

The Millie Arbesfeld
Midreshet Yom Rishon

Sunday Morning Learning Program for Women

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**Birthrights and
Playing Favorites in
Sefer Bereshit**



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ה מרחשון, תשפ

בראשית י"ב:א'-ח'

(א) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם לֵךְ־לְךָ מֵאֶרֶץ עֵבֶר וּמְמֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבְּיַת אָבִיךָ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אָרָאךָ: (ב) וְאַעֲשֶׂה לְךָ לְגֹי גְדוֹל וְאַבְרָכְךָ וְאַגְדִּלְךָ שְׁמִי וְהָיָה בְּרָכָה: (ג) וְאַבְרָכְךָ מִבְּרָכֶיךָ וּמִקְלָלְךָ אֶת־אֵת וּנְבָרְכֻךָ בְּךָ כָּל־מִשְׁפַּחַת הָאָדָמָה: (ד) וְיִלְדָה אִבְרָם כֶּאֱשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אֵלָיו יְהוָה וְיִלְדָה אִתּוֹ לְוֵט וְאַבְרָם בְּרִחְמֵשׁ שָׁנַיִם וְשִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה בְּצֵאתוֹ מִחָרָן: (ה) וַיִּקַּח אִבְרָם אֶת־שָׂרִי אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֶת־לוֹט בְּנֵי־אָחִיו וְאֶת־כָּל־רְכוּשָׁם אֲשֶׁר רָכְשׁוּ וְאֶת־הַגָּגֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר־עָשׂוּ בְּחָרָן וַיֵּצְאוּ לְלֶקֶת אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן: (ו) וַיַּעֲבֹר אִבְרָם בְּאֶרֶץ עַד מְקוֹם שְׁכָם עַד אֵלּוֹן מוֹרָה וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי אִזּוֹ בְּאֶרֶץ: (ז) וַיִּבֶר אֶת־אֲבָרָם וַיֹּאמֶר לְוִרְעָה אִתּוֹ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת וַיִּבְנוּ שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה הַנִּרְאָה אֵלָיו: (ח) וַיַּעֲמֵק מִשָּׁם הַחָרָה מִקְדָּם לְבֵית־אֵל וַיֵּט אֶת־הָאֵל בֵּית־אֵל מִיָּם וְהָעִי מִקְדָּם וַיִּבְנוּ־שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה וַיִּקְרָא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה:

Genesis 12:1-8

(1) The LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your native land and from your father's house to the land that I will show you. (2) I will make of you a great nation, And I will bless you; I will make your name great, And you shall be a blessing. (3) I will bless those who bless you And curse him that curses you; And all the families of the earth Shall bless themselves by you." (4) Abram went forth as the LORD had commanded him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. (5) Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the wealth that they had amassed, and the persons that they had acquired in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in the land of Canaan, (6) Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, at the terebinth of Moreh. The Canaanites were then in the land. (7) The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I will assign this land to your offspring." And he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. (8) From there he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and he built there an altar to the LORD and invoked the LORD by name.

בראשית י"ג:א'-ט"ז

(י"ד) וַיְהִי־נָא אַמֶּר אֶל־אַבְרָם אַחֲרֵי הַפְּרִדְלוֹט מֵעֲמֹו שָׂא גַּא עֵינֶיךָ וּרְאֵה מִן־הַמְּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה שָׁם צִפְנָה וְנִגְבְּהָ נִקְדְּמָה וְנִמְהָ: (ט"ו) כִּי אֶת־כָּל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה רֹאֶה לְךָ אֶתְנַנְנָה וְלִוְרְעָה עַד־עוֹלָם: (ט"ז) וְשָׂמֵתִי אֶת־וִרְעָה כַּעֲפָר הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אִם־יִוָּבֵל אִישׁ לְמִנּוֹת אֶת־עֲפָר הָאָרֶץ גַּם־וִרְעָה יִמְנָה:

Genesis 13:14-16

(14) And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had parted from him, "Raise your eyes and look out from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west, (15) for I give all the land that you see to you and your offspring forever. (16) I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, then your offspring too can be counted.

