Perth Hebrew CONGREGATION
Power

The Youth Weekly

11 Kislev 5787

EMPOWER THRU TORAH

Parashat Vayeitzei

Shabbat times

Friday 20 November

6.40pm **6.30pm** Candle lighting: Mincha followed by Kabbalat Shabbat:

Shabbat 21 November

8.30am Rabbi's Shiur:
9.00am Shacharit:
6.40pm Mincha:
7.40pm Ma'ariv & Termination of Shabbat:

This week's pages

ArtScroll
Torah: 144
Haftarah: 1139

Living Torah
Torah: 130
Haftarah: 1075

Parashah in brief

Yaakov leaves Be'er Sheva for Charan. Along the way, he dreams of angels moving between heaven and earth, and Hashem promises to watch over him. He works seven years to marry Rachel, but Lavan tricks him into marrying Leah. A week later, he marries Rachel too, agreeing to another seven years of work. His family grows through Leah, Rachel, Bilhah and Zilpah, with eleven sons and Dinah born. After six more years tending Lavan's flocks, Yaakov heads home with his family. Lavan pursues him, but they part with an agreement.

EMPOWER THRU TORAH

The Choices We Make Reach Further

In a group conversation, one person has stopped trying to join in. Someone notices, asks what they think and makes room for their answer.
The question takes a few seconds.
It can change whether that person feels welcome, and it shows everyone else how to include them.

Nefesh HaChaim asks us to take small choices seriously. Rav Chaim of Volozhin connects Yaakov's dream of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven with the human soul and its place in creation. **Our lives here are connected to spiritual worlds beyond what we can see.** Our thoughts, words and actions affect those worlds.

We may see one result when a kind word changes someone's day.

We cannot see every effect of what we do. Rav Chaim's teaching gives our daily choices weight: learning Torah, apologising, listening carefully or welcoming someone into a conversation all matter.

Small choices can also become habits. If we regularly make room for someone else to speak, we are practising patience.
If we keep a promise when it is inconvenient, we are becoming someone others can trust.
Over time, these choices shape the person we bring into our family and community.

So when an action seems too small to make a difference, we can still choose it with care. We may never know how far its effect reaches.

Source: Nefesh HaChaim, Shaar I, chapters 4 and 19.

What's one small action someone took that stayed with you?



Mitzvah Day: Bring Your Pet!

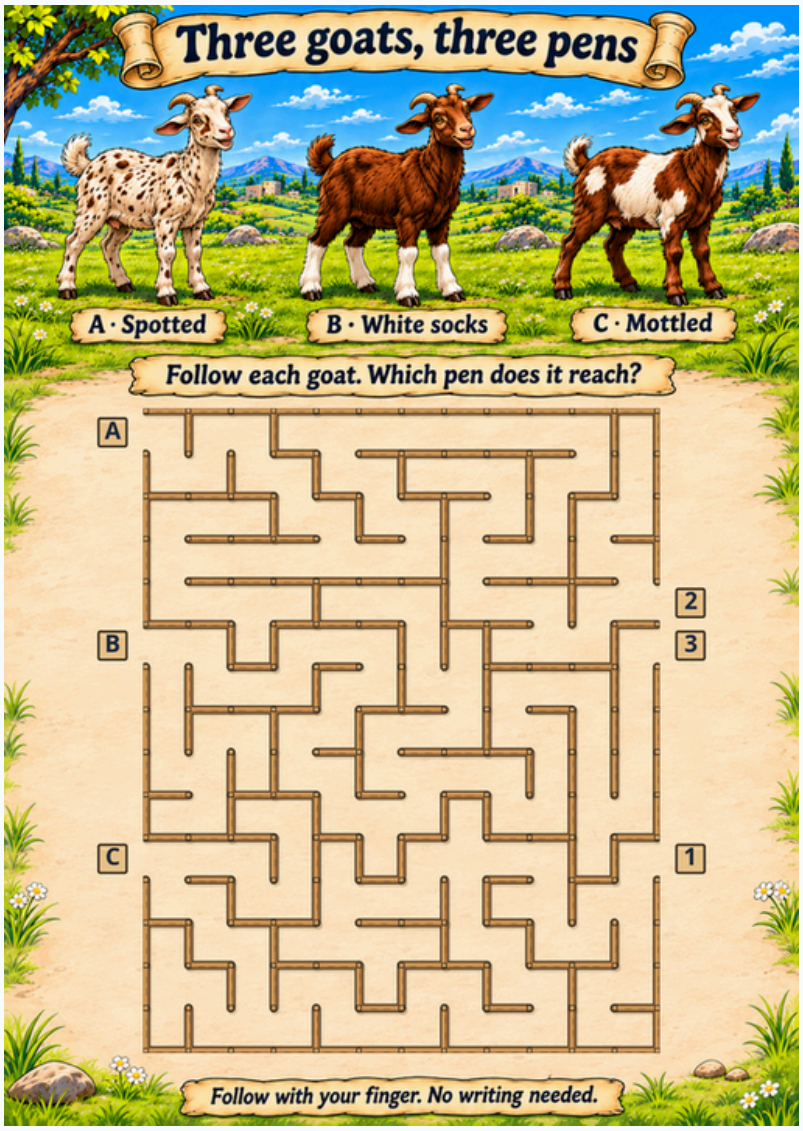
This Sunday, 22 November • 9:30–10:30 am



