

Parasha Thinking



- 1) How do you think Rivka felt, not knowing she was carrying two babies and feeling kicks when she walked past a place of Torah learning and a place of idol worship?
- 2) Imagine you were Ya'akov. How would you feel, wearing Esav's clothes and animal fur?
- 3) How does the word, boil, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

Yitzchak (Isaac) and Rivka (Rebecca) were childless for twenty years and then Hashem answered their prayers. Rivka's pregnancy was not so easy and we are told that the children struggled with each other inside her. She spoke to a prophet of Hashem (G-d) who told her she was having twins.

Esav (Esau) was born first and he was unusually hairy, like a furry blanket and his twin, Ya'akov (Jacob), was born grasping his heel. Esav liked hunting and Ya'akov is honest and learns Torah. Yitzchak loves Esav the most and Rivka loves Ya'akov. One day, Esav came home from the fields, exhausted and hungry and agrees to swap his birthright for a bowl of red lentil soup, which Ya'akov was cooking.

Esav got married to two Hittite ladies. Yitzchak was elderly and couldn't see. He called Esav to him and said, "go and hunt for me and make me a delicious meal, so that I can bless you with your birthright." Ha, thought Esav – I'm still going to get my birthright. Rivka, overheard this instruction and whilst Esav went to hunt, Rivka, who could see very well and knew that it had to be Ya'akov that got the blessing, dressed Ya'akov in Esav's clothing, covered his arms and neck with animal furs to make him feel like his hairy brother, prepared a delicious meal and sent Ya'akov to his dad. Yitzchak couldn't see Ya'akov so he felt his hands and thought it was Esav. Ya'akov received his dad's blessings. When Esav returned and realises what had happened, Yitzchak gave a different blessing to him.

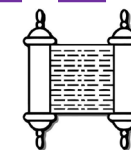
Knowing that Esav was livid and ready to hurt him, Ya'akov fled from home towards Charan and when he got there, he stayed with his uncle, Lavan (Laban). Esav married another wife—Machalat (Machalath), the daughter of Yishmael (Ishmael).

Discovery

Did you know that when Rivka was pregnant and she walked past a place of Torah learning, Ya'akov would kick and when she walked past a place of idol worship, Esav would kick.

Did you know that Ya'akov was cooking lentil soup because sadly, Avraham had died and Yitzchak was mourning for him (sitting shiva). It is customary to give people round food (lentils are round) to represent the continuation of life.

Did you know that Esav used to pretend to his dad that he was learning Torah? He would stop at the window until he heard someone ask a good question and would ask his dad that question, to make his dad think that he was really thinking about all the Torah learning.



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) On your chairs

If safe to do so, get all children to stand on their chairs and go round the circle asking them quiz questions based on the Parasha summary. If they get the parasha question right, they have to sit stand on the floor. If they get the next question right on the next round, they can stand up on their chair again but if not, they're out.

2) Blindfolded identifying

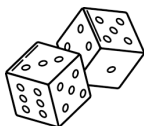
Link: Yitzchak couldn't see Ya'akov and he felt his hands and thought it was Esav.

Let one member of the group be blindfolded and let them reach into your drawstring bag of goods. They need to pick one item out and feel it and see if they know what it is. Go around the circle and let others have a turn.

Resources: Drawstring (or non see-through) bag. Items of your choice (staying away from muktzeh (things we don't move on Shabbat) items, such as money, pens and electronics.

3) What was the secret word?

Divide the children into two groups and quietly give each group a word that they somehow have to weave into their play about the Parasha. Ideas for words; banana, laptop, aeroplane, drone, USB stick etc. The other group/s have to guess the secret word at the end of the Parasha play.



Story

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

“Can I wear your denim jacket, Claudia?” asked Lisa. “Uhh, no, Lisa – I only bought it yesterday!” Claudia replied. Lisa continued to whine “Oh PLEEEEEAAAAAASSSSSSSEEEEEEE?????” “NO! – I saved up, I bought it with my own money and I'm NOT sharing! Why should I?”

Claudia suddenly got a brainwave. ‘I could use this to my advantage’, she thought. ‘I could get her to do all my chores and then I'll let her wear it. How long should I get her to do my chores for? 5 months? 7 months? A year?’

Claudia called Lisa back into her room and whilst Lisa ran down the corridor, Claudia decided to be a little more fair. She said, “Leese, I'll do a deal with you. If you do my chores this afternoon, I'll let you wear my new jacket when you go to Ellie's party on Sunday.” Lisa was over the moon and readily agreed to do Claudia's chores that afternoon. In fact, dreaming about dazzling in the jacket on Sunday made the time fly by.

When Sunday came around, Claudia tried to take back her offer but Dad said, “Claud, a deal is a deal! – you have to honour it!” Claudia was furious and hid the jacket but Lisa spotted it and put it on, to go to the party. She looked and felt great. Claudia sulked for a while but then thought, maybe she'll do some more chores for me next week, so she can wear it again for Freddie's birthday party. A deal's a deal

1) What can we learn from this story?

2) Have you ever made a deal with someone and kept it?

3) Are there times when you ABSOLUTELY MUST break a deal?

