



Bereshit Idea Guide, K-3rd grade

Parashat Chaye Sarah

Stories in the <i>Parasha</i>	Jewish Values
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sarah dies• Abraham sends Eliezer out to find a wife for Isaac• Isaac marries Rebecca• Abraham dies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Gemilut chasadim</i> Act of kindness• <i>Tzaar baalei hayim</i> Caring for animals

Ideas to Spark Learning

Idea # 1: Relay race

What was it like for Rebecca to draw enough water from the well for all of the camels? Place empty water/milk jugs at one end of the room. On the other side of the room, divide students into teams. Place a large bowl of water and a teaspoon in front of each team. Have students take turns racing back and forth trying to fill jugs of water one spoonful at a time. The first team to fill their jug wins. Make sure to post pictures of camels around the room! At the end of the race, discuss why they think Rebecca went to all of that effort to take care of the camels.

Idea #2: Clay pots

In the days of our matriarchs and patriarchs all vessels were made by hand. Make a small clay pot using self-hardening clay (available at Michaels). Let it dry over night before sending it home.

Idea #3: Make a Movie

We recommend having additional adult assistance for this activity.

Rebecca helped a stranger in need. How would you react if you saw someone in need of help? Divide students into small groups. Assign each group a scenario from the *Story Starter Page* to dramatize. Emphasize the mitzvah of *Gemilut chasadim*, doing acts of kindness.

Two possibilities for student engagement:

1. After giving each group time for practice, use iMovie (\$4.99) on an iPhone or iPad to record each group's reenactment of the scenario. After all of the movies are recorded, replay them for the group, but

PAUSE the video after posing the scenario and BEFORE showing the group's response. Take this time to ask the audience "What Would You Do?" Watch the rest of the recording. Did the group handle the situation in the same way or a different way than the audience members? How did the group's performance of the mitzvah of *Gemilut Chasadim* make other people feel? What would have happened if the mitzvah was not done?

2. This activity can also be done "live." Have the groups dramatize their scenarios in front of the class, and ask the actors to PAUSE after they have presented the situation and BEFORE they show how they resolved it. It would be fun to have a large cardboard version of a remote or bring a remote from home to use for the pausing.

Idea #4: MJLC *Rebecca and The Water* worksheet

Here is a quick math worksheet for those students who like number problems. [Click here for a printable copy.](#)

Idea #5: Dog Biscuit Bakery

Just as Rebecca cared for the camels, help your students care for animals by preparing vegetarian dog biscuits to donate to a shelter. [Click here for the recipe.](#)

Idea #6: Study a little Talmud

In the Talmud (*Gittin* 62a) we learn, "Rabbi Judah said in the name of Rav, It is forbidden for a person to eat before feeding his animals, as it is written (Deuteronomy 11:15), 'I will give grass in your fields for your animals,' and only afterwards does the Torah say, 'And you will eat and be sated.'"

What does the quote teach about feeding animals? Who in your classroom has a pet? When do they feed their pets? How might this quote change feeding time in their home?

A Selection of Books for *Parashat Chaye Sarah*

Greengard, Alison. ***Rebecca***. Albany, CA: EKS, 2002.

Rebecca, destined to become the matriarch of two mighty nations, is remembered for her generosity and compassion, as well as her beauty. In this volume, told simply in Hebrew and English, we are introduced to the young Rebecca who journeys to an unknown land to meet her betrothed, Isaac. (K-3)

Rosenfeld, Dina. ***Kind Little Rivka***. Brooklyn, NY: Hachai, 1991.

This inspiring story highlights Rivka's acts of kindness to others, including

ten very thirsty camels. The glowing illustrations and lilting prose tell this famous tale on a level that the young child can appreciate. (K-1)

Polacco, Patricia. ***Mrs. Katz and Tush***. New York: Bantam Books, 1992.

This story about the relationship between an elderly widow and a young boy touches on the themes of acts of kindness, caring for animals, and mourning a beloved spouse. Seeing that Mrs. Katz is lonely after the death of her husband, Larnel convinces her to adopt a newborn kitten whom she names Tush – and a close bond among the three of them ensues. (K-3)

Stampler, Ann Redisch. ***The Cats on Ben Yehuda Street***. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2013.

Mr. Modiano the fishmonger thinks cats are messy and useless. When his neighbor Mrs. Spiegel can't find her beloved Ketzie, however, he comes to the rescue and learns that cats aren't all that bad after all. (K-2)