בראשית ט"ו:ב'-ו'

(ב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבָרָם אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה מִה־תִּתְּנוּ־לִי וְאֲנֹכִי הוֹלֵךְ עֲרִירִי וּבְרִחְמֶשׁ בֵּיתִי הוּא דִמְשָׁק אֲלֵי־עֹזֶר: (ג) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבָרָם הֵן לִי לֹא נִתְּנָה זָרַע וְהָיָה בְּרִבֵּיתִי יוֹרֵשׁ אִתִּי: (ד) וְהָיָה דְבַר־יְהוָה אֵלָיו לֵאמֹר לֹא יִירָשְׁךָ זֶה כִּי־אִם אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִמֶּעֶיךָ הוּא יִירָשְׁךָ: (ה) וַיֵּצֵא אֹתוֹ הַחֹצֵה וַיֹּאמֶר הַבְּטָחָה שְׂמִימָה וְסִפְרֵי הַכּוֹכָבִים אִם־תִּוָּבֵל לְסִפְרֵי אֲתָם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ כֹּה יְהִי וִרְעָה: (ו) וְהָאֱמֹן בֵּיתֵהּ וַיַּחֲשִׁבֶהָ לוֹ צִדְקָה:

Genesis 15:2-6

(2) But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what can You give me, seeing that I shall die childless, and the one in charge of my household is Dammesek Eliezer!" (3) Abram said further, "Since You have granted me no offspring, my steward will be my heir." (4) The word of the LORD came to him in reply, "That one

shall not be your heir; none but your very own issue shall be your heir.” (5) He took him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He added, “So shall your offspring be.” (6) And because he put his trust in the LORD, He reckoned it to his merit.

בראשית ט"ז:א'-ב'

(א) וְשָׂרַי אֵשֶׁת אַבְרָם לֹא יָלְדָה לּוֹ וְגַם שִׁפְתָּהּ מִצְרַיִת וְשִׁמְהָ הֵגֶר: (ב) וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרַי אֶל-אַבְרָם הִנֵּה-נָא עֲצַרְנִי יְהוָה מִלְדֹת בְּאֵנָּה אֶל-שִׁפְחָתִי אוּלַי אֲבִנֶה מִמֶּנָּה וַיִּשְׁמַע אַבְרָם לְקוֹל שָׂרַי:

Genesis 16:1-2

(1) Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. (2) And Sarai said to Abram, “Look, the LORD has kept me from bearing. Consort with my maid; perhaps I shall have a son through her.” And Abram heeded Sarai's request.

בראשית י"ז:י"ח-כ"א

(יח) וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים לֹא יִשְׁמְעָאֵל יְהוָה לְפָנָי: (יט) וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶבְרָהָם שְׂרָה אִשְׁתְּךָ יִלְדָת לְךָ בְּזֶה וְקָרָאתָ אֶת-שְׁמוֹ יִצְחָק וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת-בְּרִיתִי אִתּוֹ לְבְרִית עוֹלָם לִזְרַעוֹ אַחֲרָיו: (כ) וְלִישְׁמְעָאֵל שִׁמְעָתִיךָ הִנֵּה אֲבָרְכְתִי אֹתוֹ וְהִפְרִיתִי אֹתוֹ וְהִרְבִּיתִי אֹתוֹ בְּמֵאֵד מֵאֵד שְׁנַיִם-עָשָׂר גְּשִׁימִם יוֹלִיד וְנִמְתָּיו לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל: (כא) וְאֶת-בְּרִיתִי אֲקִים אֶת-יִצְחָק אֲשֶׁר תֵּלֵד לְךָ שְׂרָה לְמוֹעֵד הַזֶּה בְּשָׁנָה הַחֲדָשָׁת:

Genesis 17:18-21

(18) And Abraham said to God, “O that Ishmael might live by Your favor!” (19) God said, “Nevertheless, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac; and I will maintain My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring to come. (20) As for Ishmael, I have heeded you. I hereby bless him. I will make him fertile and exceedingly numerous. He shall be the father of twelve chieftains, and I will make of him a great nation. (21) But My covenant I will maintain with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year.”

