

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Vayaishev / Mev HaChodesh  
December 12, 2025 / 22 Kislev 5786  
Volume 31, Issue 9  
Candlelighting: 4:39 pm

Waxman Torah Center · 2195 S. Green Road · University Heights, OH 44121 · (216) 691-3837 · [www.clevelandjlc.com](http://www.clevelandjlc.com)

## Friday, December 12

4:39pm Candlelighting

## Shabbos, December 13

8:00pm Melava Malka with music  
at the Hilton Garden Inn  
in Mayfield Heights

## Sunday, December 14

9:15am Parsha Class  
(R. Nisenbaum)  
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"  
(R. Stoll)

## Monday, December 15 Chanukah Day 1

8:00pm Topics in Mussar -  
Gratitude and Chanukah  
(R. Nisenbaum)

## Tuesday, December 16 Chanukah Day 2

8:00pm Tanna d'vei Eliyahu  
(R. Stoll)

## Wednesday, December 17 Chanukah Day 3

8:00pm Nach Still Speaks -  
MISHLEI (R. Stoll)

## Thursday, December 18 Chanukah Day 4

8:00pm Sefer HaChinuch: R. Stoll  
10:15pm Parsha Class  
(R. Nisenbaum)

### Torah Podcast

Listen to Rabbi Nisenbaum's  
"Torah Podcast" at Spotify, Apple  
Podcasts, iHeartRadio, and more,  
or download at  
[www.maverickpodcasting.com](http://www.maverickpodcasting.com)

### Weekday Minyanim

7:00am Shacharis (M-F)  
8:00am Shacharis (Sun)  
10:00pm Maariv (Sun-Th)

### Class Connection

**R. Nisenbaum:**  
425-436-6200 #352171  
"The Torah Podcast" weekly  
at all podcast locations

**R. Stoll:**  
Zoom: 876-619-3551  
Audio: 669-900-9128

## Parsha: Vayaishev

The roots of all Jewish history can be traced to the story of our forefathers and their families. In the story of Joseph and his brothers the roots of the Egyptian exile and the ultimate Redemption can be seen.

Jacob favored his son Joseph more than his other sons. He taught him individually and made him a special colorful garment. This incurred the jealousy of his brothers. It was compounded further when Joseph related his prophetic dreams about his leadership to his brothers. Although the Talmud finds fault with Jacob's treatment of Joseph, his intentions were to prepare Joseph for the challenges he would have to endure before assuming leadership.

The brothers eventually conspired to kill Joseph, but then decided to sell him instead as a slave. They took Joseph's coat, dipped it in blood, and sent it to their father, implying that an animal had attacked him. Jacob could not be consoled. The brothers obviously acted improperly, yet their actions were also part of an orchestrated master plan to set the stage in Egypt for the family's eventual exile.

At the same time, Yehuda, the born leader of the brothers, and the one most affected by Joseph's

dreams, started his own family. His first son, Ehr, died and Yehuda had the widow, Tamar, marry his second son, Onan. Onan also died and Yehuda sent Tamar to her father's home. However, Tamar desired to have children through Yehuda's family, and in a strange turn of events she fooled Yehuda into living with her. Yehuda did not even realize that he had made her pregnant. When confronted with

the realization of what he had done, Yehuda publicly admitted to his actions, accepting full responsibility. Tamar bore twin boys, one of whom, Peretz, would be the forbearer of the Davidic, and ultimately the Messianic, dynasty.

Meanwhile, Joseph was taken to Egypt where he became a servant in the house of one of Pharaoh's officers, Potiphar. Joseph was very handsome, and Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph to sin, but he would not consent to her advances, despite all her efforts. As a result,

she slandered Joseph and he was sent to prison, where he remained for eleven years.

Jacob's efforts in preparing Joseph paid off. Regardless of all the difficult circumstances he found himself in, Joseph maintained a positive disposition. This virtue would be of great importance when Joseph would later assume a leadership role.

### JLC Shabbaton

All minyanim will be at the Shabbaton. There will not be any services at the Waxman Torah Center

### Sponsorship

This issue sponsored in memory of Shirley Pasternak on the occasion of her yahrzeit

## Insights: Vayaishev

**Reuven heard and saved him from their hands... (Gen 37:21)** Rav Yisrael of Shklov, a student of the Vilna Gaon, moved to Eretz Yisrael. The economic situation there, however, was very difficult, and he asked Rav Chaim Volozhiner if he should move back. Rav Chaim told him, "The Torah tells us that Reuven is praised for saving Yosef from his brothers by having him thrown into a pit full of scorpions and snakes. On the other hand, Yehuda, who suggested that Yosef be sold to Egypt where he became the viceroy, is castigated by the Rabbis. Why should this be so - it would seem that Yehuda actually benefited Yosef much more than Reuven?" Rav Chaim concluded, "We see that a pit of snakes in Israel is preferable to being in Egypt, even as the king's viceroy! I would recommend you stay in Israel regardless of the hardship."

## Did You Know?

It is praiseworthy to discuss the miracles of Chanukah while the candles are burning. It is customary for women to abstain from certain activities during that time, too, such as sewing, laundry, heavy cleaning, and similar chores. This is because one of the important miracles was brought through a woman, Judith, when she fed the General Heliornus milk until he fell asleep and she then beheaded him. Based on this incident it is also customary to eat dairy products on Chanukah.

**Thought for the Week: Being great does not excuse one from being good.** (A Candle By Day)