



Kids Parsha Packet

פָּרָשַׁת וַיַּעֲכִי לילדים

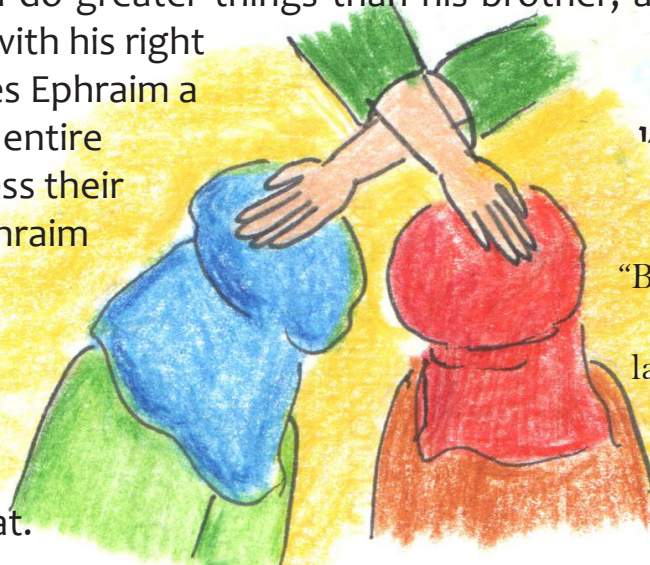
Parshat Vayechi

Last Week in Parshat Vayigash:

Yaakov's family moves to Egypt to live with Yosef.

The Oldest and the Youngest

Yaakov is very old. Like his father Yitzchak, Yaakov does not see well towards the end of his life. Yaakov asks Yosef to bring him his two grandsons, who he met only at the end of his life. Who are they? Menashe and Ephraim. Yosef brings them close to Yaakov's bed so that he can give them a blessing. He puts Menashe under Yaakov's right hand and Ephraim under Yaakov's left hand. Why? Since Menashe is the oldest, Yosef thinks that he should have the main blessing, the one that is given with the right hand. But what does Yaakov do? He crosses his hands and puts his right hand on the head of the younger brother, Ephraim, and his left hand on the head of the older brother, Menashe. Yosef sees what his father is doing, and tries to move his hands so that Yaakov's hands will be placed in the way that Yosef believes is correct. Yosef thinks that because Yaakov cannot see well, he made a mistake. But, Yaakov explains to Yosef that he is doing it on purpose because Ephraim, the younger brother, will do greater things than his brother, and therefore he gives him a blessing with his right hand... Yaakov blesses Ephraim and Menashe that the entire Jewish nation will bless their own sons just like Ephraim and Menashe were blessed by Yaakov. Think about the blessing that you get from your parents every Shabbat.



"וישלח ישראל את יָעִינוֹ"

וישֵׁת עַל רֹאשׁ אֶפְרַיִם

וְהוּא הַצֶּעִיר "בִּיחָ, י"ד"

"But Israel extended his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head though he was the younger" (48,14)

Activity

"The oldest and the youngest" - Find differences between the youngest and the oldest in your family, and things that they have in common (and you can include your extended family).

Blessing for all!

Do you remember what was important for Yitzchak to give to his sons? Blessings! A gift of success in their lives, their livelihood, and their faith in Hashem. Yaakov feels that he is nearing the end of his life, and he wants to bless his sons and tell them what will happen to each of them in the future. But what really happens? Yaakov does not exactly say what will happen in the future, but instead speaks about the past, present, and the future. Yaakov reminds them of difficult experiences in the family and of things that the brothers did wrong. Yaakov tells these stories so that his children learn from them and act differently in the future. For example: he talks about how Shimon and Levi mistreated Yosef and the people of Shechem. However, Yaakov also praises his sons and tells them that good things will happen to them in the future: Yosef and Yehuda will lead the Jewish nation. Judges and kings will be descended from them. Therefore Yaakov gives them strength and extra capabilities. Yaakov also describes the different roles that some of the children will serve in their lives. For example, Zevulun will work with ships and live by the sea. Yaakov compares his children to animals to describe their personalities. For example, Dan is described as a snake - a quick and relentless animal, and Naftali is like a deer, fast and efficient.

"האספו ואגידה
לכם את אשר
יקרא אתכם
באחרית הימים"
(ג"ט, א')

"Assemble yourselves and I will tell you what will befall you in the End of Days" (49,1)



What blessing would you like to receive from your parents?

Activity

"Giving out blessings" - Each person takes turns giving blessings (wishes for the future) to all family members about all different topics (you can also use animals as an example).

