J.L.C. *Connections*

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter

Parsha Vayetze
November 20, 2026 / 10 Kislev 5787
Volume 32, Issue 7
Candlelighting: 4:45 pm

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

Friday, November 20

4:45pm Candlelighting

All minyanim will be at the Shabbaton Retreat

Shabbos, November 21

All minyanim will be at the Shabbaton Retreat

Sunday, November 22

9:15am *Parsha Class* (R. Nisenbaum)
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos" (R. Stoll)
8:30pm *Maimonides' Laws of Repentance* (R. Nisenbaum)

Monday, November 23

8:00pm *"Foundation of a Nation – Rachel: Mother of Exile" (R. Nisenbaum)*

Tuesday, November 24

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

Wednesday, November 25

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

Thursday, November 26

8:00am Shacharis (Holiday) with breakfast & shiur

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.

JLC Shabbaton

November 20-21
w/ R. Henoch Plotnik
Hilton Garden Inn

All services will be at the Shabbaton. There will be no services at the Waxman Torah Center this Shabbos

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.

Insights: Vayetze

Yaakov left Be'er Sheva and went to Charan (Gen 28:10) The Midrash says that when a righteous person lives in a place it has a positive effect on the location. When he leaves, the absence of the influence is felt. The Jewish Agency once proposed building Israel's major yeshivas in one central location, and they promised major funding for the project. When the Chazon Ish was approached with the idea he adamantly refused. "That represents the exact opposite of our goals. We want to build yeshivas all around the country in order to spread the spiritual influence of Torah study throughout." Similarly, when the Ponovezher Rav thought about establishing a yeshiva in Ashdod, he was discouraged by people who told him that he had already done so much in building Torah. The Rav asked Rav Shach, who thought about it and replied, "That may be true that you have done so much, and it might be very hard to open a yeshiva there-- but Ashdod needs a yeshiva, and you must do it for their sake!"

Did You Know?

Throughout the week after the wedding it is customary to invite family and friends to special meals with the bride and groom. Although there is no obligation to arrange Sheva Berachos during the week, if there are ten men present, the Sheva Berachos (seven blessings recited at the wedding ceremony) are recited for the couple. It must be the first wedding for either the bride or the groom in order to recite the Sheva Berachos. At least one of those present may not have attended the wedding, as his presence now increases the joy of the bride and groom. On Shabbos the blessings may be recited even if there nobody new present.

Thought for the Week: *We give the imagination too much play and not enough work. (A Candle By Day)*