

Chayei Sarah Wrap-Up

by Sammy Schaechter

This week's Parsha starts off with the passing of Sarah at age 127. Avraham buys a piece of land in Chevron called Maarat HaMachpelah for 400 shekel to bury her. This is the place where all of our avot and imahot will be buried. Yitzchak is now forty years old and not married. Avraham asks his servant Eliezer to go to Charan, where Avraham was born, to find a wife for Yitzchak. Eliezer brings lots of jewelry and gifts for the future wife. Eliezer asks Hashem for a sign to let him know which girl is the right one for Yitzchak. The sign is that when he will ask a girl for water to drink from the well, she will offer to give water to the camels also. Rivka came along and offered water to Eliezer and the camels and invited him to her father's house. When Eliezer asks for her to marry Yitzchak,

she says yes. She was happy to marry a righteous and kind person like Yitzchak and get away from her family who were not very honest or righteous.

Rivka travels to Canaan with Eliezer and marries Yitzchak. When Sarah was alive there were three miracles that happened every week: the challah she baked

for Shabbat stayed fresh from one week to the next; the candles she lit on Friday night stayed lit the whole week; and there was a cloud on her tent which was a sign that Hashem was present

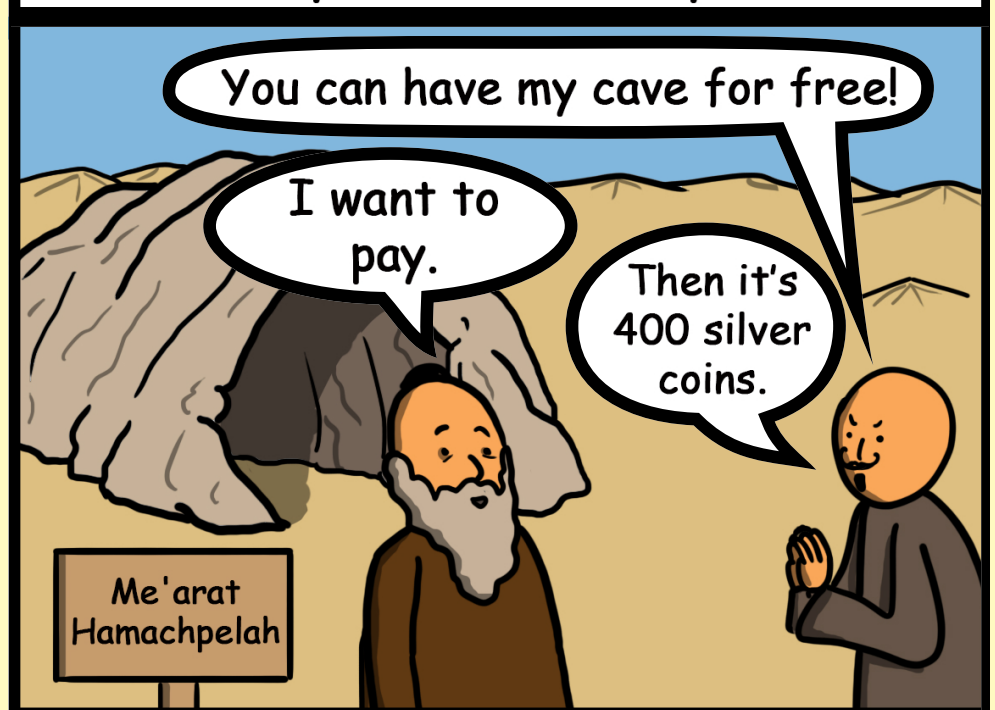
all the time. When she passed away these miracles stopped; after Yitzchak and Rivka got married they came back. That was Yitzchak's sign that she was the right one for him--that Rivka was righteous just like Sarah was. Avraham also remarries Keturah who is actually Hagar, the wife Avraham married before he and Sarah had Yitzchak. Why the new name? Because she repented from her not good ways and started a new life as a better person. At the end of the Parsha we learn that Avraham died at age 175 and is buried next to Sarah in Maarat HaMachpelah.

IN THIS ISSUE

Parsha Wrap-Up	1
Artscroll Parsha Stories:	
Tales of Tzadikim.....	2-3
Stories My Grandfather Told Me...	5-6
Parsha Puzzlers:	
Test Your Parsha Knowledge.....	4
Crack The Parsha Code	4
Torah Rhymes & Riddles.....	5
Answers.....	7
Jewish Leader	7
Parsha Games	8
Tefilah Treasures	8

TORAH COMICS

Avraham buys a cave to bury Sarah in.



