

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Vayigash
January 3, 2025 / 3 Teves 5785
Volume 30, Issue 10
Candlelighting: 4:51 pm

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

Friday, January 3

4:51pm Candlelighting
4:55pm Mincha / Maariv
8:30pm Shiur @ R. Nisenbaum

Shabbos, January 4

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship.
4:15pm Laws of Shabbos
4:45pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
6:00pm Maariv

Sunday, January 5

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

Monday, January 6

8:00pm **Pathways to Prayer - Improving Prayer**

Tuesday, January 7

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

Wednesday, January 8

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

Thursday, January 9

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

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

Parsha: 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.

Insights: Vayigash

...they told him over all the words of Yosef... (Gen 45:27) A broken-hearted man came to Rav Simcha Bunim of Ger. "Rebbe," he cried, "I made a serious mistake and sinned. What can I do to rectify my deeds?" The Gerrer Rebbe told him, "I was always bothered by a question. When Yaakov came to Egypt and met his beloved son Yosef after a twenty-two-year separation, how is it possible that he did not even ask what had transpired during that entire period? Why didn't Yaakov ask how Yosef had gotten to Egypt? It seems that sometimes it is not worthwhile discussing the past...What happened until now already happened. The important thing is what will happen from now on!"

Did You Know?

There is a mitzvah to accompany one's guest for a distance upon his departure. The Talmud says that escorting one's guest is greater than providing him with food and lodging. Part of this requirement includes providing food for the trip. Many authorities believe the obligation of escorting only applies to a guest from out-of-town, since he does not know the roads very well, or that it only applies to somebody traveling alone, to provide extra protection, which generally is not the case today since the roads are usually filled with other travelers. Nevertheless, one should be careful to accompany a guest for at least several feet, or at least to the door, when he leaves. According to Kabbalistic sources, one should not take leave of a person amidst tears.

Thought for the Week: We cannot always rely on "get-up-and-go"; sometimes we can get up only by going. (A Candle By Day)