

The Pardes Center for Jewish Educators presents

An Interactive PARSHA EXPERIENCE



Parsha: Vayeshev

Title: A Family Feud

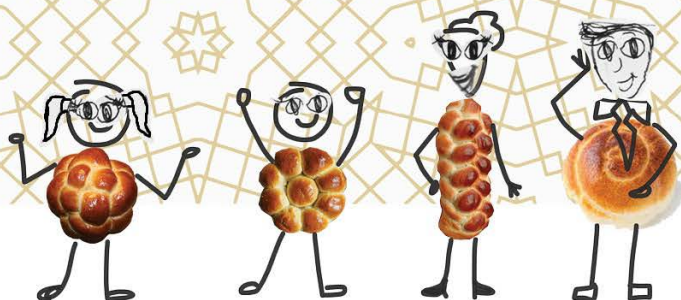
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The Parsha at First Glance

Spotlight on the Parsha:

At the beginning of *Parshat Vayeshev*, we learn about siblings that do NOT get along with each other. Yosef's brothers resented the seventeen-year-old Yosef for a few reasons:

1. Yosef used to tell on them to their father when the brothers didn't behave properly.



2. Their father, Yaakov, loved Yosef the best and even gave him a special colorful coat that none of the other brothers received.
3. Yosef had two dreams that he shared with all of his brothers (and he told Yaakov about the second dream too). In the first dream, the brothers were binding wheat in the field together and all of the brothers' stalks of wheat surrounded Yosef's stalk and bowed down to it. In the second dream, the sun, moon, and eleven stars - Yosef had 11 brothers - all bowed down to him.

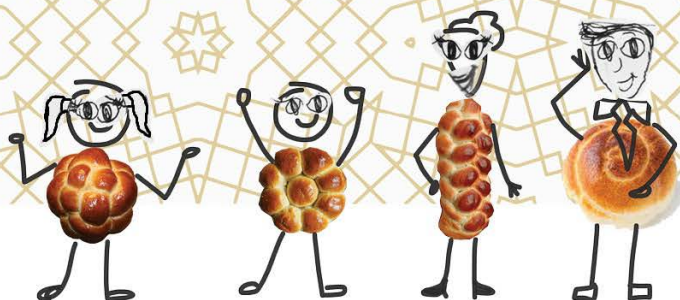
After giving us all this information, the Torah tells us that “the brothers were jealous of him” (Gen. 37:11) and they eventually decided to sell Yosef as a slave. They also lied to Yaakov and told him that a wild animal had attacked and killed Yosef.

Zooming In:

This is a very shocking story about family relationships and the power of jealousy. What makes jealousy such a strong emotion that it can cause brothers to sell one of their own siblings into slavery and break their father's heart with an awful lie about the “death” of his son?!

Questions for Consideration:

Think about all of the family members in this story: Yosef, Yaakov, Yosef's brothers. What choice(s) did each character make that added to the jealous feelings between the siblings? What different choice(s) could each character have made in order to lessen the jealous feelings between the siblings?



The Parsha Through Another Lens

Contagious Compliments:

Sometimes people feel jealous when they do not feel good about themselves. You know a great way to help someone feel good about himself/herself? Offer him/her a genuine compliment! A compliment lets someone know that other people think good things about them, which helps them think good things about themselves...it's contagious! :)

This is how "Contagious Compliments" work:

Every person at the Shabbat table gives a compliment to the player sitting to his or her right. After receiving the compliment, the person says, "Thank you," and compliments the person sitting to his/her right. Once everyone around the table has given and received a compliment, switch seats and come up with a NEW compliment for each person.

A few examples of ways to start compliments:

"I like the way you always _____."

"Thank you for _____."

"You're really good at _____."

Shabbat Shalom!