Excerpt from ANDiDREW Torah Comics. Get the book or draw your own at TorahComics.com

Appeasement

It is from Hashem (24:50)

R' Shmuel Shtrashun was deeply revered by all of Jewry for his brilliance in Torah. But he was also greatly respected for his devotion to the Jewish community. Among his many public activities, he managed a gemilus chesed (gemach) free-loan fund for the people of Vilna.

R' Shmuel was very careful in keeping the accounts of his fund. He made certain that people repaid their loans as soon as they were due, else there would not be any funds available for other people to borrow. And he would mark everything carefully in his books.

An ordinary Jew once needed a loan of one hundred rubles for four months. He came to R' Shmuel, received the money and promised to return it on the appointed day.

Four months later, when the loan was due, he went to R' Shmuel's home but did not find the rabbi in. "He is in the beis medrash," he was told. The man went there and found R' Shmuel deeply engrossed in a complex subject in the gemarah. The man laid the money in front of him. R' Shmuel looked up, nodded, and went back to his study. The man was certain that the rabbi had acknowledged his receipt of the money and went his way.

But R' Shmuel had only nodded automatically. His mind had been on other things. He pored over the gemarah for a long time, turning pages back and forth. When he was finally satisfied with the solution, he shut the gemarah and put it back on the shelf in the beis medrash, oblivious of the money pressed between its pages.

Every week R' Shmuel would go over the gemach account books to see which loans were paid up and which still had to be collected. When he came to the name of that Jew he noticed

that the loan was still outstanding. He summoned him and demanded that he repay the one hundred rubles.

"But I already paid you!"

"You did not. It is written, here, that you still owe the money."

"I put the money on the table right in front of you! I paid back my debt!" the man insisted. R' Shmuel did not remember. He demanded payment, but the man refused, claiming that he had already paid. R' Shmuel insisted that he appear before a din Torah.

All of Vilna learned about this din Torah. The man was in public disgrace. How did he dare stand up against the famous scholar? He was, in effect, calling him a liar!

The hearing took place in the beis din. Both sides were heard and the scholar's story held more weight. The judges postponed their decision for a later date, hoping that the man would admit that he had not paid back his debt.

The poor man had no sympathizers in all of Vilna. He was considered a stubborn fool, a thief. His good name was undermined; people stopped talking to him; his son could not bear the disgrace and left Vilna altogether. Finally the man was even dismissed from his job. Still, he continued to insist that he had paid back his debt.

Time passed and R' Shmuel happened to need the same gemarah. He opened it up and discovered the money, one hundred rubles. For a moment he was puzzled, wondering how such a large sum could have been misplaced there. Suddenly, it all came back to him. This was the missing money which the defendant had insisted he had repaid.

R' Shmuel felt terrible. He had wronged a Jew! He had accused him falsely! Shaken to his core, he quickly

summoned the man and said, "How can I possibly make amends for the anguish I caused you? I am prepared to make a public confession to clear your name. But will this be enough? Can this possibly compensate for your suffering?!"

The man stood before the rabbi. His face was gaunt, lined with the ravages of his suffering. He said sadly, "What is done is done. My good name is already ruined. Even if you were to free me of blame, people would not forget that I had once been accused of such a terrible thing. They might think that you had pity on me and wished to clear my name, but they would still consider me a thief and a liar. No, not even a public retraction would help me now. Besides, it would not bring my son back. He left Vilna out of shame."

R' Shmuel was thoughtful for a long time, "How could he help the broken man before him, the man whose reputation he himself had ruined?" Suddenly, he had an idea. "Send for your son. Tell him to return to Vilna. I will take him as a husband for my daughter. This will certainly restore your good name!"

The man was overwhelmed. He had never dreamed of such a wonderful thing. That his son should marry the rabbi's daughter!

The son was summoned back and the engagement took place several days later. The cream of Vilna society took part in the affair. People could not stop talking about the amazing turn of events; they could not help but marvel at the ways of Providence. "It had been decreed from birth that this ordinary man's son was to marry the rabbi's daughter. And how had this been accomplished? Through the mistake about the loan. How amazing were the ways of heaven!"

