

TORAH TIME

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PARASHA

Vayetzie

- Genesis 28:10-32:3
- Hosea 11:7-14:10
- John 1:19-51

TORAH TIME

Jacob leaves his hometown of Be'er Sheva and journeys to Charan. On the way, he encounters "the place" and sleeps there. He dreams of a ladder connecting heaven and earth. There were angels climbing up and going down on the ladder. YHWH appears and promises that the land upon which he lies will be given to his children and their children. In the morning, Jacob raises the stone on which he laid his head. Jacob calls the place the house of Elohim.

In Charan, Jacob stays with and works for his uncle Laban. He is a shepherd who tends Laban's sheep. Laban agrees to give him his younger daughter Rachel -- whom Jacob loves -- in marriage, in return for seven years' of work. But on the wedding night, Laban gives him his elder daughter, Leah, instead. Jacob discovers the trick only in the morning. Jacob marries Rachel, too, after agreeing to work another seven years for Laban.

Soon, the twelve sons of Jacob are born. These sons soon become known as the 12 tribes of Israel. Leah gives birth to six sons -- Reuben, Shimon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun -- and a daughter, Dinah, while Rachel has no children. Rachel gives Jacob her handmaid, Bilhah, as a wife to him. Dan and Naphtali are born. Leah does the same with her handmaid, Zilpah, who gives birth to Gad and Asher. Finally, Rachel's prayers are answered and she gives birth to Joseph.

Jacob has now been in Charan for fourteen years and wishes to return home, but Laban persuades him to remain. Laban offers him sheep in return for his labor. Jacob prospers, despite Laban's repeated attempts to trick him again. After six years, Jacob leaves Charan in

secret. He fears that Laban would prevent him from leaving with the family and property for which he worked. Laban pursues Jacob, but is warned by YHWH in a dream not to harm him. Laban and Jacob make an agreement on Mount Gal-Ed, and Jacob proceeds to the Holy Land, where he is met by angels.

(This is an easy explanation of the Torah portion taken from the book "The Open Bible" available at www.emetministries.com)

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 6:31, "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

LEARNING ACTIVITY

We read in this week's Torah portion about the birth and naming of Jacob's twelve sons. Names carry great importance and meaning. Have you ever wondered about how you were named? Have you ever named a pet?

Parents often take great thought when they choose a name. Jacob, or "Ya'acov" in Hebrew, named each of his twelve sons very good names. Their names would mirror their lives.

The twelve sons of Ya'acov were named according to their place in the family. Their names also told their family history. They would later become known as the "twelve tribes of Israel." Review the list of names and the meanings below. Then write each name in order of their birth on a stone.

- Re'uven - means see, a son (named this as a reminder of the firstborn son, a sight to see)
- Shimon - means hearing (named this because YHWH heard the prayer for another son)
- Levi - means joining (named because Le'ah thought this child would join her and Ya'acov)
- Y'hudah - means praise (named this as the family praised YHWH for another boy)
- Dan - means he judged (named this as YHWH judged in Rachel's favor and gave her a child)
- Naftali - means my wrestling (named this as a symbol of the wrestling between Rachel and Le'ah for Ya'acov's favor and love)
- Gad - means good fortune (named this as a testimony to good fortune found by Zilpah)
- Asher - means happy (named this because this child would bring much happiness to Le'ah)
- Yissakhar - means hire, reward (named this as a testimony to YHWH that he rewarded Le'ah for giving her slave-girl to Ya'acov to have relations with)
- Z'vulun - means living together (named this as hope that this son would cause Le'ah and Ya'acov to live together)
- Yoseph- means may he add (named this as a prayer to YHWH that another son would be

added to Rachel and Ya'acov)

Bin'yamin - means son of the right-hand (named this by Ya'acov at the death of Rachel)

WALK THE TALK

So far the Torah has given us many stories about the wrong and right way to act. Cain and Abel didn't follow the golden rule. Neither did the people in Sodom and Gomorrah. Laban acted like a bully and tricked Jacob into marrying the wrong sister. They did not behave in ways that were kind. Jacob was such a bully!

The Torah also tells us about a few folks who got it right. Noah saved his family and Abraham was forgiving to Lot. They both give us good examples of the golden rule.

Be a Buddy



Not a Bully



When you act nice towards others they often will act nice to you. How you behave also tells others about YHWH. When you are kind and caring then people will think YHWH is kind and caring. This idea of being a buddy is called the "golden rule." This is a name that has been given to a special commandment the Messiah and the Torah taught. In Luke 6:31 Y'shua said, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." The Savior was quoting

Leviticus 19:18 which says, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself. In Hebrew this reads, "v'ahavta la rayacha kamocho."

Every day gives us the choice of being a bully or a buddy. The children in your family or your school should be treated like a buddy. Never bully people like Laban did Jacob. Be determined like Jacob when others try to mistreat or bully you.

TORAH TALK

What does the name of this portion mean?

Why is this portion special?

What is the main subject of this portion?

How can you live this portion?

What commandments are in this portion?

Did you read about the Messiah in this portion? Where?

How did YHWH show His love to man in this portion?

What did you learn from the Torah?

HEBREW LESSON



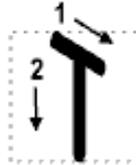
MEET THE ZAYIN:

Zakar=Remember

Zman=Time

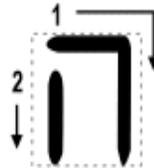
ZAH-YEET=OLIVE TREE

WRITE THE LETTER



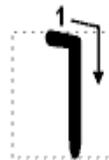
Note that the first stroke slightly descends from the left to right.

