

Parasha Thinking



- 1) How do you think the brothers felt when the goblet was found in Binyamin's sack?
- 2) How many storage houses do you think were needed and what kind of staff would need to run them?
- 3) How does the word, fear, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

Yosef (Joseph) is brought out of prison because Paro (Pharaoh) had some disturbing dreams and the butler finally remembered Yosef's talent for interpreting dreams. His first dream was of seven fat cows being eaten up by seven thin cows and not looking nourished. Next, seven robust ears of grain were swallowed by seven lean ears of grain and it made no difference. Hashem told Yosef the meaning and he explains that seven years of plenty will be followed by seven years of hunger in the country. He suggests to Paro that he should store up grain during the plentiful years, so that there will be enough food in the years of famine. Paro appointed Yosef as the vice ruler of Egypt. Yosef got married to Osnat and they had two sons, Menashe (Manasseh) and Ephraim.

As warned, a famine spread not just in Egypt but in the surrounding countries, too, and because of Yosef's wise storage plan, food can only be bought in Egypt. Ya'akov (Jacob) sent ten of Yosef's brothers to Egypt to buy grain; the youngest, Binyamin (Benjamin), stayed at home with Ya'akov, to keep him safe. Yosef recognised his brothers, but they did not know who he was. He accused them of being spies and demanded that they bring Binyamin along with them to Egypt, to prove that they are who they say they are. He kept Shimon (Simeon) as a prisoner. On their journey back to their father, they discovered that the money they paid for their grain had somehow been returned to them.

Ya'akov agreed to send Binyamin when Yehuda (Judah) promised to take absolute responsibility for him. Once back in Egypt, Yosef welcomed them warmly, returned Shimon to his brothers, and invited them into his home. He planted his silver goblet in Binyamin's sack. On their journey home, the brothers were chased, searched and arrested when the goblet was found. Yosef offered to let them all go free and only keep Binyamin as his slave.

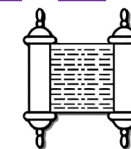
Discovery

Paro asked Yosef if he can interpret dreams and he said, "No, I cannot. Hashem tells me what they mean and I can share that with you".

Did you know that Yosef set up guards at all the entrances to Egypt, and they were asked to write down all the names of people who came in to buy grain. Every night he reviewed the lists and that's how he discovered that his brothers had arrived.

Did you know that Yosef pretended that the silver goblet had magic powers and he used it to 'name all the brothers' and 'put them in age order'. He also pretended it could group them by who their mother was, as Ya'akov had four wives.

Did you know that Yosef was testing the brothers to see if they had done teshuva (repentance) for the way that they treated him?



Who has done something special for you this week and what did they do? (If they are present, go up to them and say thank you!)

Games

1) Bing Bong – parasha quiz

Divide the group into two. Have two ‘hot seats’ where one person from each team sits opposite each other. One team’s noise is, BING, the other team’s noise is, BONG! Leader asks quiz questions on the parasha and whichever person makes the noise first, wins. Switch contestants after each question.

2) My friend Zain, bought some grain

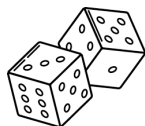
Link: the brothers bought grain that Yosef had stored

The children service leader explains that you start the rhyme with, my friend _____ and they you say something that rhymes, for example, ‘My friend, Zain, bought some grain’. Who would like to continue with different names?

Other examples; My friend Betty is from the Serengeti. My friend Josh is ever so posh. My friend Harrison made a comparison. My friend Lizzie is always so busy. My friend Roy bought a new toy.

3) Musical chairs

Link: When Yosef was ‘using his magical goblet’ to put the brothers in order, they moved seats a lot.



Story

(One of the children can read this out loud – encourage them to use expression.)

Mike and Sal were twins and they’d both just been given a whopping, £20 each for their birthday. “Nice,” smiled Sal, “thank you, grandpa!” Mike leaned over and gave grandpa a hug, “thank you, grandpa!”

“What are you going to do with the money?” asked grandpa and they both said they wanted to pool their money together and save it. “Where did I get such sensible grand children from? I would have gone straight down to the sweetshop and spent it all in one go!”

“Sweetshop?” drooled Sal? “I might need to change my mind because a sweetshop sounds really good, right now!” She straightened her back, took a deep breath and said, “No, I can do this. I can join together with Mike and we can save it! Soon there will be something that we really want to buy and we will have the money for it!”

The next three months were uneventful but then a new toy came out that was a huge craze – everybody was playing with it. It was called MemoMaster 2.0 and it cost £39.99. It showed you a series of sounds, movements and colours and you had to press the right buttons and do the right moves to re-create that exact pattern. Each time, it got more complicated and it sped up. Mike and Sal were eager to join the craze and knew that they had saved their money so they used it to buy a MemoMaster. Lucky they planned and saved, so they could get something they really wanted.

1) What can we learn from this story and how does it connect to the Parasha?

2) Have you ever planned and saved and it turns out great?

3) In your opinion, should everyone save or should people enjoy their money and spend it?