The Tzaddik's Donkey

Ten camels from my master's camels (24:10)

R'Chanina ben Dosa owned a donkey which carried him on its back from place to place. One day a band of thieves happened to pass by the tzaddik's house and noticed the fine beast. When no one was looking, they seized the rope around its neck and dragged the donkey to their lair, a cave in the mountains.

They brought the animal some barley and water but the donkey bowed its head and refused to eat the food placed before it. It stood in the cave for three days and three nights, refusing to taste one grain of barley. It sensed that the food belonging to thieves had been stolen or at best, had not been

tithed (the required maaser had not been set aside).

At the end of the three days, one of the thieves said to his friend, "What are we going to do with this donkey who refuses to eat or drink? It must be ill. It won't be long before it dies. Let's set him loose."

The thieves removed the rope around the donkey's neck, led him out of the cave, and left it to make its way as best it could. The donkey began walking. It walked and walked until it reached its master's gate. And there it stood, braying pitifully.

R' Chanina heard the familiar sound and said, "I think that that is our donkey which was stolen from us three

days ago. Go and open the gate for it. It must be hungry. Give it some oats and water for it sounds very weak!"

Someone ran out and opened the gate. The poor animal rushed in and went to its place in the barn. But when food was brought and the water troughs were filled, it refused to eat. R' Chanina's son went inside to report this strange behavior to his father.

"Did you forget to set aside maaser from the feed? That must be the reason why he will not touch the oats."

Indeed, in the confusion the family had forgotten about maaser. When it was duly set aside the starved animal began to eat — and with what an appetite!

TALES OF TZADIKIM

A Mitzvah for Four Zuzim

Both straw and fodder aplenty do we have, and also lodgings (24:25)

R'Yeshaya of Zochowitz was well known for his hachnasas orchim. His hospitality was legendary. When he had guests, he wanted them to really enjoy themselves and eat as heartily as if they were at home.

A group of guests arrived one Friday afternoon, shortly before Shabbos. R' Yeshaya went out to welcome them to his home. He showed them to a clean room with fresh towels and clean, comfortable beds. He told them to unpack their things and make themselves at home.

A few minutes before Shabbos R' Yeshaya came in and told them, "I know that you were told that you could spend the Shabbos here. I charge four zuzim a person for a Shabbos. This may seem high but for this price, you can eat your fill, drink the best of wines and really feel at home."

The men were somewhat surprised but it was too late to change their plans. Oh well, they thought. If they were paying, they might as well take advantage of it and enjoy themselves.

They had a very pleasant Shabbos indeed. The food was plentiful and excellent, the wine superb and the host was warm and accommodating. He did everything to make their stay comfortable. They had no regrets, even if they knew that they would have to pay. After Shabbos they were given a sumptuous melaveh malkah meal which they also ate heartily.

Sunday morning arrived. It was time to leave. When they had gathered all their belongings, the guests went to R' Yeshaya to pay him the four zuzim. But to their great surprise, he refused to accept a penny!

"Do you think that I would accept money for doing such a great mitz-

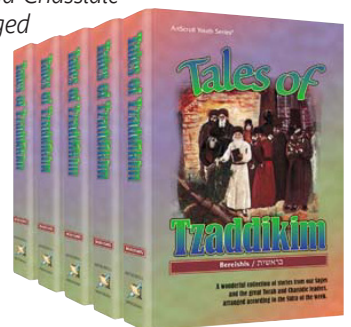
vah?! That I would sell such a privilege for payment?!"

"B-b-but you said on Friday..."

"Never mind what I said on Friday," R' Yeshaya interrupted them. "I only said that I was charging you so that you would feel at home, that you would not feel embarrassed to eat heartily, or to ask for anything you desired. But now — I wouldn't dream of taking money!"

Tales of Tzadikim by G. Matov is a wonderful collection of stories from our Sages and the great Torah and Chassidic leaders, arranged according to the Sidra.

The five-volume set is available from your favorite Jewish book store, or online at artscroll.com.



PARSHA PUZZLERS

TEST YOUR PARSHA KNOWLEDGE

by Sammy Schaechter
and Dovid Saleman
Answers on page 7.

EASY Qs

1. How old was Sarah when she died?
2. From where did Avraham buy the land, from who, and for how much?
3. Where was Sarah buried?
4. Who else was buried there?
5. How old was Avraham when he died?
6. Who was Eliezer and what did Avraham tell him to do?
7. How did Eliezer know that Rivka was the one for Yitzchak?
8. What did Rivka do when she saw Yitzchak coming?
9. What miracles happened when Sarah was alive that returned when Rivka came?
10. Who did Avraham marry after Sarah died?

