

Parasha Thinking



- 1) How do you think the brothers felt when Yosef, the vice ruler of Egypt, revealed to them that he was their brother?
- 2) Why do you think Ya'akov had to come to Egypt to see Yosef, rather than Yosef going to Cena'an, to see him?
- 3) How does the word, disbelief, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

Yehuda (Judah) begged and pleaded with Yosef (Joseph) to release Binyamin (Benjamin) from prison and without hesitation, offered to be a slave for Yosef, himself instead. When Yosef saw how loyal Yehuda was, Yosef revealed his true identity to them, with the words, "I am Yosef. Is my father still alive?"

The brothers were ashamed and full of regret for how they had treated him all those years ago, however, Yosef comforted them, saying, "it wasn't you who sent me here - it was Hashem (G-d). It has all been decreed from Above to save us, and the entire region, from famine."

The brothers hurried back to Cana'an with the great news of Yosef being alive. Ya'akov (Jacob), travelled to Egypt with his sons and their families—seventy souls in total—and was reunited with his beloved son after twenty two years. On his way to Egypt he received a promise from Hashem: "Fear not to go down to Egypt; for I will there make of you a great nation. I will go down with you into Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again."

Yosef increased the wealth of Egypt by selling food and grain during the years of famine. Paro (Pharaoh) gave Ya'akov's family the city of Goshen to settle, and the children of Israel prospered in Egypt.

Discovery

Did you know that the way Yosef dealt with the brothers, was a test to see if they would repair their ways for how they had treated him all those years ago. They clearly passed the test.

Ya'akov was a very elderly man at this point and the news that Yosef was still alive, might have been so shocking that it would affect his heart. The way they broke the news was that Asher had a daughter who was very musical and a fantastic singer. She played gentle harp music to him and sang that Yosef was alive. He didn't believe her at first but then the brothers came in and verified it.

Yehuda ran ahead to Goshen, to prepare it for Jewish people to live, by building a Yeshiva and homes for the family.



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) True or False – parasha quiz

Divide the group into two. Have two 'hot seats' – one is 'true' and one is 'false'. Leader asks T of F quiz questions on the parasha and participants have to run to the correct chair. Whichever contestant gets to the correct chair first wins a point for their team. Switch contestants after each question.

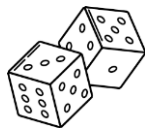
2) Duck, Duck, GOOSE. Yosef, Yosef, IS ALIVE!

The children sit around in a circle, with gaps between their chairs. One child is chosen to be "it" first and walks around the outside of the chairs, tapping each child on the head and saying "Yosef". At some point they choose a child and say "IS ALIVE" instead, at which point that child must jump up and chase the first child around the circle, trying to tag them before they can sit down in the second child's chair.

3) Chinese Ball

Children stand around in a circle with a tennis ball, which is thrown quickly around and across the circle. When a child catches the ball, the children on either side must raise one arm - the arm nearest the child with the ball - and hold it in the air until the ball is passed on to another child.

If a child drops the ball, or fails to raise the correct arm when their neighbour catches the ball, or is too slow to pass the ball along, they drop out. When there are only 5 children left in the circle, they are all declared winners, and the game starts again.



Story

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

Rachel and Anna were so excited because they were going on holiday with all their cousins. 14 days, thirteen rented neighbouring houses in Wales and '70 aunts, uncles, siblings and cousins'.

All the houses were self-catering, so as well as all the clothing and all the bedding they had to bring, they also needed kosher food – enough for all of them for two weeks.

Auntie Dianne texted the family group and said that she and her kids would go up earlier than everyone else and get all the houses ready. They would make all the beds for everyone, so if any of the families arrived late, they could put the little kids straight to sleep. She asked everyone to drop their bedding round to her house, so that she could do that.

When Uncle Harry saw Dianne's message he also thought of a way he could help. He was going to go ahead and make sure that each house had cereal, milk, crackers and some fruit, so that as soon as people arrived, they would be able to eat something. They might be hungry from their long journey.

Rachel and Anna remembered the kindness of their aunt and uncle and it taught them a really important message, that they a) remembered for life and b) were able to do themselves many, many times in the future.

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

2) Have you ever planned and prepared ahead and it helped people out?

3) In your opinion, who was more helpful, Auntie Dianne or Uncle Harry?

