

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Vayigash  
December 22, 2023 / 10 Teves 5784  
Volume 29, Issue 11  
Candlelighting: 4:43 pm

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

## Friday, December 22 Asara B'Teves

4:43pm Candlelighting  
4:30pm Mincha / Maariv  
8:15pm Parsha Shiur  
@ R. Nisenbaum

## Shabbos, December 23

8:45am Shacharis  
*Kiddush is available for sponsorship.*  
4:10pm Laws of Shabbos  
4:35pm Mincha  
5:40pm Maariv

## Sunday, December 24

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

## Monday, December 25

8:00pm "Lessons from Koheles"  
(R. Nisenbaum)

## Tuesday, December 26

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

## Wednesday, December 27

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

## Thursday, December 28

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)

New episodes twice a week!

### 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

## Vayigash

Joseph, as the viceroy of Egypt, had set his brothers up in a situation where their youngest brother Benjamin would have to remain in Egypt, as a slave to Pharaoh. Yehuda stood before Joseph and begged him to have mercy on their elderly father who could not bear the loss of another son. He spoke to him respectfully yet firmly, offering to serve the viceroy in Benjamin's place.

When Joseph saw his brothers' concern for Benjamin and Jacob he realized they had repented since the days when they had tormented him without regard for their father's feelings. He no longer had any reason to hide his identity from his brothers. He ordered all the Egyptians out of the room, to spare his brothers the shame, and then revealed his identity to them.

The brothers were so dumbfounded they could not say a word. All the pieces of the mystery of their Egyptian experience now came together. They were ashamed of their earlier treatment of Joseph. Joseph, however, consoled them, telling them that although their intentions had not been proper, G-d had used the incident as a means of putting Joseph into the position of being a benefactor to his family. Joseph sent his brothers back to Canaan with wagons to

bring their father and families down to Egypt, where they would be protected from the famine. Thus would begin the exile foretold earlier to Abraham.

When Jacob heard that not only was Joseph still alive, but that he had also been able to maintain his level of righteousness in the palace of Pharaoh, his spirits were revived. He immediately made plans to travel to Egypt to see Joseph before he would die.

Jacob and his family came to Egypt, where Pharaoh cordially

greeted them. They settled in Goshen, a suburb of Egypt, where they would be able to live apart from the surrounding Egyptian culture.

The Torah relates that as the famine became worse and the Egyptian resources were depleted, Joseph took all the Egyptians' land for Pharaoh, in exchange for food. He resettled the whole nation in different areas. This was done in order to make his brothers feel more comfortable. They would not feel like strangers if everyone else had also been relocated. He also extended an exemption to the priests. This would serve as a precedent for the exemption of the Levites once the Jewish slavery in exile began

**Mazel Tov**  
to Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe Stoll  
upon the birth of a grandson

## Insights: Vayigash

"...He sent Yehuda ahead...to prepare ahead of him in Goshen" (Gen 46:28) The Midrash says that Ya'akov sent Yehuda ahead to open a yeshiva in Goshen. The Radomsker Rebbe asks why Ya'akov sent Yehuda to open a yeshiva rather than Levi or Yissachar, the sons who excelled in Torah study. He suggests that it was Yehuda who had accepted full responsibility for taking Benjamin down with his brothers to Egypt, and Ya'akov felt that it was this sense of responsibility that was needed to preserve Torah. Rav Shlomo Wolbe taught that a child must learn early on to accept responsibility for his words and actions. To espouse opinions without being able to stand behind them is meaningless. During an epidemic in Vilna, Rav Yisrael Salanter arranged for his students to offer their assistance to the ill. When some of the parents protested that he was exposing their sons to the disease, he responded, "I would not do this if I couldn't accept full responsibility for my actions. I promise that your sons won't get sick!"

## Did You Know?

The tenth of Teves is a fast day, commemorating a few events: 1. the siege on Jerusalem during the first Temple, 2. the passing of Ezra and Nechemia, the leaders who built the second Temple, and 3. the Egyptian King Ptolemy forced the rabbis to translate the Torah into Greek (Septuagint), during the second Temple period. This was tragic since the other nations would now misinterpret the Torah, as they did not have the Oral tradition. When the fast day falls on Friday (It is the only fast day that can fall on Friday) one must be careful not to make kiddush before nightfall, even though he has already accepted the Shabbos. All regular preparations for Shabbos are permitted. Although usually Avinu Malkeinu is recited at Mincha on a fast day, it is not recited at Mincha on Friday.

**Thought for the Week: Some are willing to make only the supreme sacrifice** (A Candle By Day)