

GROWTH

At The

SHABBAT TABLE

7th Edition
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PARSHAT VAYISHLACH

Keep The Change

Charlie Harary recounted a simple, but moving story. A certain individual was working tirelessly on raising funds to provide gear for soldiers in Israel. One Friday, he was on the phone, sitting in his home-office, working on getting people to donate and coordinating all the *tzedaka* he was giving, and he noticed that his 9-year-old son, who would usually be playing outside with his friends at this hour, brought a table outside the house. *Odd*, the father thought, *what's he doing?* Then, he heard his son being busy, taking out a bunch of papers and scotch tape, and attaching the papers to the table outside. The kid then ran back into the house, taking out sodas and iced tea, some store-bought and some handmade, and the father watched the little boy line up the beverages on the outdoor table. Before the father was able to piece it all together, he saw a car pull over and stop outside the house, as the driver rolled down his window and handed the boy a 5-dollar-bill. "Keep the change," he said before driving off. One of the neighbors noticed the transaction, and asked, "Hey, kid, what are you doing?" The boy told him: "I'm raising money for Israel." The neighbor was shocked. "How much for a drink?" he asked. "50 cents." The neighbor reached into his pocket and handed the boy some money. "Here's a ten, keep the change." Another neighbor came by and asked what he was doing, and after the boy explained that he was raising money for Israel, the neighbor went back into his house for a moment and came back out with a box of cookies. "Here, raise these too." The father watched his 9-year-old sell sodas and cookies to kid after kid, and car after car, which would just stop and give fives and tens. After about two hours of shooing away his friends and manning his store, the kid knocked on his father's door and said: "Daddy, I heard you were raising money for Israel. Here's seventy eight dollars and fifty cents. Can you send this too, from me?"

Can you just imagine the nachat Hashem gets when He looks down at us donating, running, doing, caring, cooking, baking, davening, and learning to help and support our fellow Jews, as that father felt towards his little child?

Furthermore, as we imbue ourselves with ahavat Yisrael and involve ourselves with chesed, let us maximize the opportunity to the fullest, and make indelible impressions such as these upon our children on what it truly means to be part of the greatest nation on the planet.

Thriving

Yaakov Avinu imparted his priceless wisdom into *Am Yisrael* for all future generations. When Yaakov fought with Esav's Angel, and the night was almost over, the angel saw he couldn't defeat Yaakov, and wanted to depart. However, Yaakov didn't let the angel escape, demanding "*ki im beirachtani*" – you can't leave until you bless me!

Even when we face our biggest enemy, like Yaakov faced his most powerful adversary, our goal is not just to survive, but to thrive. As Jews, we take our cue from Yaakov. We don't just come out of suffering having barely made it through; we take pain and ask ourselves "*beirachtani*" – how will we emerge stronger and even more blessed from this experience? The Jewish Nation have never fallen and never will. Our enemies will regret their actions, because we utilize pain to find courage and ascend to higher levels that we couldn't fathom previously.

(R' Ariel Mizrahi)

***"The world is embarrassed by
Jews who are embarrassed by
their Judaism."***

(R' Jonathan Sacks; R' YY Jacobson)

Dedicated for the safe
return of the captives, the
safety & success of our dear
soldiers, our brothers &
sisters in Eretz Yisrael, and
all Am Yisrael.

Refuah Sheleimah, b'toch she'ar cholei Yisrael:

Ariel Ben Frida Frida Bat Yaffa Miriam Bat Bakol Esther Bat Frida
Noah Yisrael Ben Yaffa Rahamim Ben Shifra Yitzchak Ben Naama Noam Ben Adi
Shoshana Bat Miriam Chana Ahuva Bat Fradel Michael Rachamim Ben Mazal
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