



# Kids Parsha Packet

פֿאַרשע לילדים

## Parshat Vayishlach

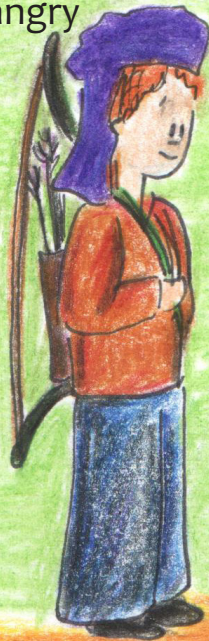
Last Week in Parshat Vayitzei:

Yaakov marries Leah and Rachel and has a very big family.

### Does time help forget?

Yaakov decides that the time has come to return home, to Eretz Canaan. His journey back to his home is not like it was when he left. Then he was alone. Now he has a very large family - four wives, twelve children and a lot of sheep and cattle! Do you remember why he left home? Yitzchak and Rivka wanted him to get married to a woman that was not from Eretz Canaan, so they sent him away. But this was not the only reason. Rivka was afraid of what Esav would do to Yaakov. Why? Before Yaakov left, Yitzchak gave Yaakov the blessings that he was supposed to give to Esav. Yaakov 'stole' the blessing from his brother... Rivka and Yaakov were afraid that Esav would hurt Yaakov because he stole his blessings, so Rivka advised him to leave their home for a while and go somewhere far away. This would help Esav calm down and forget about everything. But now, when Yaakov wants to return home, he is worried that Esav is still angry

at him and that he will want to hurt him and his family. Yaakov sends messengers to Esav. He instructs them to tell Esav that he is returning home from Charan, and he will be happy to give him gifts. What does Esav say to the messengers???



"And Jacob sent angels before him to Esau his brother"  
(32,4)



"וישלח יעקב  
מלאכים לפניו אל  
עשו אחיו" (ל"ב, ד')



Which memories do you remember very well and which memories do you remember less?



## Help! We must prepare for war!

The messengers return from their mission, and their answer is very troubling. Esav is on his way to meet Yaakov, but he is bringing 400 men with him! Why does he need to bring so many people with him? Yaakov is very scared. He is convinced that Esav is preparing to fight a war against him because he stole the blessings from him so many years ago, and therefore he is coming with 400 men! Yaakov decides to prepare in case a war breaks out between him and Esav, and he divides his whole family and all of their possessions into two groups. He decides that one group will meet with Esav first, and the other group will stay back. Why? So that if Esav fights with Yaakov and hurts the first group, at least the second group will still remain, and will be able to continue the family's existence.

Yaakov davens to Hashem and asks him for his help in the war with Esav and to protect his family. Yaakov reminds Hashem of the promise that he made, that Yaakov would have such a large family that no one would be able to count them, as many as the grains of sand by the sea.

וַיִּירָא יַעֲקֹב גָּאֹד וַיִּצְרֵ לוֹ  
וַיַּחֲצֵ אֶת הָעָם אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ (ל"ב, ח')



"And Jacob becomes very frightened and it distressed him. So he divided the people with him." (32,8)



Have you ever been very scared? What scared you?

### Activity

"Two Groups" – Have a competition between two groups, where runners carry one person on their backs while they run. See which group is stronger!



## Late at night, another fight takes place...

It is nighttime. Everyone is preparing for the next day - the day that they will meet Esav and his 400 men. Yaakov tries to calm Esav in a different way. He sends him many gifts: camels, cows, goats and more. Yaakov hopes that maybe this will make Esav happy so that Esav will not fight against him. Yaakov commands the messengers that bring the animals to tell Esav that they are a present from Yaakov. That night, Yaakov takes his family across the river that separates Charan from Eretz Canaan. After the whole family crosses, Yaakov stays behind. And suddenly, the moment before he crosses the river, a man appears and starts to fight with him! They fight until morning! The man sees that he is not able to overpower Yaakov, so he hits Yaakov's hip joint. This causes Yaakov to limp. Yaakov and the man continue fighting, and the man asks Yaakov to let him go. Yaakov refuses to let him go until the man blesses him. The man blesses him, and Yaakov asks him his name. The man does not tell him his name, and Yaakov understands that he is an angle of Hashem. He understands that it is a big miracle that he was saved, and now he is on his way to meet Esav.



