



# tidbits

my father, R' Meir Zlotowitz zt'l, made sure his family was up to date on  
from the mundane, to the ordinary, to the 'thanks for reminding me!'

Decemberr 21st, 2018 • Parshas Vayechi



## Reminders



The final opportunity for Kiddush Levanah is this Friday night, December 21st.

Daf Yomi: Erev Shabbos is Chullin 24.

Make sure to call your parents, in-laws, grandparents, and Rabbi to wish them a good Shabbos. If you didn't speak to your kids today, make sure to do the same!



## Next on the Calendar

Shabbos Mevorchim for Rosh Chodesh Shevat is January 5th, Parshas Vaeira.

Tu Bishvat is on January 21st.

## Parshah in a Paragraph



VAYECHI: Yaakov makes Yosef swear not to bury him in Egypt • Yaakov blesses Yosef's children • Yaakov promises the land of Shechem to Yosef • Birchas Yaakov: Reuven, Shimon, and Levi are rebuked for their misdeeds • Yehudah is blessed with kingship • Levi, with priesthood • Yissachar, with Torah • Zevulun, with successful trade • Shimon, with spreading Torah • Gad with success at war • Dan with judges • Asher with fertile land • Naphtali with swiftness • Binyamin with strong will • Yosef with beauty and fertility. Yaakov's final instruction to his son's • Yaakov

dies and is embalmed for forty days • Yosef receives permission to go bury his father in Canaan • There was great mourning at Goren HaAtahd and it was renamed "Avel Mitzrayim" • The brothers fear Yosef's revenge • Yosef reassures them • Yosef asks Bnei Yisrael to bury him in Eretz Yisrael when they leave Egypt • Yosef passes away and is buried at sea •

Chazak Chazak V'nischazeik! Next week we begin Sefer Shemos.



## For the Shabbos Table

"Viyikarei bahem shemi v'sheim avosei"

"And may my name be declared upon them along with the names of my forefathers" (Bereishis 48:16)

When Yosef was faced with the test of the wife of Potiphar, the pasuk tells us that Yosef responded to her by saying that after being entrusted with Potiphar's entire estate, it would be a great affront to Potiphar to commit such a sin. However, Chazal (Sotah 36b) cite that Yosef refrained from sinning not out of deference to Potiphar, but because an image of his father Yaakov appeared before him. How is this consistent with Yosef's words in the pasuk?

Before the episode of the sale of Yosef, Yaakov instructed Yosef to check up on his brothers' welfare and their livestock. Chazal question Yaakov's instructions. Why would Yaakov specify that Yosef should inquire about the

livestock? Yaakov was demonstrating that it is proper to care for everything we derive benefit from, even animals who don't appreciate this recognition Yosef's final lesson before being torn away from his family was his father's regard for hakaras hatov. Thus, when tempted by Eishes Potiphar, it was this principle of hakaras hatov that prevented him from sin, as he owed a debt of gratitude to Potiphar. When Chazal say that Yosef saw an "image of Yaakov before him," an explanation can be that the lessons lived by his father were as real as an image of his father in front of him.

With this in mind, we can better understand the blessing of "may my name be declared upon them". Yaakov was giving Yosef's children a blessing that, like Yosef, the examples of their forefathers should be real to them, and guide them in their actions. In this way, it would be apparent that these are Bnei Yaakov. The greatest blessing we can give a child is to set the path of a Torah true lifestyle, so they can emulate those ideals and values.

## Current Projects



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