Join PHC and Maurice Zeffert Home for a morning of wagging tails, smiles and connection. Bring your pet along to meet the residents and brighten someone's day. Everyone is welcome!

Please RSVP through the PHC website.


Seven Years, A Few Days?
When Yaakov arrived in Charan, he met Rachel at the well.
I will work seven years for Rachel.
The years passed as Yaakov worked for Lavan.
Give me my wife, for my days are complete.
Looking back, the seven years seemed to Yaakov like a few days. Sforno explains that Rachel was worth far more to him than seven years of work.
What can make a long effort feel worthwhile?
Bereshit 29:18–21 • Sforno on 29:20 • Hizkuni, cited in Tze'enah Ure'enah, Vayeitze 50.


Three goats, three pens
A · Spotted
B · White socks
C · Mottled
Follow each goat. Which pen does it reach?
A
B
C
1
2
3
Follow with your finger. No writing needed.


ELI'S HALL OF FAMERS
Ivanhoe Mordecai Barrow
Country: Jamaica
Sport: Cricket
Batting: Right-handed
West Indies Tests: 11
Born in Morant Bay, Jamaica, Barrow came from a Sephardic Jewish family. An opening batter and wicketkeeper for the West Indies, he scored 105 against England at Old Trafford in 1933. He was the first West Indian to score a Test century in England.
Fun fact: Barrow remains the only Jewish cricketer to score a Test century.

This week at RLH

Every fortnight, our Kindy 4 children explore Coolbinia Bushland. On their latest visit, they became nature detectives, spotting things missing from their own outdoor area and recording their discoveries in their shared Floor Book.

A shelter made from branches inspired them to build their own. They collected, carried and positioned branches, testing ideas and listening to one another. One child found a quiet rock to sit on and draw, taking inspiration from her surroundings.

These experiences offer natural openings for Jewish learning. Noticing Hashem's creation nurtures wonder and gratitude. Making something from found materials encourages care for what we have. Building together gives children practice in listening, sharing and making room for each other's ideas.



Ruth Landau Harp Early Learning
EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE

Book a visit
28 Freedman Road, Menora
(08) 9271 4757
director@ruthlandauharp.com
www.ruthlandauharp.com

YOUTH SHABBAT LUNCH

Chanukkah edition

An anonymous donor is treating our youth to lunch to celebrate their contribution to our community.

Join us for food, games and friends!

