

TORAH TIME

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PARASHA

Vayeshev

- Genesis 37:1-40:23
- Amos 2:6-3:8
- Matthew 1:1-6, 16-25

TORAH TIME

Jacob settles in Hebron with his twelve sons. His favorite is 17-year-old Joseph or “Yosef” in Hebrew. The brothers are jealous of the way Jacob treats Yosef. One day, Jacob gives Yosef a coat of many colors. Joseph tells his brothers of two dreams that he has had about them. The brothers are mad because the dreams show Josef ruling over them.

Simeon and Lewi make a plan to kill Yosef, but Re’uven suggests that they throw him into a pit instead. Re’uven wants to come back later and save him. While Joseph is in the pit, Judah has him sold to a group of slave traders. The brothers dip Joseph’s special coat in the blood of a goat and then show it to their father. Jacob is led to believe that his most beloved son Yosef was killed by a wild beast.

Judah marries and has three children. The eldest son dies young and childless. His wife named Tamar is given in marriage to the second son named Onan. Onan soon dies too. Tamar tricks Judah and soon becomes pregnant. Tamar gives birth to twin sons.

Joseph is taken to Egypt and sold to one of Pharaoh’s servants named Potiphar. YHWH blesses everything that Yosef does. Yosef is soon in charge of all of Potiphar’s property. Potiphar’s wife desires the handsome Yosef but he refuses her. She tells her husband lies about Yosef. Soon, he is thrown into prison. In the jail, Joseph gains the trust and admiration of his jailers. Even what Yosef does in prison is blessed by YHWH.

In prison, Joseph meets Pharaoh’s chief butler and chief baker. Both have disturbing dreams, which Joseph interprets. In three days, the butler will be released and the baker killed.

MEMORY VERSE

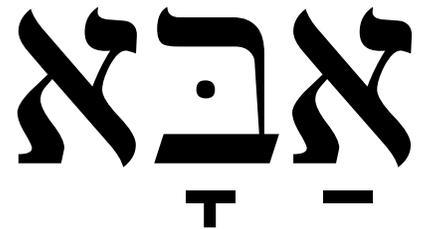
James 3:16, “where there is jealousy there is confusion and every evil work.”

LEARNING ACTIVITY

Jacob gave Yosef a beautiful coat. Isn't it nice to receive gifts?

Our Messiah said that it is “more blessed to give than to receive.” This means that though we like to get gifts, there is a special blessing for being kind and giving to others. YHWH so loved the world that he gave His only son. Gifts show love and affection.

In Hebrew the word for love is “ahava.” This is a very special Hebrew term that literally means “to give.” YHWH loved us and gave us Y'shua. A man loves a woman and gives her a wedding ring. Your parents love you and give you food and a home. You can give time or gifts to show ahava to others.



Ahava is very different than the world's idea of love. Ahava means to give time and attention and sometimes gifts too! Y'shua said the greatest commandment is to love YHWH first and then love our neighbor as you.

“The first of all commandments is, Shema O Yisra'el; the Master YHWH is our Elohim, the Master YHWH is Echad: and you shall love the Master YHWH with all your lev / heart, and with all your being, and with all your mind, and with all your strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like it, namely this; you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There are no other commandments greater than these,” said the Messiah Y'shua in Mark 12:29-31. Ahava is more important than anything else in the entire universe!

How can you show someone in your life ahava this week?

One way to show ahava would be to give a gift or make a gift. Should you give something to your parents or a friend? Create a card by folding a piece of paper in half or pick a flower out of the yard. Give your time by helping around the house or at your place of worship. Give kind words to everyone you see today. Or maybe hug your grandparents really tight and tell them how special they are to you. You can show ahava by giving just like Jacob loved Yosef with the coat of many colors.

WALK THE TALK

Jacob had 12 sons and favored one of them. His love for Joseph, or “Yosef” in Hebrew, caused his other sons to become jealous and behave badly. To learn what happened to Yosef read Genesis / B’reisheet 37:1-4, 18-28.

“Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented [a] robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. Now his brothers had gone to graze their father’s flocks near Shechem, 13 and Israel said to Joseph, “As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them.” “Very well,” he replied. So he said to him, “Go and see if



all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me.” Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron. When Joseph arrived at Shechem, a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, “What are you looking for?” He replied, “I’m looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?”

