

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT VAYIGASH

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Surprise!



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Having followed Yosef's (Joseph's) story for a few weeks, we now reach the pinnacle of the story where Yosef reveals his identity to his brothers. Hence the... **SURPRISE!**

The theme of unity is resonant throughout this week's parasha. After all Yosef had endured, stemming from his sale by his brothers, it leads us to wonder how he could forgive them? The power of forgiveness is something we are taught from a young age and the idea of 'not holding a grudge' is a major principle within Judaism. However, after all that had been

done to Yosef, how could he just forgive his brothers? Perhaps the answer is as follows. The collective power we hold together is far more powerful than the malice of one person towards another. Together we are stronger and together we can defeat evil – both internal and external. Unity is what holds us together and makes us strong!

During these turbulent times, the message of Yosef and his brothers is more relevant than ever. The importance of standing up for what's right is one of our most important values. When Yosef, in his position as the viceroy of Egypt, was going to imprison his youngest brother Binyamin (Benjamin) for the theft of a goblet, it was another of his brothers, Yehuda (Judah), who stood up and said, "No, take me!" This then led to Yosef revealing his identity as the lost brother and

the familial reunion that eventually brought their father Yaakov (Jacob) to Egypt.

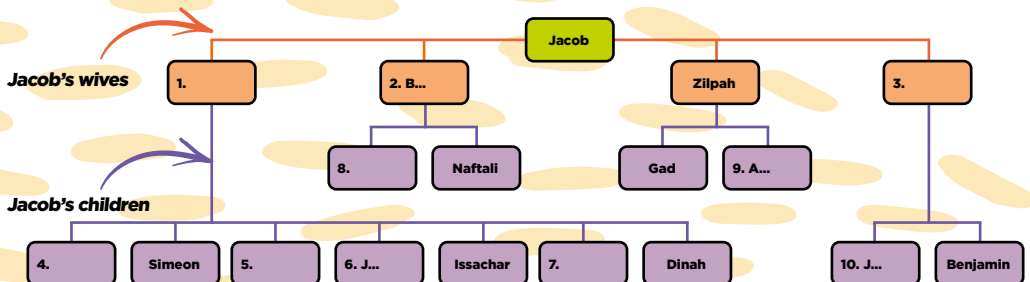
I want to finish this Tribe Weekly article with a quick thought about sand. You may be asking why we are talking about sand, but as God said to Avraham in Bereishit 22:17, "I will bless you greatly and make your descendants as many as the stars of the heavens and the sand on the seashore." What can we learn from this about unity? It's quite simple; when we are like a single grain of sand we can be blown around, but when we pack and stick together, we can break waves. What do people use when there's a flood? Sandbags! Even when times are tough, if we all stick together, we will be OK and we will thrive.

AM YISRAEL CHAI!

Jacob's Family Tree

This week's parasha lists all the members of Jacob's family who went down to Egypt. Can you put the following people in their correct places in the family tree? (Hint: Look in Bereishit (Genesis) 46:8-24).

Rachel • Leah • Bilhah • Joseph • Levi • Asher • Judah • Zebulun • Reuben • Dan



Answers: 1. Leah 2. Bilhah 3. Rachel 4. Reuben 5. Levi 6. Judah 7. Zebulun 8. Dan 9. Asher 10. Joseph