

Parasha Thinking



- 1) How do you think Yosef felt when he wore his special coat?
- 2) What was the point of giving Yosef the keys to the jail, if he was an inmate?
- 3) How does the word, success, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

Ya'akov (Jacob) lived in Chevron with his children – 12 sons and one daughter. His favorite child was Yosef (Joseph), who was now seventeen years old. His brothers were jealous of him and didn't like the extra attention that he got from their dad. One day, their dad gave Yosef only, a fine woolen coat. Yosef had two dreams and he told his brothers the details, which sounded like he thought he was going to rule over them. This made them even more jealous and hateful.

Shimon (Simeon) and Levi plotted to kill him, but Reuven (Reuben) had an idea to throw him into a pit instead. His plan was to come back later and save him. While Yosef was in the pit, Yehuda (Judah) sold him to a group of passing Ishmaelite merchants. The brothers panicked and dipped Yosef's special coat in the blood of a goat. They showed it to their father and he believed that his favourite son was killed by a wild beast.

Yosef was taken to Egypt and sold to Potiphar. He was in charge of Paro's (Pharaoh's) slaughterhouses. Hashem (G-d) blessed everything Yosef did with success, and soon he was put in charge of Potifar's entire property. Potiphar's wife really liked Yosef and tried to ask him to marry her but when Yosef rejected her, she told her husband that Yosef tried to harm her. Potifar threw him into jail. In jail, Yosef gained the trust of all the prison officers and even though he is an inmate, he was entrusted with the keys of the entire prison.

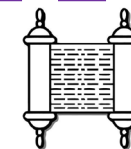
In the prison, Yosef also met Paro's chief butler and chief baker, who had both upset the king. Both had had disturbing dreams, and Yosef explained their meaning; in three days, he told them, the butler will be released but the baker will not live. Yosef pleaded with the butler to mention him to Paro, as he had been imprisoned falsely and wanted Paro to release him. Yosef's explanations of the dreams came true but when the butler returned to the palace, he completely and utterly forgot all about Yosef.

Discovery

Did you know that the Torah doesn't say that Yosef's coat was multi-coloured? We are told it was a fine woolen garment.

Did you know that the Ishmaelite merchants who bought Yosef usually carried tar in their caravans, which smells awful but Hashem made a reward for Yosef and these merchants were transporting sweet smelling spices.

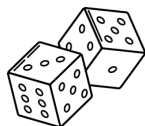
Did you know that the butler's crime was that a fly was found in the king's goblet and the baker's crime was that a stone was found in the bread? The butler survived because a fly could have flown into the wine without him knowing but there was no way that a stone could have ended up in the bread unintentionally.



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) Pile up? – parasha quiz



Divide the group into two. Ask each team a question from the parasha. Every question they get right the first go, they get to pile up one chair on their side. They can 'steal' a chair from the other side, by screaming, "STEAL" and they have to answer two questions from the Parasha.

2) Which one is not true?

Link: Ya'akov's favourite son was Yosef.

First child in the circle says the three statements below but one they pretend is true, and give a false answer. The children service leader has to guess which one is pretend.

My favourite ice cream flavor is...

My favourite thing to do in the playground is... (if someone is home schooled, they can say at the park, instead)

My favourite colour is ...

3) 8 game

Link: It's the start of Chanukah and, of course, there are eight days in total.

Everyone closes their eyes and the group has to count up to eight by saying one number each. Nobody knows who is going to say the next number and if two people say the same number, it starts again from ONE. This continues until they reach EIGHT.

Story - Chanukah related



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

It was club-switch week at school and it was the highlight of everyone's year. The swimming squad competed against the Young Foodies, first in the pool in the morning and then in the kitchen in the afternoon. Anyone from the entire school was allowed to come along and watch any contest.

On Tuesday, the Gymnastics team competed against the Coding club. On Wednesday, art club and the Basketball team played and painted together ... or against each other. It was so much fun.

Who do you think won? Of course each team of experts won their own game. It was Thursday morning and the Football club had just been beaten by the chess club. The chess masters were so nervous for the afternoon. "I barely know how to kick a ball," cried Ray "I can't keep on running up and down the pitch!" quivered Paul. "Can't we just all pretend we've come down with the flu and we all need to go home?" suggested Tammy.

The chess coach looked at them and sighed. "I KNOW that football is not your thing! I totally get it, that you're untrained! It makes perfect sense that you are scared but this time, you just need to give it your all!" Tammy's eyes welled up, "but there are only three of us and they have an entire team, who practise football every single day!" "Yeah!" the others agreed. Their coach said, "you won this morning just do your best!"

That lunch break, Paul stood up in the lunch hall and announced, "anyone who wants to join our team for the club-switch week football game this afternoon, please come to me." One person came forward. He said, "I really don't have football experience but I do think you need extra people, so I'm here to help!"

The match started and amazingly, the chess team, plus their one extra, scored goal after goal, after goal. No one could quite believe it. At the end of the match, the final score was 11-7, to the CHESS TEAM. The entire school went wild, as this had never happened before – a small, untrained team had never, ever beaten the pros at a switch week match. It gave everyone hope, especially the cricket team, who were competing the next day, with the band!

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

2) Have you ever been in a weaker position but come out the strongest?

3) In your opinion, should all schools have a club-switch week? What would be the pros and the cons? How could the schools use a week like this to teach about mitzvot?