



# Kids Parsha Packet

פֿאַרשע לילדים

## Parshat Meketz

Last Week in Parshat Vayeshev:

The brothers almost killed Yosef because of their hatred, but in the end they sold him..

### Yosef is not the only dreamer...

This week's parsha also talks about someone who dreams, but this time it is Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh has two dreams that are similar to each other. In the first dream Pharaoh sees seven big, nice, fat cows rising from the river and grazing in the field. Suddenly, seven skinny, sickly cows rise up from the river as well. Then a very strange thing happens: the seven skinny cows eat the seven fat cows. At that moment, Pharaoh wakes up. And then Pharaoh has another dream. He sees seven stalks of grain that look nice and full, and suddenly seven thin, withered stalks of grain appear. Once again, the seven thin stalks of grain swallow the seven full stalks, and Pharaoh wakes up. What a surprise that Pharaoh dreamt two dreams that are so similar to each other! But one time he dreamt about cows and the other time about stalks of grain... What do these dreams mean? Is there a meaning?

"וַיְהִי בֶקֶץ שְׁנָתַיִם יָמִים

וּפְרָעָה חֹלֵם וְהִנֵּה עֹבֵד עַל הַיָּאֵר"

(ג'א, א')

"It happened at the end of two years to the day: Pharaoh was dreaming that behold – he was standing over the “canal” (41,1)



#### Activity

"Fat and Skinny Cows" – Split up into two groups – fat cows (some people should put pillows underneath their clothes so that they will be “fat”) and skinny cows. Then see which group is able to knock over the other group.



## Oh! Now I remember!

The dream troubles King Pharaoh very much, and he searches for people that interpret dreams so that they can explain what the dreams mean. Many consultants give Pharaoh different ideas and interpretations of his dream, but none of them are right. How frustrating! Suddenly, Pharaoh's butler remembers an amazing dream interpreter! He tells Pharaoh that when he was in jail, he also had a dream. There, the butler met someone that was with him in jail who interpreted the dream, and everything that he said would happen actually came true. King Pharaoh ordered his people to take this man out of jail immediately and bring him to interpret his dream. Can you guess who this person is? Of course – it's Yosef! Yosef himself dreamt dreams and knows how to explain their meanings. Will he succeed in interpreting the dreams of King Pharaoh?



וְזָכַר אֶתְנוּ נֶעֱרַב עֲבָדִי

עֶבֶד לְשַׂר הַטַּבָּחִים

וְנֹסֵפֶר לוֹ

וַיַּפְתֵּר לָנוּ אֶת חֲלֻמֵּינוּ

(ג'א, י"ב)

"And there with us,  
was a youth, a Hebrew,  
a slave of the chamberlain  
of the butchers; we related  
it to him and he interpreted  
our dreams for us"

(41,12)



Do you typically forget things or do you tend to remember everything?

### Activity

"Freed from jail" – Put one of the family members in jail (made out of chairs, blankets, or anything else). The person in jail has to try to get out.



## Yosef interprets dreams

Yosef comes to King Pharaoh. Before he listens to Pharaoh's dream he tells Pharaoh that his interpretations come from Hashem. Whatever Hashem tells him to say, that this is the interpretation. Pharaoh tells Yosef his two dreams, and Yosef begins to interpret them. Seven fat cows and seven full stalks of grain are a sign of seven very good years in the land of Egypt. During those years there will be financial success and abundance. But the seven skinny cows and the seven thin stalks of grain are a sign of the seven following years: seven very difficult years of a famine that is so great that the seven good years will be forgotten. Yosef suggests that Pharaoh appoints someone that will help Egypt prepare for the difficult years. He suggests that food should be stored during the seven good years in Egypt, that will be enough for the seven years of famine. Guess who Pharaoh appoints? Of course- he chooses Yosef! Pharaoh trusts Yosef to do a good job.

