

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Vayishlach
December 5, 2025 / 15 Kislev 5786
Volume 31, Issue 8
Candlelighting: 4:38 pm

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

Friday, December 5

4:38pm Candlelighting
4:40pm Mincha
8:15pm Parsha Shiur
@ R. Nisenbaum

Shabbos, December 6

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship
4:30pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
5:46pm Maariv

Sunday, December 7

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

Monday, December 8

8:00pm Topics in Mussar -
Kindness and Cruelty
(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, December 9

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

Wednesday, December 10

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

Thursday, December 11

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: Vayishlach

On the way home from Laban's house, Jacob received word that Esau was coming towards him with an army of 400 men. He understood that Esau's hatred had not yet abated since thirty-four years earlier, when they had last seen each other.

Jacob prepared for his meeting with Esau in three ways: He first sent a gift to Esau, he prayed to G-d for assistance, and he planned a military strategy.

The gift was meant to appease Esau's enmity. Jacob wanted to show that he would share his material success with Esau, and that he was not trying to usurp his brother's blessing for his own material gain. Yet Jacob was realistic too. In the event that Esau would not be placated by the gift, Jacob realized he must prepare for war. He divided his camp into two parts. If one camp would be attacked, the other would always be able to flee to safety, thus ensuring Jacob's survival.

But even after both of these precautions were taken, Jacob realized that salvation was dependent upon the Al-mighty. He therefore prayed for G-d's protection from the dangers of Esau.

Jacob's concern about his future was a valid one. The night before the meeting, after taking his family across the river, Jacob returned to retrieve some small pitchers he had forgotten behind. While alone, an

angel fought with Jacob until morning. The Talmud identifies this angel as the spiritual force of Esau. The struggle actually foreshadowed the physical meeting Jacob would encounter the next day with Esau.

The angel could not win over Jacob, but he did wound Jacob's thigh. The commentators understand the symbolism of the thigh as a reference to Jacob's children, thereby threatening Jacob's survival. Jacob would not let the angel go until he blessed him. This

was Esau's admission and recognition of Jacob's rights to their father's blessings. The angel named Jacob "Israel", meaning that he was victorious in his quest over the angel.

The following day Esau did have a change of heart and let Jacob return home in peace.

Jacob's challenges were not yet over, though. During his return trip his mother Rebecca passed away before he could have a chance to see her. His daughter

Dinah was violated by the prince of Shechem. Shimon and Levi were infuriated and destroyed the entire city, incurring international wrath. Afterwards, Jacob's wife, Rachel, died in childbirth. Jacob decided to bury her near Bethlehem instead of in Chevron with the other Patriarchs and Matriarchs. He wanted to allow his descendants to be able to pray by her tomb during their exile from Jerusalem. Rachel's tomb remains a special place to pray for our needs until this day.

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: Vayishlach

The man fought with him until morning... (Gen 32:25) Rav Leib, the rabbi of Pressburg, asked a wealthy man to assist him in raising money for an important cause. The man had not yet prayed and asked if he could first pray. Rav Leib told him that Rashi cites the Midrash that the man who fought with Yaakov was Esau's evil angel. Yet when Yosef searched for his brothers and a man asked him what he was looking for, Rashi understood the man to be the angel Gavriel. How does Rashi know who the different men were? Rav Leib explained that when Yaakov asked the angel to bless him, he excused himself that he could not as it was his time to sing praises to Hashem, whereas Yosef's angel asked him how he could be of assistance. Using prayer as an excuse to avoid helping someone is a sign of evil.

Did You Know?

The obligation to light Chanukah candles is incumbent upon both men and women. Although a husband and wife may both light with a blessing, common custom has it that a married woman fulfills her obligation through her husband's kindling, as a husband and wife are considered like a single being. Children are also encouraged to light their own candles, although there are varying customs regarding an unmarried girl lighting who lives with her family. Some authorities say she can fulfill her obligation through her father's kindling too. If she lives by herself she must certainly light her own candles.

Thought for the Week: We learn more from how we are taught than from what we are taught.
(A Candle By Day)