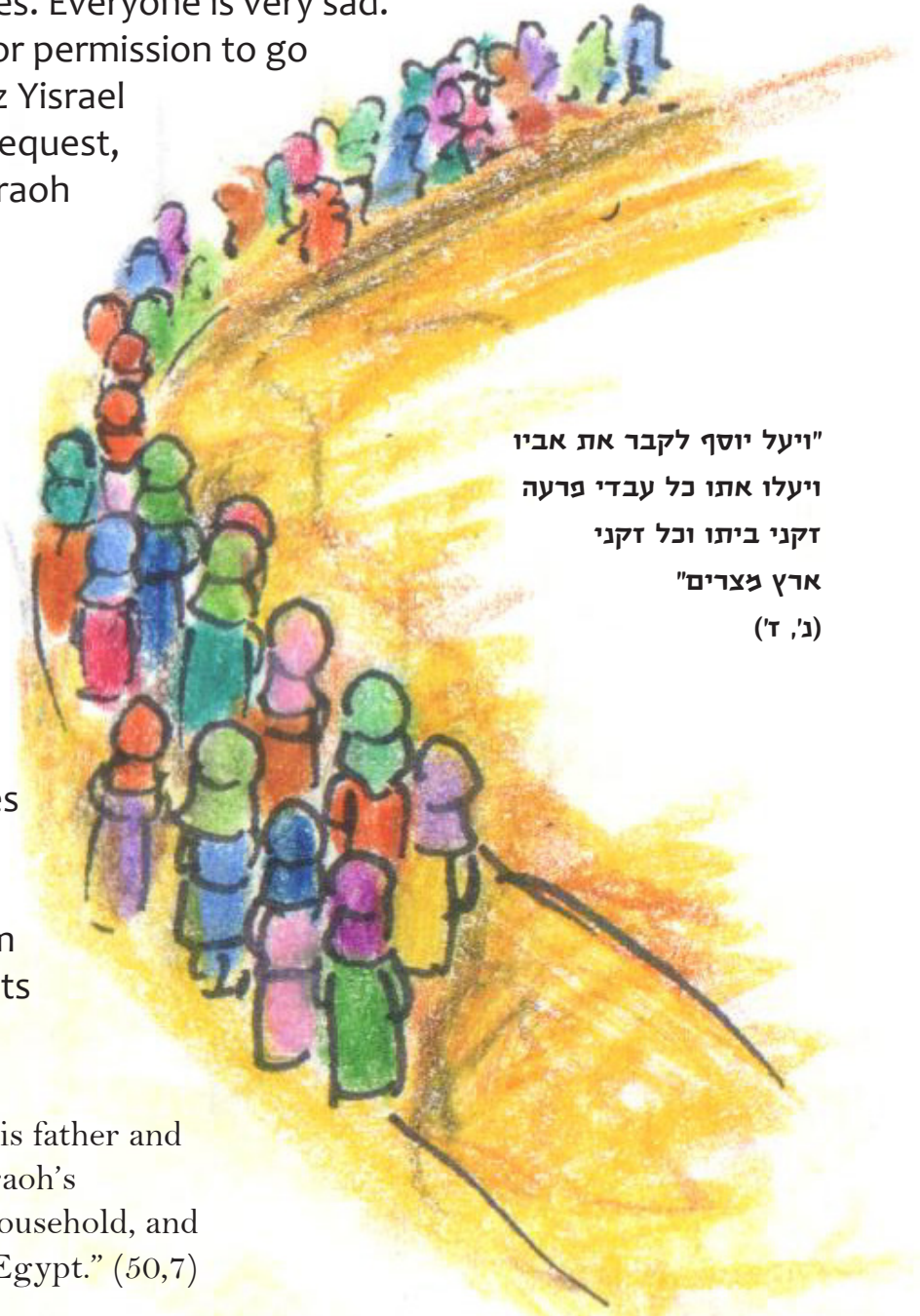
The Burial Journey to Eretz Yisrael

Yaakov knows that he is nearing the end of his life, and he commands his sons to bury him in Maarat Hamachpela in Eretz Yisrael and not in Egypt. Maarat Hamachpela is the place that Avraham bought in order to bury Sarah, his wife. Avraham and Sarah are both buried there, as are Yitzchak and Rivka, and Leah, the mother of six of Yaakov's sons. After Yaakov gives this important message to his sons, he dies. Everyone is very sad.

Yosef asks King Pharaoh for permission to go and bury his father in Eretz Yisrael because that was his last request, and then to return to. Pharaoh

agrees. Who goes to bury Yaakov? We would expect Yosef and his family, and the brothers and their families to leave Egypt and go to Eretz Yisrael because they are the immediate family.

But that is not what happens... Many of the Egyptians join the journey to bury Yaakov in what the Torah describes as “a very large camp”. Pharaoh's servants, elders and important people from Egypt pay their last respects to Yaakov.



"ויעל יוסף לקבר את אביו
ויעלו אתו כל עבדי פרעה
זקני ביתו וכל זקני
ארץ מצרים"
(נ', ז')

“So Joseph went up to bury his father and with him went up all of Pharaoh's servants, the leaders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt.” (50,7)



How can you honor every person?

Activity

“A very large camp” – Set up all of your toys for a journey from your room to the living room.

What Will Happen Now?

