J.L.C. *Connections*

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter

Parsha Vayislach
November 27, 2026 / 17 Kislev 5787
Volume 32, Issue 8
Candlelighting: 4:41 pm

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

Friday, November 27

4:41pm Candlelighting
4:45pm Mincha / Maariv

8:15pm Shiur @ R. Nisenbaum

Shabbos, November 28

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship.

4:35pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
5:48pm Maariv

Sunday, November 29

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

Monday, November 30

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

Tuesday, December 1

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

Wednesday, December 2

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

Thursday, December 3

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 in the past 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.

Mazel Tov

Drs. Michael and Brenda Altose upon the wedding of their daughter

Netanel Linetsky upon his wedding. MZ"T also to the Linetsky Family

Uri and Milana Gofman upon the birth of a grandson

Condolences

Dr. Steve and Jodi Goldman upon the loss of her mother

Insights: Vayishlach

" …Your servant Yaakov said, 'I have lived with Lavan…" (Gen 32:5) Rashi explains that Yaakov had lived with Lavan observing the 613 mitzvos and did not learn from Lavan's actions. Rabbi Zev Leff says that these words imply that it is possible to fulfill all the mitzvos and yet still be influenced by Lavan. He explains that the mitzvos are not merely problems one has to deal with, but rather they are a vehicle to achieve closeness with G-d. If they are not appreciated as such, a person will try to find loopholes to avoid doing the mitzvos. A congregant once asked Rabbi Leff if it was acceptable to observe Pesach in a non-Jewish resort, where the person would bring all his kosher food and necessities. The Rav answered that although he might be able to fulfill the Pesach mitzvos properly, he would not be fulfilling the will of G-d.

Did You Know?

One should make every effort to light the Chanukah candles at the proper time, and not earlier or later. Most authorities rule that one should light within a half hour after sunset. If one will not be at home all evening, he may light after plag Mincha, which is approximately an hour before sunset during the winter months, however, the candles must be able to burn until a half hour after the proper time for lighting. If one cannot come home at the proper time, he may still light the entire evening, as long as there are passersby on the street. If one will not return until very late, he may still light if there is someone else in the house who can view the candles. One who is inn transit should appoint a messenger to light on his behalf.

Thought for the Week: We must be able to hold the line when it is not even there to hold. *(A Candle By Day)*