MEDIUM Qs

11. According to Chazal, what did Sarah hear that caused her death?
12. What did Avraham make Eliezer swear not to do?
13. After giving Rivka gifts, what two questions did Eliezer ask her?
14. Who were Rivka's family members and what were they interested in?
15. What tefillah did Yitzchak establish?

HARD Qs

16. What title of honor did the B'nei Chet bestow upon Avraham?
17. Name the four couples buried in Kiryat Arba.
18. Where was Avraham born?
19. How were Avraham's camels distinguished?
20. What special character trait did

Eliezer seek when choosing a wife for Yitzchak?

21. Why did Avraham's servant, Eliezer, run toward Rivka?

22. Why did Lavan run to greet Eliezer?

23. Who did Eliezer want Yitzchak to marry?

24. Aside from Eliezer, to which other people did Rivka offer to give water?

25. Lavan answered Eliezer before his father, Betuel, had a chance. What does this indicate about Lavan's character?

26. What did Rivka mean when she said "I will go?"

27. What blessing did Rivka's family give her before she departed?

28. How many times is Eliezer's name mentioned in this week's Parsha?

29. Who was Ketura?

30. What gift did Avraham give to Yitzchak?

SUPER HARD Qs

31. What is meant by "all the good of his master in his hand?"
32. When Lavan told Eliezer that the house was cleared out, what did he remove?



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CRACK THE PARSHA CODE

by Rabbi Yaakov Levine
Answers on page 7.

1. The L of S was 127 Y
2. S D when a M told her what H to Y
3. A B the C of M from E for 400 S S
4. E's H was also B in M H
5. E took 10 C to A N
6. E said that the G that O a D for me and my C should be a W for Y
7. 2 B's that W 10 G was the P for R
8. Y was the 1st P to D M, and he was in the F when R came
9. When R saw Y for the 1st T she F from her C
10. A M K and has 6 more C
11. A L until 175 Y O, and was B by Y and Y in M H

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PARSHA PUZZLERS

TORAH RHYMES & RIDDLES

Answers on page 7.

1. My husband paid
four hundred coins
For the Machpelah Cave;
And there he buried me,
his wife;
In Chevron is my grave.

2. I had to find a special wife
To wed my master's son.
I traveled far to find the girl
Who'd be his chosen one.

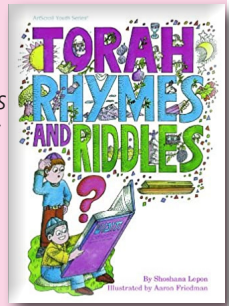
3. I met an old man by the well,
For him I drew some water.
I also helped his camels drink.
I am Betuel's daughter.

4. My sister brought home bracelets
From the man whom she met.
I ran to greet him right away.
Who knows what I may get?

5. Out in the field
at the end of the day,
I stood alone
to think and pray.

I lifted my eyes
and what did I see?
My new bride, Rivkah,
Riding towards me!

Torah Rhymes and Riddles by Shoshana Lepon (Author) and Aaron Friedman (Illustrator) is filled with rhyming riddles that test young children's comprehension of the weekly Parsha. For more great children's Torah books, visit artscroll.com



PARSHA STORIES

STORIES MY GRANDFATHER TOLD ME

A Grand Gesture

And Yitzchak brought her into the tent, Sarah his mother; he married Rivkah, she became his wife (Bereishis 24:67)

A group of chassidim once traveled to Lublin in a wagon whose driver was a simple, uneducated man. Upon their arrival in Lublin, the chassidim hurried to prepare their "kvittels" (notes) to present to their rebbe. The driver, seeing the reverent preparations they were making in order to greet their rebbe, asked them to write a kvittel for him as well. He handed his kvittel to one of the chassidim and went off to an inn.

The chassidim went to see the rebbe, kvittels in hand. When the chassid handed the rebbe the wagon driver's note, the rebbe said without unfolding it, "This man shines in all worlds." Knowing the wagon driver to be a simple individual, the chassidim were taken aback by their rebbe's words. They decided to follow the man and investigate his actions. Perhaps he would

turn out to be one of the 36 hidden tzaddikim that are said to exist in every generation!

