

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Vayislach
December 13, 2024 / 12 Kislev 5785
Volume 30, Issue 7
Candlelighting: 4:39 pm

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

Friday, December 13

4:39pm Candlelighting
4:40pm Mincha / Maariv

8:30pm Shiur @ R. Nisenbaum

Shabbos, December 14

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is sponsored by Aviram Ashwal

4:10pm Laws of Shabbos
4:35pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
5:47pm Maariv
8:30pm Men's Melava Malka

Sunday, December 15

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

Monday, December 16

8:00pm **Pathways to Prayer -
The Amidah** (R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, December 17

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

Wednesday, December 18

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

Thursday, December 19

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: Vayislach

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.

**Motzei Shabbos
Men's Melava Malka**
At JLC at 8:30pm
Kickoff of the annual campaign

Insights: Vayislach

Ya'akov remained alone (Gen 32:25) The Talmud (Chullin 91a) relates that Ya'akov returned to retrieve some small cups he had left behind. This teaches us that a righteous person is very careful with the money Hashem has granted him, in order to avoid stealing. When the Alter of Kelm would collect funds for his yeshiva, he would ask somebody how much wear and tear the trip had on his clothing. He would then collect those few rubles from the yeshiva. He was asked why he was so particular to collect such a small sum from the yeshiva, and why he was not willing to waive the few dollars. The Alter explained that if a person forgoes a small sum here and there, he will not feel the necessity to return a small sum here and there either, rationalizing that the sums probably cancel each other out. That will ultimately lead a person to theft.

Did You Know?

Each person is obligated to light Chanukah candles in his home. If a person will not be at home, he may have somebody in the house light candles for him. If one will be sleeping in a different home, he may either kindle at the place he will be sleeping, or else chip in with the host, and fulfill his obligation with the host's lighting. If one is merely eating at a friend's home, he cannot fulfill his obligation there, rather he should light at home. It is not permitted to eat a meal after the time of candle-lighting until lighting the candles. Even if one will not return home until late, he may still kindle at home, as long as there is at least one other person present to witness the lighting.

Thought for the Week: *What we call love of company is often dread of ourselves.*
(A Candle By Day)