

## Beit Rabban Parashah Page

**Parashat Vayechi**  
**Genesis 47:28-50:26**

**פרשת ויחי**  
**בראשית מז:כח-נ:כו**

In Parashat Vayechi, Yosef is told that his father Ya'akov is ill, and he goes to visit him, bringing his sons Menashe and Ephraim. The Torah then tells us (Gen. 48:2):

When Ya'akov was told, "Your son Yosef has come to see you," Israel summoned his strength and sat up in bed.

וַיִּגַּד לְיַעֲקֹב--וַיֹּאמֶר, הִנֵּה בָנִי  
יֹסֵף בָּא אֵלַי; וַיְתַחֲזֶק, יִשְׂרָאֵל,  
וַיָּשֶׁב, עַל-הַמֶּטֶה.

What do you think about Ya'akov's response to the news that Yosef was coming to visit? What can you learn from this about the importance of the mitzvah of bikkur cholim (visiting the sick)? One of the things we learn from this pasuk is that when we do bikkur cholim, we should tell the sick person ahead of time that we are coming in case they need time to get ready for a visitor. What are some other things we might want to think about when we are visiting someone who is ill or elderly? What are some things you can do to help someone feel better?

When he sees Menashe and Ephraim, Ya'akov wants to bless them (Gen. 48:9). Menashe and Ephraim had been mostly raised as Egyptian children; how do you imagine they felt about receiving a blessing from their Israelite grandfather? In what ways are different cultures blended in your own life? What aspects of your Jewish heritage are most special to you?

Parashat Vayechi records the blessings that Ya'akov gave to his grandsons and his sons. But we know that Ya'akov also had a daughter, Dinah, and he may have had other daughters because the Torah refers to Ya'akov's daughters in the plural twice (Gen. 46:7 and 37:35). Do you think Ya'akov blessed his daughters as well? What blessings might he have given them?