“They have moved on from here,” the man answered. “I heard them say, ‘Let’s go to Dothan.’ ” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. But they saw him in the

distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. “Here comes that dreamer!” they said to each other. “Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams.”

When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. “Let’s not take his life,” he said. “Don’t shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don’t lay a hand on him.” Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the richly ornamented robe he was wearing- and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed.

So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.”

In this story we read how Jacob loved Yosef more than any of his other sons. Because of this Yosef was treated differently and his brothers were angered. The anger led to them becoming jealous. When you are jealous of someone you want and desire whatever it is that they have. Have you ever been jealous before? The brothers were jealous of the love that Ya’acov had towards Yosef. They wanted what Joseph had and were willing to do anything it took to get it. Out of spite, they captured their brother and threw him in a pit to be sold as a slave. Then they lied to their father about Yosef. This is the danger of jealousy. It causes other sins. James 3:16 says, “where there is jealousy there is confusion and every evil work.”

The coat of many colors that was given to Joseph was a symbol of his father’s love and affection for his son. Have you ever been given a gift that made other people upset? Have you ever been jealous over someone else? Jealousy and envy is dangerous because it leads to anger or worse. When people are jealous they act out and mistreat others. As followers

of Y'shua we must reject envy and be content with what we have. We should be happy when others around us are blessed. The brothers of Yosef should have been glad for him instead of feeling like they had been slighted.

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 TET:

TOV=GOOD

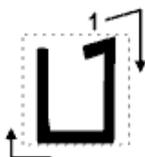
Tallit=Prayer Shawl

TAHORE=CLEAN / PURE

TAHMAY=UNCLEAN / UNPURE

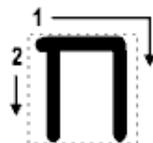
TEVILLAH=IMMERSE

WRITE THE LETTER



Note that the initial horizontal stroke slightly ascends from the left to right before descending.

REVIEW THE LETTERS



Note that the first stroke "overhangs" the vertical second stroke.

JOSEPH WORD SEARCH

H O N B O S I L V E R D D R C
R O P G L A O T M F K M B A W
W H G I D C Y M L R A O X A T
J O S E P H G B D D C T C L S
P O P Z Z D W H N A S C H D T
I Q E N M R A A J N M A F E U
P B R G S G L W E M E N L F R
C O R S Y N R R M E R A O O F
B R N O A P D A B O C A C D D
M J B L T L T O Z P H N K S Y
L O H D I H R D G E A B S K R
O B W H J F E E O S N P H I F
V C C K T T H R N O T A D L T
E Q S Q A U H O S T S M L L X
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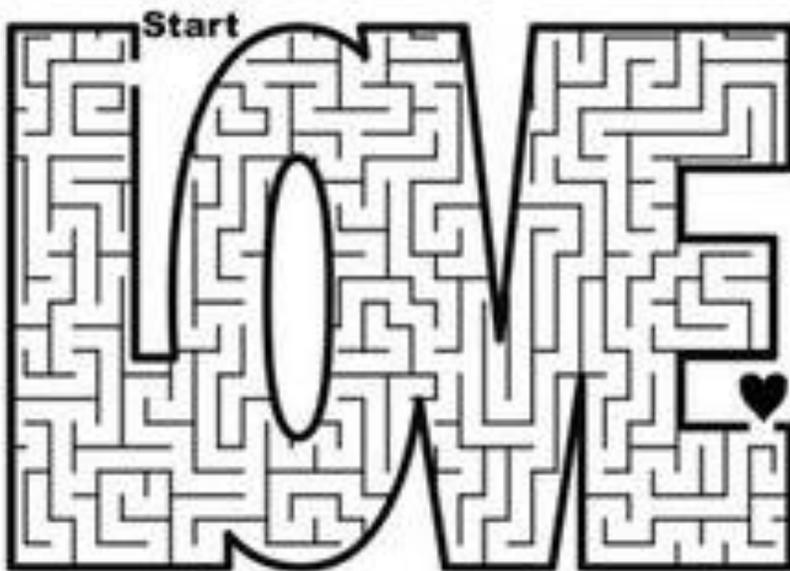
LAND
HATED
SONS
EGYPT

MERCHANTS
GRAZE
JACOB
KILL

LOVED
OLD
BROTHERS
FLOCKS

JOSEPH
BORN
SILVER
FATHER

CANAAN
ROBE
CHILDREN
SOLD



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW:

James 3:16, "where there is

there is confusion and every

work."