Class # 5 Parshat Toldot - The joy of having children: Manageable pain or wonderful payoff?

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class - Sponsored in memory of Alice Toby Barbanel Z”l

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUWl7vu4DOc>

1. Why are parents so happy to endure sleepless nights and running around caring for their babies?
2. What are the various aspects of the joy parents have??
3. Why do you think that Hashem makes babies (even baby animals) so cute [especially to the parents]?
4. What is the other truth about babies that “boss baby” reveals?
5. Which aspect of babies is closer to reality, cuteness or bossiness?

*Jacob and Esau*

25:19 These are the chronicles of Isaac son of Abraham: Abraham was Isaac's father.

25:20 When Isaac was 40 years old, he married Rebecca, daughter of Bethuel the Aramaean of [Padan Aram](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=25#C492) and sister of Laban the Aramaean. 25:21 His wife was sterile, and Isaac pleaded with God for her sake. God granted his plea, and Rebecca became pregnant. 25:22 But the children clashed inside her, and [when this occurred](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=25#C493), she asked, 'Why is this happening to me?' She went to seek a message from God.

25:23 God's word to her was, 'Two nations are in your womb. Two governments will separate from inside you. The upper hand will go from one government to the other. [The greater one will serve the younger](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=25#C494).'

25:24 When the time came for her to give birth, there were twins in her womb. 25:25 The first one came out [reddish](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=25#C495), as [hairy](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=25#C496) as a fur coat. They named him [Esau](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=25#C497). 25:26 His brother then emerged, and his hand was grasping Esau's heel. [[Isaac](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=25#C498)] named him [Jacob](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=25#C499). Isaac was [60 years old](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=25#C500) when [Rebecca] gave birth to them. 25:27 The boys grew up. Esau became a skilled trapper, a man of the field. Jacob was a [scholarly](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=25#C501) man who remained with the tents. 25:28 [Isaac enjoyed eating Esau's game and favored him](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=25#C502), but [Rebecca favored Jacob](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=25#C503).

Rashi

ותאמר אם כן means AND SHE SAID, "IF the pain of pregnancy be so great,

למה זה אנכי WHY IS IT that I longed and prayed to become pregnant?" (Genesis Rabbah 63:6).

ותלך לדרש AND SHE WENT TO ENQUIRE at the school of Shem (Genesis Rabbah 63:6).

'לדרש את ה, TO ENQUIRE OF THE LORD, that He might tell her what would happen to her at the end.

1. What immaturity caused Rivka to regret her pregnancy?
2. What Tshuva did the pain cause in Rivka?
3. What information did Hashem tell Rivka? Why was it important for her to know it and how did the lesson change her view of having children?
4. Is the immaturity of Rivka limited to the area of having children? Where else do we see this issue? ( Relationships, purchasing home or car or large ticket item, vacation).