REVIEW THE LETTERS



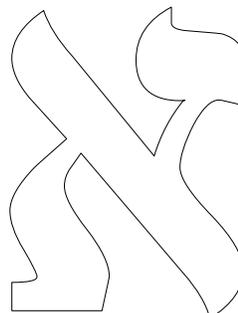
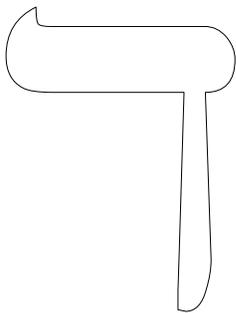
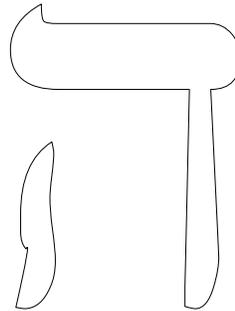
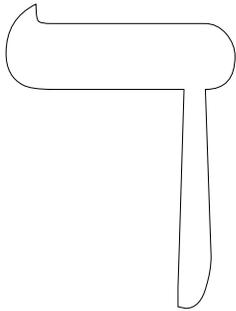
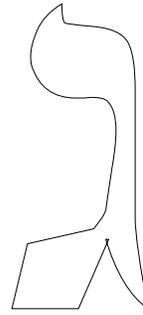
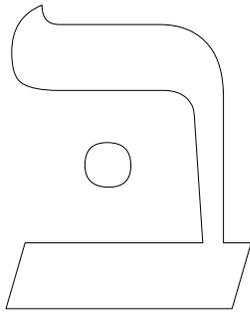
Note that there is a gap between the top of the horizontal line and the second vertical stroke.

REVIEW THE LETTERS

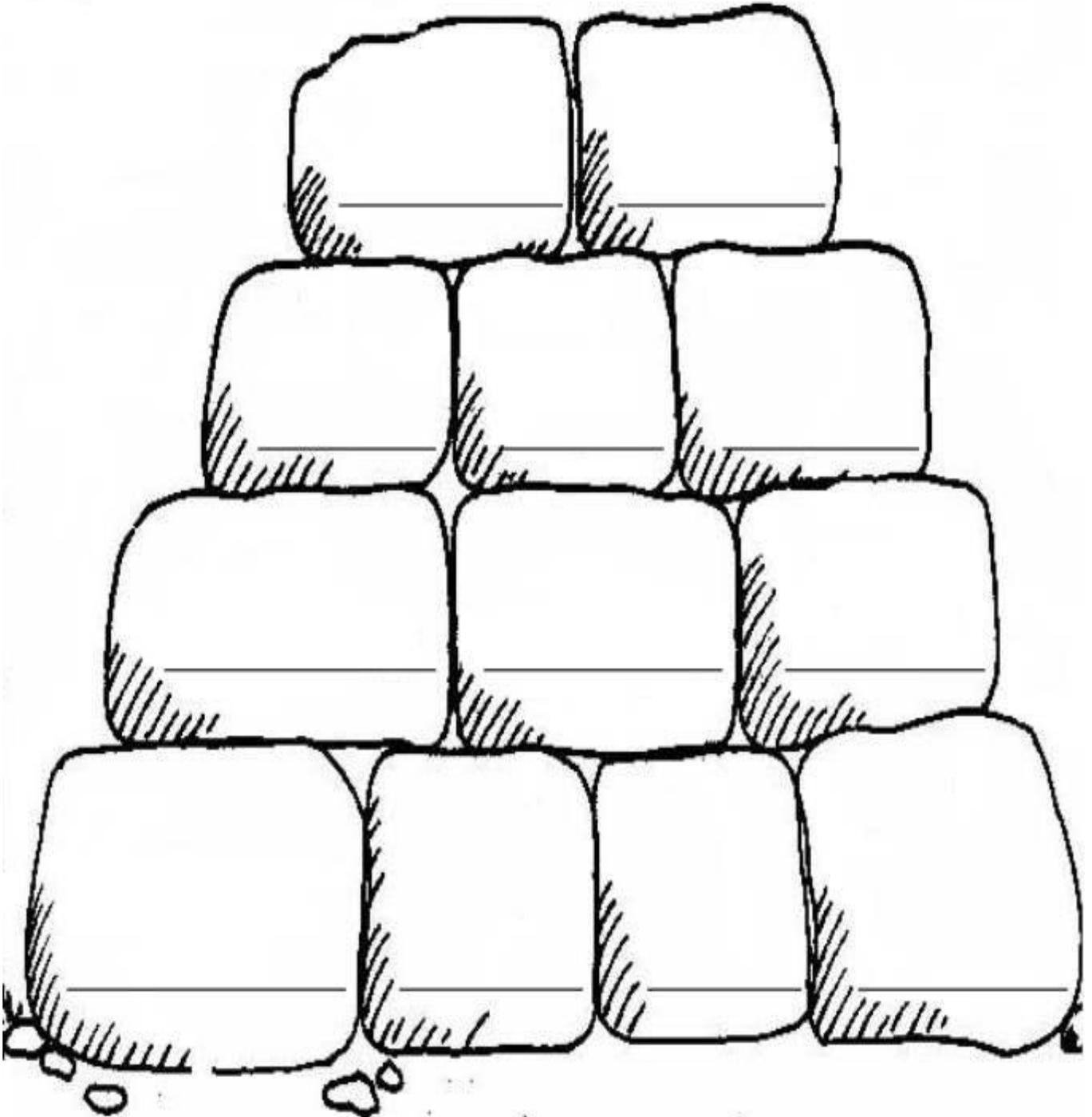


Note that there is a slight left-to-right decline in the horizontal stroke.

IDENTIFY AND COLOR THESE LETTERS:



12 Tribes of Israel





HOW DOES A BULLY MAKE YOU FEEL?

MAKE A LIST OF HOW A BULLY MAKES YOU FEEL

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