The chassidim went to seek out the wagon driver at the inn. Before they reached the inn, they could hear sounds of laughter and merriment emanating from within. Peeking inside, they saw their driver, face glowing, dancing energetically in front of a bride and groom.

They approached the wagon driver and told him what their rebbe had said about him. "Please, explain to us what he meant!" they begged.

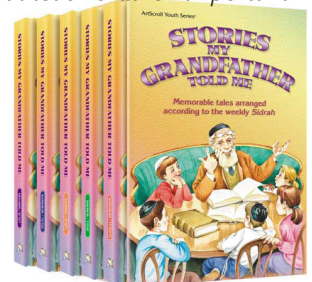
The driver told them his story:

"When I came to this inn, I heard the sounds of quarreling. A poor bride and groom were waiting to stand under the chupah, but the bride did not have enough money to fulfill her dowry obligations and the groom refused to marry her. When I saw how distressed everyone was, I asked how

much money was in question. It was a large amount, but I decided to offer all my savings so that the match would not break up. The couple patched up their quarrel, and now I am as happy as though I'd just married off my own son."

The chassidim saw that their rebbe's holy eyes had glimpsed the change in the wagon driver, who had purchased his World to Come with a single grand gesture.

Stories My Grandfather Told Me by Zev Greenwald (Author) Libby Lazewnik (Translator) and Tova Katz (illustrator) is packed with short pleasant stories that teach children important life lessons from the weekly Parsha. The five-volume set is available from your favorite Jewish book store, or at artscroll.com.



Scrupulous in Business

So the man came into the house and he unfastened the camels (Bereishis 24:32)

R'Yisrael Meyer, the Chofetz Chaim, opened a grocery store. His share of the work was to keep the accounts, while his wife managed the store. This way, the Chofetz Chaim was able to continue learning during the day.

Each night, on his return from the beis midrash, he would sit down to tally up the day's accounts. On market days, when there was extra work to do, he would help his wife in the store.

The Chofetz Chaim's management of the store was unique. He and his wife would close up shop in the middle of the day in order not to harm the competition. "They need a livelihood, too," he would explain. Every day, he would go into the store to make sure that the weights and measurements were accurate. If any merchandise had become even slightly damaged, he would not permit it to be sold in the store.

The Chofetz Chaim was constantly on the alert not to transgress in any way with respect to his business. If a man bought merchandise and still owed money on it, the Chofetz Chaim made sure not to pass near that man's house, lest the customer think that he was coming by to remind him of his debt. In this way, he fulfilled the commandment, "Do not be like a usurer."

Once, a non-Jewish customer accidentally left behind a salted fish in his shop. R' Yisrael Meyer was unsuccessful in discovering the man's identity.

Here was a problem of stealing from a gentile! What did he do? On the following market day, the Chofetz Chaim distributed salted fish, free of charge, to every non-Jewish customer who came in.

On another occasion, he discovered that a certain non-Jewish woman had inadvertently received a little less salt than she had paid for. After great effort, he managed to discover which village the customer lived in, but was unsuccessful in learning her name.

The Chofetz Chaim did not procrastinate. He hired a driver and wagon and sent him to that village, with a sack of salt and instructions to distribute the salt among all the women in the village.

Is there anyone who would not prefer to shop in this sort of store than anywhere else? Gradually, the stream of customers to the Chofetz Chaim's store became greater and greater. Everyone wanted to buy from him.

As the number of his customers increased, the Chofetz Chaim became concerned: What would happen to the other shopkeepers? He instructed his wife to regularly lock the door that fronted the street.

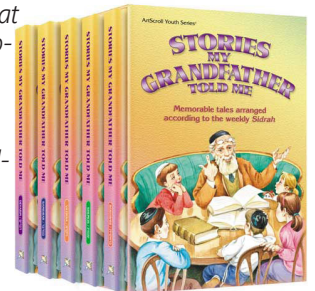
"That way," he explained, "the only ones who will enter the store will be neighbors who know about the back way."

But these measures did not help for long. Customers quickly learned of the

back door, and continued to patronize the store. The Chofetz Chaim was greatly worried that he might be stealing other shopkeepers' livelihood. He decided to close the store. That was the end of an unusual and interesting chapter in his life: the Chofetz Chaim as a shopkeeper.

