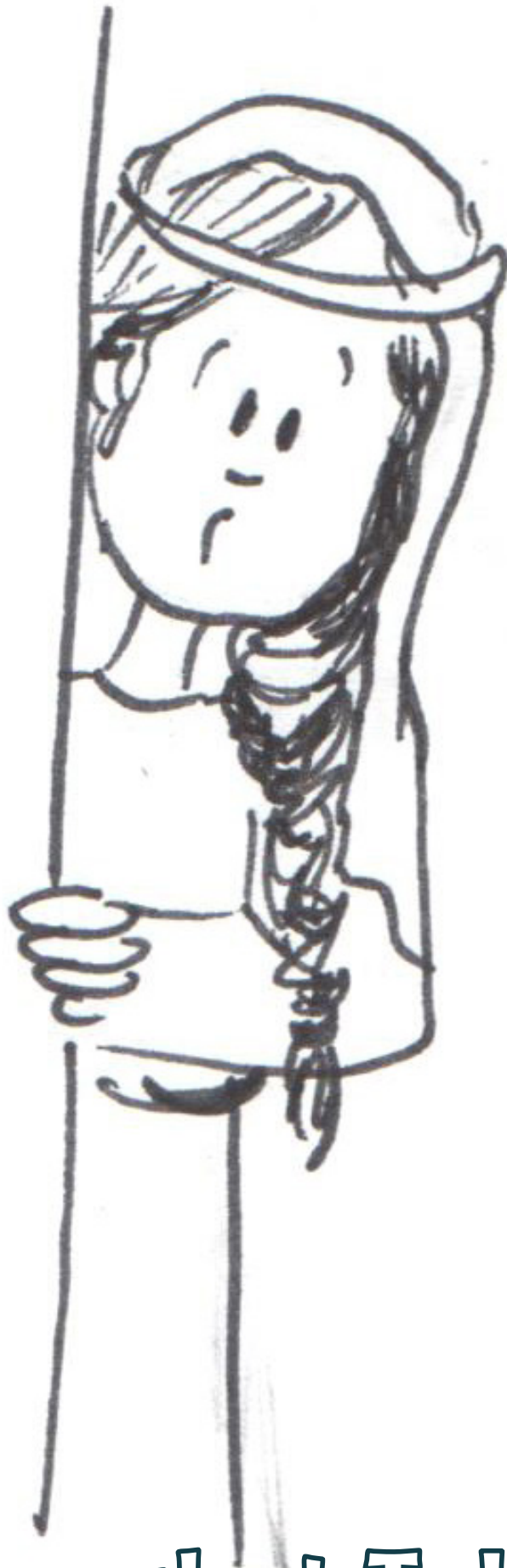
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Shabbat Shalom!

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 Pashut for kids

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