

- 1) How do you think Ya'akov felt when his children all said the Shema at the same time?
- 2) Why do you think that the important people from Egypt came to Ya'akov's funeral?
- 3) Why were all of Ya'akov's family living in Egypt, and not in Israel?

## Key Parasha Information

### Summary

Ya'akov (Jacob) was nearing the end of his life, living in Egypt. Before he died, he asks Yosef (Joseph) to take an oath that he will bury him in Israel (known then as Cena'an) and Yosef agreed. He blessed Yosef's two sons, Menashe and Ephraim, elevating them to the same status as his own sons, as leaders of the Tribes of Israel.

With all his sons gathered around him, Ya'akov wanted to tell them when the Mashiach (messiah) would come but his power to receive messages from Hashem was removed and he was unable to tell them anything. Ya'akov blessed his sons, recognising each of their talents or strengths. Yehuda (Judah) will produce leaders, kings and law-makers; Kohanim shall descend from Levi, the people from Yisachar's tribe will be wise scholars, Zevulun's (Zebulun) tribe will be excellent at sailing, Shimon's (Simeon) people will be fantastic educators, Gad's descendants will become strong soldiers, judges will come from Dan, Asher's family will grow olives, Naphtali was granted the swiftness of a deer, Binyamin was blessed with the fierceness of a wolf and Yosef's family is blessed with beauty.

When Ya'akov died, all his descendants and many of the important people from Egypt came to attend his burial in Ma'arat HaMachpela (the Cave of Machpela) in Chevron (Hebron), Israel.

Before Yosef died, he tells his family that he also wants to be buried in Israel. He told his children that "Hashem (G-d) will surely remember you, and bring you up out of this land to the land of which He swore to Avraham (Abraham), Yitzchak (Isaac) and Ya'akov."

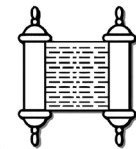
Yosef passed away at the very old ago of 110.

### Discovery

Did you know that Menashe and Ephraim were the first brothers in the Torah that did not fight with each other?

Did you know that when Ya'akov blessed Menashe and Ephraim, he placed his right hand, which was most dominant on the younger child, Ephraim, as he knew that in the future, Yehoshua (Joshua), the leader of the Jewish people, will be born into his family.

Did you know that when Ya'akov was telling his children the date of the coming of the mashiach and his divine message was removed, he thought that the reason he was unable to get the message was that one of his sons had been serving idols. Immediately, all twelve sons covered their eyes and said the opening line of the Shema, declaring their belief that Hashem is their only G-d.



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 and select one player from each team. Throw a tennis ball or a scarf up into the air and whichever person catches it first, gets a parasha quiz question. If they get it right, their team gets two points, if they get it wrong and the other team are able to answer, the other team gets one point.

#### 2) The Chocolate Game!

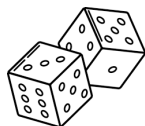
LINK: The brothers said Hashem in the only one and in this game, ONE is the important number.

You will need: A wrapped bar of chocolate (NUT FREE), a plate, a knife and fork, some dressing-up items (at least a hat, scarf and gloves) and a dice.

Put the bar of chocolate on the plate with the knives and forks nearby and sit the children around it in a circle. Place the pile of dressing up clothes into the circle. Give one child the dice. Children take it in turns to roll the dice on the floor in front of them, passing them around the circle to their left. If a child rolls a ONE, they leap into the center of the circle, put on the dressing up clothes, and start to unwrap, then eat, the bar of chocolate - but only using the knife and fork. That child keeps going until another child rolls a one, at which point they must cooperate in handing over the dressing up clothes so that the next child gets a turn.

#### 3) Where is Chevron (Hebron)?

Print out a blank map of Israel before Shabbat and place it on a table. Children have to point to where they think Chevron is. The child who gets the closest position gets to eat the children service Kiddush first.



### Story

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

“Only if you take Adam with you and you look after him! You’re supposed to be looking after him this morning!” Mum reminded Jen.

“I will, I will, I promise,” said Jen. “I’ll look after Adam – I won’t let him out of my sight! Thank you so much for letting me go to the shops with my friends, I will be the most responsible big sister, you ever knew!”

“Ok then,” Mum agreed “but you need to be back by 11:25, so that Adam can have a rest before his lunch!” “You got it!” said Jen, as she helped little Adam put on his coat and zip it up, before grabbing her bag and her umbrella and rushing out, holding her little brother’s hand.

She had a fun couple of hours at the shops with her friends and she kept her word and looked after Adam the whole time. At 11am, Jen’s friends started to feel hungry and were already talking about where they should go for lunch – only kosher restaurants, of course. Jen really, really wanted to join them but she knew she’d agreed to get Adam home by 11:25 the very latest. She thought of calling Mum to ask her to come and collect him so that she could stay out but she remembered that she’d made a promise. She said bye to her friends and brought Adam home ... by 11:24 and seven seconds.

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

2) Have you ever said you’d do something and then actually stuck to it?

3) In your opinion, was Jen right to bring Adam along that day or should she have stayed home with him?