But the story did not end there. Though he had always tried to run the store faithfully and honestly, he remained worried all through his life that his integrity might have been less than perfect during the period when the store was open. In his old age, as the Chofetz Chaim prepared to move to Eretz Yisrael, he visited every Jew in his town and asked forgiveness for anything he might have done to wrong them. In order to compensate for any possible problem, he followed the advice of our Sages (may their memory be blessed): He donated the sum of 500 gold coins to the public fund. With this money, the town built a well from which any person might draw water, free of charge.

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An Honest Question

"Who led me on a true path" (Bereishis 24:48)

The Kotzker Rebbe went through a period of seclusion that lasted nearly twenty years. He hardly ever left his room. He was seen only on rare occasions, once every few months. Chas-

sidim who wished to see him and receive his blessing before departing for their homes were sometimes forced to wait in the beis midrash for weeks at a time. He stopped conducting a "tish" and received very few people.

With all this, it was said that more

holiness emanated from the Kotzker Rebbe's closed door than from many open doors of other rebbes.

One day, a simple Jewish villager arrived to complain about his cow, which had suddenly stopped giving milk. The Rebbe, to everyone's astonishment,

received him warmly, answered his questions, and sent him on his way with a blessing.

The Rebbetzin asked in surprise, "There are learned chassidim here, devoted servants of Hashem, but you are not interested in seeing them. Yet

you let that simple man in without any delay?"

In his characteristically sharp-witted way, the Rebbe answered, "Those chassidim come asking me about spirituality, while deep in their hearts they really want my blessing for — money!

I want to have nothing to do with that. But that simple villager came to me about his cow, and really meant it. The truth, with no hypocrisy, is something I do want!"

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Noam Gershony

born January 30, 1983

Noam Gershony served in the Israeli Defense Force as a pilot in an attack helicopter. During the 2006 Lebanon War his helicopter crashed with another helicopter, which killed his co-pilot and left Gershony injured. He had many bone fractures and in-

juries in his arms and legs. He went through lots of therapy and joined Beit Halochem sport center in Tel Aviv where he started playing wheelchair tennis and surfing. Besides his sports career, Gershony volunteers at "Makom Acher", a hostel for at-risk youth in Tel Aviv, and teaches math to teen-

agers. He's won many championships in tennis including participating in the 2012 Summer Paralympics and winning a gold medal. He was then chosen to hold his nation's flag at the 2012 Summer Paralympics closing ceremony.

PUZZLERS ANSWERS

TEST YOUR PARSHA KNOWLEDGE

1. 127
2. Chevron, Efron, 400 shekel
3. Maarat HaMachpelah
4. Adam and Chavah, Avraham and Sarah, Yitzchak and Rivka, Yaakov and Leah (and some say Esav's head)
5. 175
6. Avraham's servant. He was told to go to Charan to find Yitzchak a wife
7. She offered water not only to Eliezer, but to his camels as well
8. She covered her face
9. The candles she lit on Friday night stayed lit the whole week, there was a cloud on her tent which was a sign that Hashem was present all the time, and the challah she baked, for Shabbat stayed fresh from one week to the next.
10. Keturah, who many say was really Hagar
11. That Yitzchak was almost slaughtered
12. Find Yitzchak a wife from Canaan and take Yitzchak out of Canaan, since he had been a korban
13. From whose family are you? And is there room for me to stay in your home?
14. Betuel was Rivka's father and Lavan was her brother, who cleaned their house of idols before inviting Eliezer in, since they wanted his riches.
15. Mincha
16. 23:6 - Prince of G-d.
17. 23:2 - Adam and Chava, Avraham and Sara, Yitzchak and Rivka, Yaakov and Leah.

18. 24:7 - Ur Kasdim.
19. 24:10 - They were muzzled, so they wouldn't graze in the fields of others.
20. 24:14 - He sought someone who excelled in performing acts of kindness.
21. 24:17 - He saw that the waters of the well rose when she approached.
22. 24:29 - Lavan coveted his money.
23. 24:39 - His own daughter.
24. 24:44 - To the men who accompanied Eliezer.
25. 24:50 - That he was wicked.
26. 24:58 - I will go even if you don't want me to go.
27. 24:60 - That the blessings given to Avraham would continue through her children.
28. None!
29. 25:1 - Hagar.
30. 25:5 - The power of blessing.
31. 24:10 - Eliezer carried a document in which Avraham gave all he owned to Yitzchak so that people would want their daughter to marry him.
32. 24:31 - Idols.

