

Kids Parsha Packet

פָּרָשַׁת לֵילָדִים

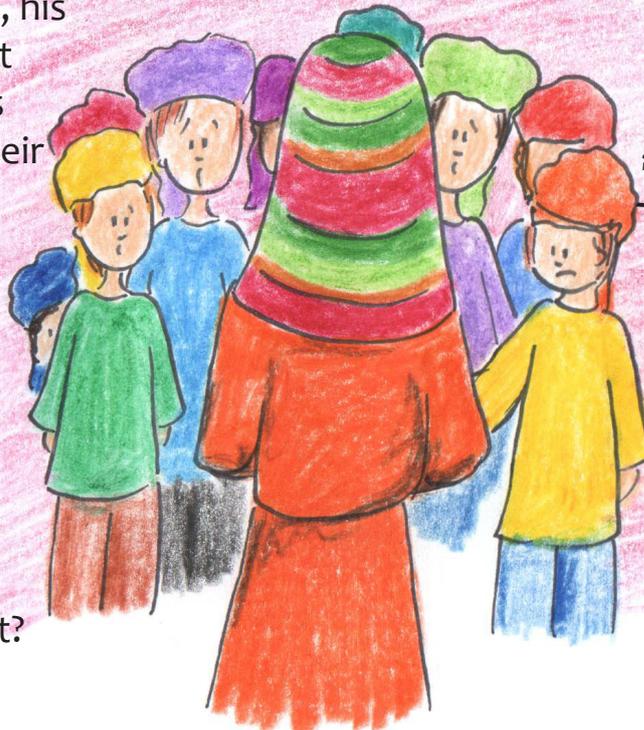
Parshat Vayigash

Last Week in Parshat Miketz:

Yosef became an important ruler in Egypt, and he does not reveal to his brothers that he is Yosef.

We must bring Binyamin home!

Yosef and his brothers meet after not seeing each other for many years. Things are not developing as the brothers expected... Yosef knows that his brothers are standing before him, but he does not reveal to them that he is Yosef, their brother, the brother that they tried to kill. In last week's parsha, Yosef demanded that Binyamin come to Egypt. At the end of the parsha Yosef told his brothers that Binyamin has to stay in Egypt, and the rest of the brothers can return to Eretz Canaan. Now the brothers do not know what to do! Yaakov is very attached to Binyamin, if he does not return he will be very upset, and it will add to his pain over losing Yosef. Yehuda approaches Yosef and tells him about Yaakov, his father. He tells Yosef that one of their brothers is already gone, and that Yaakov is very attached to Binyamin, his youngest son. If he does not return, Yehuda explains, this will cause a lot of pain for their father. Yehuda says that he promised Yaakov that he would be responsible for returning Binyamin, and therefore he asks Yosef to keep him in Egypt instead of Binyamin, and to let Binyamin return to Eretz Canaan. How does Yosef respond to Yehuda's request?



"כי איך אעלה
אל אבי והנער
איננו אתי"
(ג"ד, ל"ד)

"For how
can I go
up to my
father if
the youth
is not
with me"
(44, 34)



Have you ever had to argue with someone to get what you wanted?

Lots of tears...

After Yehuda spoke to Yosef, and after he told him that he is responsible for Binyamin and that he is not going to give up and agree to let him stay in Egypt, Yosef finally “breaks down” and begins to cry. This is not just any typical cry, but a great big cry that is heard throughout Egypt... Why did he cry? Perhaps he really missed his brothers and his father after being in Egypt for so many years, far away from his family, and now when he meets them

it brings tears to his eyes. Or maybe Yosef is moved by how the brothers are worried about Binyamin, and he understands that his brothers will not hurt him when he reveals the truth to them... Yosef asks all of the Egyptian guards to go outside. Why? What is going to happen? Yosef decides to reveal his big secret to his brothers! Yosef tells his brothers that he is Yosef their brother, and he immediately asks about Yaakov his father. At first the brothers do not believe him. Yosef tells them to come close to him and not to be afraid of him because he will not do anything bad to them.