וַיִּוְתֶר יַעֲקֹב לְבָדּוֹ

וַיֵּאבֶק אִישׁ עִנּוּ

עַד עֲלֹת הַשָּׁחַר

(ל"ב, כ"ה)

"And Jacob was left alone and a man wrestled with him until the break of dawn."

(32,25)



Do you like to receive presents? Does it make you happy? Which presents do you like to receive?

**Activity**

"Cross the river" – Place a blue garment on the floor, and cross the river in all different ways without touching it. For example, jumping, crawling, with your eyes closed, etc.



## The encounter

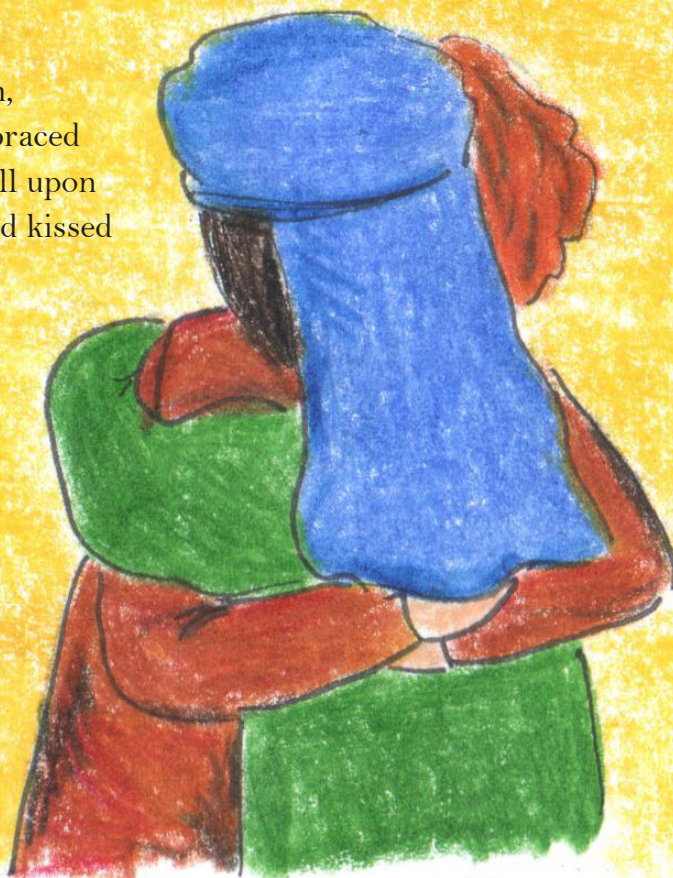
The suspense is unbearable! Yaakov sees Esav approach with all of his men. What will happen??? Yaakov approaches Esav and bows down before him. And what does Esav do? Runs to him, hugs him, kisses him and cries! What a shock! After all of Yaakov's preparations for war, we were sure that what Esav would do was to fight! But it turns out that not everything we think will happen is what happens in the end... Maybe Esav did really intend to fight with Yaakov, but when he saw his brother after not seeing him for many years,

"וירץ עשו לקראתו ויחבקהו

ויפל על צוארו וישקהו

ויבכו" (ל"ג, ד')

"Esau ran  
toward him,  
and he embraced  
him, and fell upon  
his neck and kissed  
him; and  
they  
wept"  
(32,4)



he changed his mind and decided to forgive him for everything... How exciting it must be to hug your brother after so many years of dispute and separation! Esav admires Yaakov's large family and suggests that Yaakov and his family come and live near his family in Har Seir. Yaakov refuses and says that he will come to visit him. Esav and Yaakov separate peacefully. Esav returns to his home in Har Seir, and Yaakov settles in Eretz Canaan.

**Activity** 'A big hug' – Who has the strongest hug in the family?

### Next Week In Parshat Vayeshev...

We will see what happens when a fight between brothers gets out of control.

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## Shabbat Shalom!

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