

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network .

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To:

Busy during hebrew school?



Catch up on all you missed at
Lessons for Life from the
Weekly Torah Portion
with Rabbi Doni Deutsch

Wednesdays, 8:15 pm at the CTN Center

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Home for the
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THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

A WEEKLY PRESENTATION OF JEWISH THOUGHT PUBLISHED IN MEMORY OF RAE DANIEL

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 11 FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2012 / 11 TEVES 5772 CANDLE LIGHTING: 4:14 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 5:25 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: VAYECHI (GENESIS 47:28 - 50:26)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Rabbi Doni and Esti Deutsch with gratitude to Hashem upon the recent births of two grandchildren.

1. Jacob blessed Joseph's sons. He said: 'The Jewish People will use you as a blessing. They will say to their children: 'May G-d make you like Menashe and Efraim'. (48:20)

Blessing our children. It's a beautiful custom.

Still done today. Thousands of years later.

At the Shabbat table, parents bless their children.

To our daughters? We say: *May G-d make you as Sarah. Rebecca. Rachel. And Leah.*

It makes sense. They were great women. Whose spiritual greatness made the Jewish people what they are.

To our sons?

We'd expect: *May G-d make you as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.*

... But that's not the way it goes. Instead?

'May G-d make you as Efraim and Menashe.' Joseph's two sons.

... Why them?

Jewish tradition has a beautiful answer.

In this week's portion we are told that Joseph brought his sons to Jacob. To be blessed.

And Jacob blesses Efraim, the younger son, first.

He saw in him something special. An unusual potential for greatness.

... And the wonderful thing about Joseph's children?

That Menashe had no hard feelings. No jealousy.

They were so close, that it just didn't matter who was first.

And that's why we bless our children that they be like Efraim and Menashe.

... Because we know how it is. How no two children are ever the same.

Each has unique strengths. And talents.

As well as unique struggles. And challenges.

... The best blessing we can give them?

That they have love and respect for each other.

Combined with a healthy sense of self-esteem.

That will allow each one to reach his potential.

Without ever being jealous of the other.

STORY OF THE WEEK

An Israeli tour bus driver was greeting everyone getting on the bus, with a big smile and a hearty 'Good morning!'

Finally one of the passengers says to him: "Boy. You're in a real good mood today".

And the driver explained: "Something happened yesterday that really got me thinking.

I was hired to show a family the sights. We stopped at a very beautiful spot. It was just breathtaking.

Everyone got off the bus to take a closer look. And then I noticed one older man who had remained on the bus.

I asked him if he needed help. He said: "No thank you.

It's just that I'm almost completely blind. And I wouldn't appreciate the scene. So I might as well wait on the bus".

... And then, he told me something amazing.

"You should know that I'm a very successful businessman. A millionaire.

But I'd give up every penny to be able to enjoy a beautiful sight again. Just to see once again."

The bus driver continued: "This morning I got up and started thinking.

That man would give up a million dollars to be able to see.

... And I can see!

So I'm a millionaire!

... A millionaire!

Of course I'm excited!"

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

A great Rabbi used to stand up as a sign of respect for every visitor.

Regardless of their age.

People asked him why.

"Simple. If he is older than me, he has done more Mitzvos (good deeds).

And if he's younger ... he has committed fewer sins."

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Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!


Rabbi Moshe Katz


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