“ויתן את
קלו בבכי
וישמעו מצרים
וישמע
בית פרעה”
(ג'ה, ב')

“He gave
[forth] his
voice in
weeping.
Egypt heard,
and Pharaohs
household
heard.” (44,2)



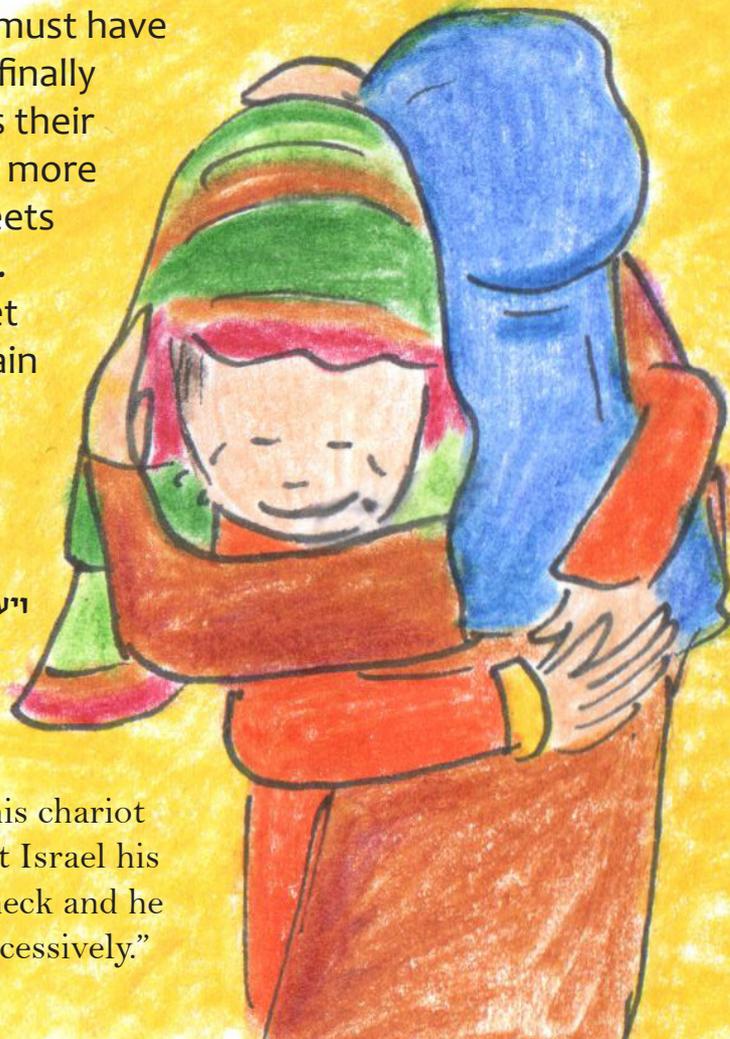
What makes you cry?

Activity

“Stop the tears”- Try to cry (real tears!), and then explain to everyone why you are crying (my skirt is in the wash, I did not get dessert, etc.)

The meeting!

Why didn't Yosef reveal his true identity to his brothers beforehand? Why did he force them to leave Binyamin in Egypt? We do not know the real reasons, but let's try to think together about Yosef and what happened to him in his lifetime. The last time that Yosef met his brothers, they tried to kill him. They threw him in a pit, and sold him into slavery. Many years have passed since then, and he has not heard from them or from Yaakov his father. Perhaps he has different thoughts: maybe he thought that when the brothers saw him again after so many years they would try to kill him again? Maybe they still really hate him? Maybe they totally forgot about him and they do not even remember him? Maybe Yosef wants to check if they regret what they did to him... Now we can understand how emotional it must have been when Yosef finally revealed that he is their brother, and even more so when Yosef meets Yaakov, his father. Yosef runs to greet his father, and again he cries a lot.



