

Lessons of Sibling Rivalry

Learning About Humility & Communal Responsibility from Sibling Relationships

STUDY GUIDE

Many children grow up in households where they must navigate through complex family dynamics. Each child craves parental attention, competition leads children to try to “one-up” each other and jealousy abounds when children perceive their siblings to be favored. While the starting point for these relationships may be a certain amount of self-centeredness, in most cases growing up with siblings can strengthen character and teach children important lessons in sharing with and caring for others.

We can learn many lessons from the plethora of dysfunctional families featured in Sefer Bereshit. Starting with the Adam and Eve clan (resulting in murder!) through the famous saga of Joseph and his brothers, children of the Torah are eventually confronted with the important reality that they are “not the only ones in the world.”

Your Mission

Using the sources (texts and divrei Torah), consider the nature of sibling rivalry as revealed through Sefer Bereshit. Try to determine what is learned through the challenges that these siblings face – sometimes successfully and sometimes with negative outcomes. Then give thought to how these dynamics are mirrored at camp. Specifically:

1. What are the relationships formed at camp that are similar to those between parents and their kids?
2. What are the relationships formed at camp that are similar to those formed between kids?
3. How do these relationships naturally teach our chanichim and tzevet that “they are not the only ones?”
4. How can we be more explicit in teaching this lesson?

Design a 45-minute sicha/peulah to share your wisdom.

Contact Information

Andrew = andrewbelinfante@gmail.com, (818) 919-4076

Rebecca =