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Parsha Time!

VAYEITZEI

FROM RABBI WERNICK

Dear Parents,

We have just begun the Jewish month of Kislev. Throughout history Kislev has been a month of miracles, with the most famous of these being the miracle of the Chanukah lights.

When we look back at the story of Chanukah, already knowing the outcome of both the war and the lighting of only enough oil for one day, we only focus on the end, the miracle, and often forget about the challenge. What a challenge it was too. Perhaps people hoped for a miracle but they most certainly did not know if a miracle was actually going to happen or not.

When we look at the bravery of the Jewish soldiers, we already know they are going to win, but, they didn't. Think of the challenges they faced. Seemingly it is impossible to beat the mighty Greek Empire, perhaps we should just give up? There is only enough oil for one day and it will take us eight days to get more, perhaps we shouldn't bother lighting the Menorah today, let's just wait until we get enough oil?

But our ancestors did not cave in, they did not give up. Instead they did what they knew to be right, even if it seemed impossible and beyond the laws of nature.

How often do we find ourselves in a situation where it seems impossible to do what HaShem wants from us. There is, figuratively speaking, only enough oil (or money, or time or energy) for one day not eight. We may be tempted not to begin or continue what we know to be right, and instead wait until when, or if, it will be easier. We may question ourselves, how can we, figuratively speaking, stand up against the "mighty Greek Empire"? What will people say about me? What if I can't? We can say what, what if, all our lives, and never accomplishing a fraction of we are capable of.

FROM RABBI WERNICK CONT.

We must learn from our ancestors. Do what we know to be right, when it should be done, with all we have. After all, HaShem can make one days worth of oil last eight days instead.

Wishing everyone much nachas from their children and a wonderful Shabbos,

Rabbi Wernick

PARSHA SUMMARY

- Yacov travels to Charan
- Yacov Works for his uncle Lavan, tending to his sheep and marries Rochel and Leah
- Yacov has many children and wants to return home
- Lavan makes a deal with Yacov and repeatedly tries to swindle him
- After 6 years Yacov Leaves Charan in stealth
- Lavan pursues Yacov and his family, but is warned by HaShem in a dream not to harm him
- Yacov and Lavan make a pact on Mount Gal-Ed

CLASSES SIMCHA & CHOCHMA

- Whats this weeks Parsha?
- Where did Yacov travel to?
- Who did Yacov marry?
- Who did Yacov marry first?

CLASS BINAH

- What did Yacov dream about on the way to Charan?
- What did Yacov do for Lavan?
- How many years did Yacov work for Lavan?

CLASS DAAS

- Who did Yacov want to marry, Rochel or Leah?
- Why did Yacov marry Leah?
- Name 5 people who were born in this weeks Parsha?

Integrated learning

SCIENCE - ART - PARSHA

Dear Parents,

In this week's Parsha (Parshas Vayitzei) we see the special Siman Bracha (sign of blessing) of water. There's something truly unique regarding the element of water and throughout the Torah many miraculous events occur by it. Per the Baal Shem Tov, it is said that whenever anyone sees water one should say that there is a Siman Bracha within it.

We see an example of these blessings in our Parsha when Yaakov meets his future wife by the mouth of a well. One may wonder, what is the true power of water and how does it connect to the Torah and to our physical and spiritual bodies?

Water is said to represent Torah as all of life would become obsolete without it. The source of life that stems from it, helps all living organisms grow and prosper. Thus, water is a blessing to the physical world. Not only must we have water to survive, we need the spiritual water too. Torah is what sustains the world on a spiritual level, and without it we become parched, dehydrated and shrivel up.

Today our students went in-depth into the science of water. We learned that 72% of our bodies consist of water. We studied the rain cycle, as well as a bit of botany and how plants consume water. We also made rain in a jar .

For the past couple of weeks, we have been blessed with a long sustaining cycle of rain. Observing this cycle can help us better understand the ways in which Hashem is constantly guiding the world to survive and thrive.

In life we have the ability to draw from our own reservoirs of spiritual waters, HaShem created us with a plentiful amount of water and we can choose to take inspiration from these reservoirs or choose to crumble under the pressure of the world around us. The choice is ours, but the brachos are always there beneath the surface waiting to become revealed.

Gut Shabbos,
Reb Shmiel