Sat 5 December • 12:30 pm
Years 9–12 • All schools welcome
Free • RSVP: thephc.com.au



Coming up at PHC

MONDAY & TUESDAY

EmPower Thru Learning

Monday 4:00 K–Y2;
5:15 Y3–4
Tuesday 4:00 Y5–6;
5:15 HS



WEDNESDAY

Tanach Shiur

With Rabbi Dan, plus group learning with Rav Aviel.
6:15 pm



THURSDAY

Pizza Parasha

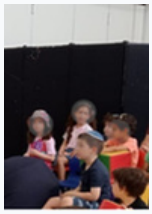
High School
6:30–7:45 pm.
Learning, food and company.



SHABBAT

Children's Services

During Shacharit (Shabbat morning).



WELCOME CHANUKKAH TOGETHER

Friday 4 December at PHC



5:10 pm | Our Children Light The Way

Bring the family for children's activities, Chanukkah treats and candle lighting before Shabbat.
Free • RSVP required.
Children attend with a parent or carer.

6:20 pm | Shabbat Chanukkah Communal Dinner

Gather around the table with family, friends and our PHC community to celebrate the first night of Chanukkah.
Dinner tickets booked separately.

Join either event, or make an evening of both!

RSVP AND DINNER BOOKINGS
thephc.com.au



HAFTARAH • HOSHEA

When Life Goes Well

Vayeitzei · Hoshea 12:13–14:10

The Haftarah begins by recalling Yaakov's years in Aram, where he worked and guarded sheep to marry. Later, Hoshea describes what happened when the Jewish people became prosperous: they had enough, their hearts grew proud, and they forgot Hashem.

Radak and Malbim connect this to the Torah's warning in Devarim. In the wilderness, the people's dependence on Hashem was clear. Once they settled in the land and had food, homes and wealth, they began to feel independent. Malbim follows the sequence: satisfaction led to pride, and pride led to forgetting.

Success can change how we understand our achievements. We remember our hard work and begin to believe that everything came from us.

Ramban, explaining Devarim 8:18, gives us a way to think about this. The people had real strength and used it to win battles. Hashem had given them that strength. Their ability to succeed was itself something they had received.

We can feel proud of the effort we put into learning or developing a skill, and thank Hashem for the ability and opportunities that helped us. That gratitude can also make us more patient with someone who finds the same task harder.

Sources: Hoshea 13:5–6; Radak and Malbim on 13:6; Ramban on Devarim 8:18.

Let's discuss:

• Think of something you worked hard to achieve. What did Hashem give you that helped make it possible?

• How might recognising those gifts affect the way you treat other people?

• What could help you remember Hashem when an ordinary day goes well?



TANACH KOLLEL • YECHEZKEL 18–24

While We Can Still Respond

Tanach Kollel | Yechezkel 18–24

This week we reviewed chapters 18–23 before focusing on chapter 24. After repeated warnings about Jerusalem's violence and corruption, Babylon begins its siege.

Hashem tells Yechezkel his wife will die and instructs him to set aside the usual mourning practices. She dies that evening. Next morning, people ask what his behaviour means.

His loss is a sign of what awaits them. They will lose the Temple, "the delight of your eyes," and their sons and daughters. They will groan together, overwhelmed by a catastrophe that disrupts even their ability to mourn.

They had opportunities to change. Now they must live through the consequences.

We still mourn the Temple's destruction. Learning from those failures gives us hope that we can choose differently.

Today, without prophecy, understanding what Hashem may be asking of us takes humility. A family member says, "We miss you." A concern keeps returning without an obvious reason. We can ask: What needs my attention? Have I been absent at home? Am I excusing a harmful habit?

Prayer and talking with someone we trust can help us understand and respond. We can take these concerns to heart while there is still time to change.

For the table: What have you heard more than once and still left unanswered?
Source: Yechezkel 24, especially verses 15–24.



Kollel Tanach • Join us on Wednesdays • 6:15 pm