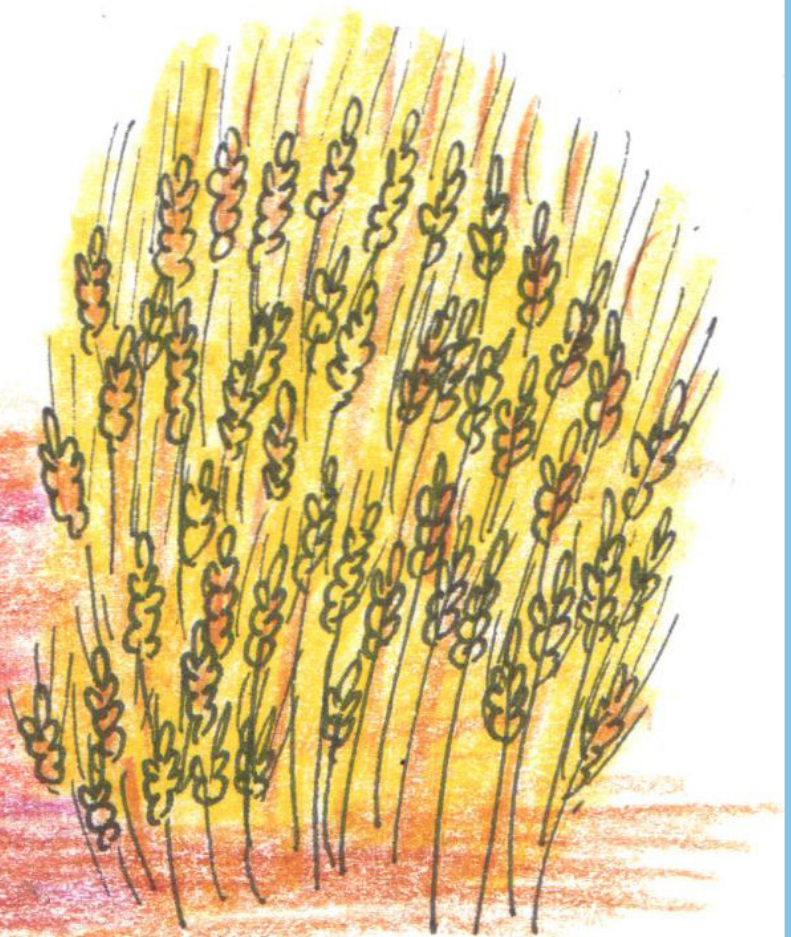
"ויאמר יוסף אל פרעה

חלום פרעה אחד הוא

את אשר הא-להים עשה הגיד לפרעה"

(ע"א, כ"ה)

"Joseph said to Pharaoh,  
'the dream of Pharaoh,  
it is one; what God is doing,  
He has told  
to Pharaoh"  
(41,25)



How do you feel when you are hungry?

### Activity

"Prepare for famine" – Collect all of the toy food in the house, divide it amongst everyone, and determine how long the food will last.

## There is nothing to eat

Yosef's interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams actually comes true. There is a great famine in Egypt, in Eretz Canaan, and in many other places. Since Yosef prepared Egypt for the famine, it is the only place that has food and is able to survive during the famine. People from all over the region come to Egypt to ask for food to cope with the difficult times. Who lives in Eretz Canaan? Yaakov and his sons of course! They are also suffering from the great famine, and Yaakov decides to send his sons to Egypt to bring food home. He sends ten children. Yosef is not there anymore, and Binyamin, the younger brother of Yosef, stays close to Yaakov. The brothers arrive in Egypt, and who do they meet? Yosef their brother! They do not recognize him because he is dressed like an Egyptian ruler, and they have not seen him in many years. However, Yosef recognizes them, but he does not reveal to them that he is Yosef their brother. Why?? Isn't he happy to meet them after so many years away from home?! All of this and more in next week's parsha.

"וירדו אחי יוסף עשרה  
לשבר בר מצרים"  
(ג"ב, ג')

"So Joseph's  
brothers-  
Ten (of them)-  
went down  
to buy  
grain from  
Egypt"  
(42,3)



How do you feel when you are far away from your home?

## Next Week In Parshat Vayigash...

The truth is revealed...

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# Shabbat Shalom!

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 Pashut for kids





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