PARSHA CODE

1. The LIFE of SARA was 127 YEARS
2. SARA DIED when a MALACH told her what HAPPENED to YITZCHAK
3. AVRAHAM BOUGHT the CAVE of MACHPAYLA from EFRON for 400 SILVER SHEKEL
4. EISEV'S HEAD was also BURIED in MEARAS HAMACHPAYLA
5. ELIEZER took 10 CAMELS to ARAM NAHARAYIM
6. ELIEZER said that the GIRL that OFFERS a DRINK for me and my CAMELS should be a WIFE for YITZCHAK
7. 2 BRACELETS that WEIGHED 10 GOLD was the PRESENT for RIVKA
8. YITZCHAK was the 1st PERSON to DAVEN MINCHA, and he was in the FIELD when RIVKA came
9. When RIVKA saw YITZCHAK for the 1st TIME she FELL from her CAMEL
10. AVRAHAM MARRIED KETURA and had 6 more CHILDREN
11. AVRAHAM LIVED until 175 YEARS OLD, and was BURIED by YITZCHAK and YISHMAEL in MEARAS HAMACHPAYLA

TORAH RHYMES & RIDDLES

1. Sarah
2. Eliezer, Avraham's servant
3. Rivkah
4. Lavan
5. Yitzchak

PARSHA GAMES

Sarah and Rivka's Miracles

by Sammy Schaechter

GOAL: To learn about the three special miracles that happened to Sarah and continued when Rivka moved in.

TYPE: Moderate, indoor, group game

HOW TO PLAY: There were three miracles that happened to Sarah on a weekly basis- her challah stayed fresh all week long, her candles stayed lit from Shabbos to Shabbos, and Hashem's shechinah always rested above her tent. These three games will represent each of the miracles.

Part 1- "Candle Horseshoe". Create a candle like object using a baton/stick/paper towel roll/tin foil. Make it that it stands up and doesn't fall down. You can also use soda bottles. You will also require "rings". Take turns giving each kid seven rings to try and throw onto the "candles". The idea behind the seven rings is to represent the seven days that the candles burned from Shabbos to Shabbos.

Part 2- "Hashem-Spys" (aka I-spy). Have one kid pick an object in the room and whisper what it is into a group leader's ear. They will then give a clue about what it is to the rest of the group. Each kid in the group will have a chance to guess what it is. For example, they will say something like "I-spy something that goes back and forth (a door)". Each kid will have a chance to guess what it is and whoever gets it right will then become the next "spy". The idea

behind this game is that Hashem was always looking over Sarah's tent just like the kids were looking over the room.

Part 3- "The Challah Braid Relay". Set up cones (or random objects) spread out in a straight line across the room. Each kid must take turns running around the cones on the way to the other side where they must eat two small cookies/pretzels/ any other food you think would work well. Don't forget a bracha! They must then run back around the cones and tag the next person in line. This game represents that Sarah's challah would always stay fresh. The running through the cones is like the braiding of the challah and eating 2 pretzels represents lechem mishnah, always having two challahs at our meal on Shabbat.

DISCUSSION: We learned about the three special miracles that happened to Sarah. Unfortunately, when she passed away these miracles disappeared and no longer happened in Avraham's tent. Although, when Eliezer went to go find a wife for Yitzchak, he found Rivka who was the perfect fit. How do we know this? Because when Rivka came into Sarah's tent, all the miracles of Sarah returned as well- the candles lasted from week to week, the challah stayed nice and fresh, and Hashem's shechinah rested over the tent. We should learn from the ways of Sarah and Rivka and always keep and honor Shabbat and remember Hashem is always looking out for all of us.

TEFILAH TREASURES

Birkat Kriat Shema

Before we say Shema, we say two brachot praising Hashem to prepare ourselves for the important tefillah of Shema. We start off by talking about how amazing it was that Hashem created light and darkness. We see from light and darkness both being created by Hashem that both good and bad comes from Hashem. Since everything that comes from Hashem is good, we learn that even though sometimes things may seem bad we know that everything Hash-

em does for us is for the best. Also, not only did Hashem create the world, He continues to build and run the world every second of the day. Every time we think about the world we should remember that it all started with Hashem and it continues every day with the kindness Hashem does for us. Even if it may not seem so great right away, we must try to remember that everything happens for a reason and Hashem loves us and only does what's best for us.

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