After Yaakov dies, the brothers start to fear Yosef and what he might do to them... All of the brothers think that Yosef does not truly forgive them for what they did to him, but they understand that while Yaakov was still alive, Yosef would not hurt them. Now that Yaakov is no longer with them, they think that Yosef will take revenge for what they did to him, and hurt them. They approach Yosef and say to him that before he died, Yaakov their father asked Yosef to forgive the brothers. When the brothers say this to Yosef, he begins to cry. He is sad that his brothers think that he would treat them that way, and that the only reason that he did not hurt them was that their father was around. Yosef calms his brothers and he tells them that he will provide all of their needs for livelihood, a good life, and food. After all these years, the brothers are still fearful and their regret for what they did is still strong in their hearts... Yet Yosef, the man who's life changed dramatically because of his brothers' actions, learned to forgive, to look ahead and to find the positive.

"ויראו אחי יוסף
כי גת אביהם
ויאמרו לו
ישטננו יוסף"
(נ', ט"ו)

"And Joseph's
brothers saw that
their father was
dead, and they said,
'perhaps Joseph will
nurture hatred
against us'"
(50, 16)



חזק חזק ונתחזק!



Is it hard or easy to truly forgive?

Next Week In Sefer Shemot...

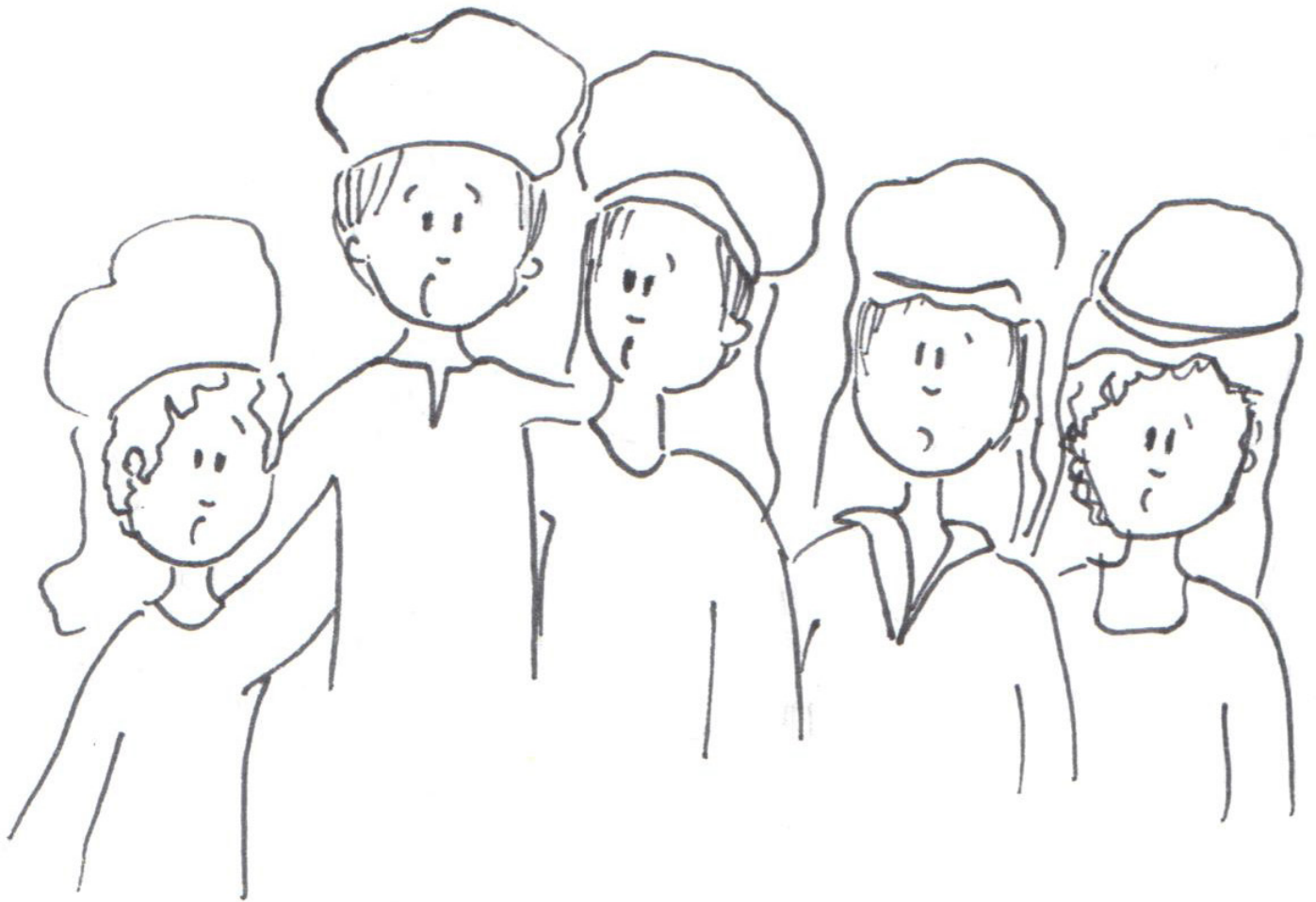
We will see what happens to Bnei Yisrael when a new king comes....

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Shabbat Shalom!

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 Pashut for kids



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