

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Vayetze

November 28, 2025 / 8 Kislev 5786

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Candlelighting: 4:40 pm

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

Friday, November 28

4:40pm Candlelighting
4:45pm Mincha
8:30pm No Parsha Shiur
@ R. Nisenbaum

Shabbos, November 29

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship
4:35pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
5:48pm Maariv

Sunday, November 30

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

Monday, December 1

8:00pm Topics in Mussar -
Speech and Silencer
(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, December 2

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

Wednesday, December 3

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

Thursday, December 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

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: Vayetze

Jacob left his parents' home to escape from his brother Esau's wrath, and to find a wife from his mother's family, as well.

On his way to Charan, Jacob stopped to sleep at the mountain of Moriah, the same spot that Abraham had brought Isaac as a sacrifice. He dreamed about a ladder reaching from earth up to the heavens. G-d spoke to him from above the ladder and promised Jacob that He would accompany him throughout his exile, and that eventually he would return to the Land of Canaan with his children. The ladder represented Jacob's mission of bridging the spiritual world he had enjoyed until this point, and the physical world he would encounter in the house of his uncle, the deceptive Laban.

In Laban's house, Jacob had to overcome many difficult challenges. He offered to work seven years for Rachel, Laban's younger daughter's hand in marriage. Laban tricked Jacob into marrying his older daughter, Leah. Jacob had to work another seven years to marry Rachel. Although Jacob loved Leah, he did harbor some resentment towards her because of her involvement in this deception.

G-d saw Leah's pain and allowed her to bear children, immediately, unlike any of the other three Matriarchs. This endeared her to Jacob. She bore him a total of six sons, Reuben, Simon, Levi, Judah; and then

later, Yissachar, and Zevulun. She also bore Jacob a daughter, Dinah.

Rachel saw that she could not yet bear children, so she gave her maidservant Bilhah to Jacob as a concubine. Bilhah bore Jacob two more sons, Gad and Asher. Leah also gave her maidservant Zilpah as a concubine to Jacob. She too bore him two sons, Dan and Naftali. Finally, Rachel conceived, and she bore Jacob a son, Joseph. Later, on the road back to

Canaan, she bore him another son, Benjamin, but she died during childbirth.

Laban tried to cheat Jacob out of his hard-earned wages. Jacob had to make numerous deals with Laban in order to receive his fair pay. Even then, only through miraculous intervention could Jacob prevent Laban from cheating him.

After twenty years in the house of Laban, Jacob spoke to his wives, and decided to return to his parents' home in Canaan. He tried to leave secretly, but

Laban learned of the escape and caught up with Jacob's camp. Eventually, the two made peace with one another, and Jacob left peacefully. The peace was short-lived, however, as Jacob received word that Esau was awaiting his return with an army of four hundred men.

All these circumstances helped prepare Jacob with the fortitude he needed to be able to build the Jewish nation.

JLC Shabbaton

Dec 12-13 at the
Hilton Garden Inn
in Mayfield Village.
With R. Yerachmiel
Milstein. Call or
email for details and
reservations

Insights: Vayetze

He took from the stones of the place and put it beneath his head. (Gen 28:11) Rav Meir Shapiro once visited the city of Sanz when a dispute was raging between different groups of people. He cited the Midrash that teaches when Yaakov wanted to lie down the stones began quarrelling with each other upon which one Yaakov should lay his head. Hashem performed a miracle and the stones turned into a single stone. Rav Shapiro asked, "If Hashem was already performing a miracle, why didn't He turn the stones into a comfortable pillow for Yaakov to lie on? The answer is that nothing comfortable can ever come from strife. At best it can become a single stone, but it will never be comfortable."

Did You Know?

It is customary to arrange a party on the first Friday night following the birth of a boy, even if the baby has not yet come home. This is called the *Shalom Zachor*, and it dates back to Talmudic times. Different explanations are offered for the *Shalom Zachor*: 1. Since birth is dangerous, we make a party of thanksgiving for a safe birth. A kiddush is similarly made for the birth of a girl. 2. The Talmud teaches that a child studies Torah in the womb and then forgets it at birth. The party is to offer comfort for this loss, and to bless the child that he should study and regain the loss. 3. A third reason suggested is to offer good wishes for a timely circumcision, as the child must first experience the sanctity of Shabbos before being circumcised.

Thought for the Week: *We know neither our limits nor our limitations.* (A Candle By Day)