"ויאסר יוסף גרכבתו
... ויעל לקראת ישראל אביו...
ויפל על צואריו
ויבך על צואריו עוד"
(ג"ו, כ"ט)

"Joseph harnessed his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father...fell on his neck and he wept on his neck excessively."
(46,29)



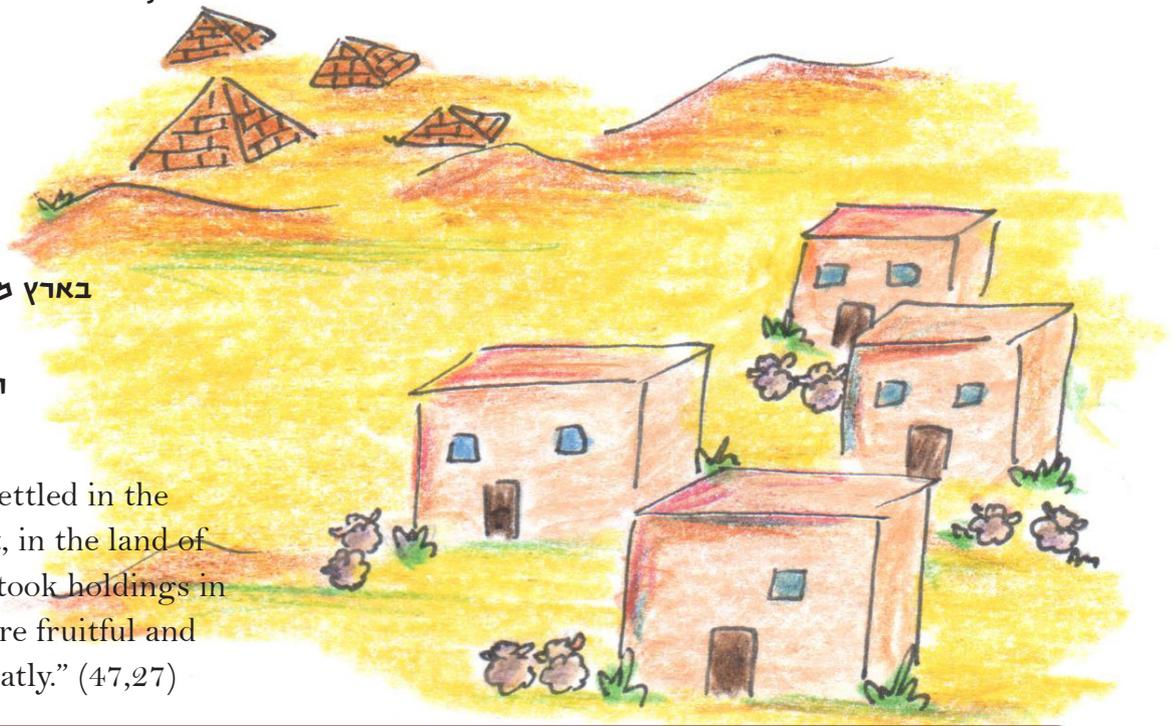
Is it hard for you to be away from your mother or father?

Activity

"A big hug" - Look at the clock, and use it to time how long you can hug your mother and your father.

Living in Egypt

Yosef explains to his brothers that the famine will continue for another five years and that Yaakov and his family should come and live in Egypt. Yosef explains to them that since he is a very important person in Egypt, he can provide them with food, livelihood and work. Yaakov's family agrees to this idea, and they move from Eretz Canaan to Egypt. Yosef asks Pharaoh to allow his family to live in a part of Egypt called Goshen, because they have a lot of sheep and they need a large space to care for them. Pharaoh agrees. But Yosef has another reason for wanting his family to settle in Goshen. Yaakov's family needs to protect themselves from the Egyptians. Why? They believe in Hashem and that they will return to live in Eretz Canaan, and in order for this to happen they must keep serving Hashem and not mingle with people who serve other gods. And in fact, Bnei Yisrael lived in Goshen until they left Egypt, and there they watched over themselves.



"וַיֵּשֶׁב יִשְׂרָאֵל

בְּאֶרֶץ גֹּשֶׁן בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם

וַיֵּצֵא אֱלֹהִים

אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרַיִם

(בְּרָא, כ"ז)

"Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen; they took holdings in it and they were fruitful and multiplied greatly." (47,27)

Activity

"Separation" - Build a wall (for example, from sheets or chairs) and decide who goes on each side of the wall (anyone who is short, anyone with brown eyes, anyone who likes to speak English, etc.)

Next Week In Parshat Vayechi...

We will say goodbye to Yaakov, and finish the book of Bereishit.

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Shabbat Shalom!

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 Pashut for kids

Coloring page



Parashat Vayigash