בראשית כ"א:א'-י"ב

(א) וַיְהִי וַתִּפְקֹד אֶת-שְׂרָה כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמַר וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה לְשָׂרָה כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר: (ב) וַתֵּהָרֵם וַתֵּלֵד שְׂרָה לְאַבְרָהָם בֶּן לְזַמְנָיו לְמוֹעֵד אֲשֶׁר-דִּבֶּר אִתּוֹ אֱלֹהִים: (ג) וַיִּקְרָא אַבְרָהָם אֶת-שֵׁם-בְּנֵוֹ הַנּוֹלָד-לּוֹ אֲשֶׁר-יָלְדָה-לּוֹ שְׂרָה יִצְחָק: (ד) וַיִּמְלֵךְ אַבְרָהָם אֶת-יִצְחָק בְּנֵוֹ בְּ-שָׁמְנַת יָמִים כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוְּתָהּ אִתּוֹ אֱלֹהִים: (ה) וְאַבְרָהָם בְּ-מֵצַת שָׁנָה בְּהַנְלִיד לּוֹ אֶת יִצְחָק בְּנֵוֹ: (ו) וַתֹּאמֶר שְׂרָה צָחִק עָשָׂה לִי אֱלֹהִים כְּלִי-שִׁמְעַע יִצְחָק-לִי: (ז) וַתֹּאמֶר מִי מִלֵּל לְאַבְרָהָם הִינִיקָהּ בְּנִים שְׂרָה כִּי-יִלְדָתִי בֶן לְזַמְנָיו: (ח) וַיִּגְדַּל הַיָּלֵד וַיִּגְמַל וַיַּעַשׂ אַבְרָהָם מִשְׁתָּה גָדוֹל בְּיוֹם הַגְּמִל אֶת-יִצְחָק: (ט) וַתֵּרָא שְׂרָה אֶת-בְּרִית-הַגֵּר הַמִּצְרַיִת אֲשֶׁר-יָלְדָה לְאַבְרָהָם מִצְחָק: (י) וַתֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָהָם גְּרַשׁ הָאִמָּה הַזֹּאת וְאֶת-בְּנֶהּ כִּי לֹא יִירָשׁ בְּ-הָאָמָה הַזֹּאת עִם-בְּנֵי עַם-יִצְחָק: (יא) וַיִּרַע הַדְּבָר מְאֹד בְּעֵינֵי אַבְרָהָם עַל אוֹדֹת בְּנֵוֹ: (יב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל-אַבְרָהָם אַל-יִרַע בְּעֵינֶיךָ עַל-הַנְּעוּר וְעַל-אֲמֹתֶךָ כֹּל אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר אֵלֶיךָ שְׂרָה שָׁמַע בְּקוֹלָהּ כִּי בִי-צָחִק יִקְרָא לָךְ זָרַע:

Genesis 21:1-12

(1) The LORD took note of Sarah as He had promised, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. (2) Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken. (3) Abraham gave his newborn son, whom Sarah had borne him, the name of Isaac. (4) And when his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God had commanded him. (5) Now Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. (6) Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” (7) And she added, “Who would have

said to Abraham That Sarah would suckle children! Yet I have borne a son in his old age.” (8) The child grew up and was weaned, and Abraham held a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. (9) Sarah saw the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham playing. (10) She said to Abraham, “Cast out that slave-woman and her son, for the son of that slave shall not share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.” (11) The matter distressed Abraham greatly, for it concerned a son of his. (12) But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed over the boy or your slave; whatever Sarah tells you, do as she says, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be continued for you.

בראשית כ"ב:ב'

(ב) וַיֹּאמֶר קַח-בְּנִי אֶת-בְּנִיךָ אֶת-יִחְיָדָה אֲשֶׁר-אַהֲבָתָּ אֶת-יִצְחָק וְלִדְ-לָוֶה אֶל-אֶרֶץ הַמִּרְיָה וְהַעֲלֵהוּ שָׁם לְעֹלָה, עַל אֶחָד הַהָרִים אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֱלֹהִים:

Genesis 22:2

(2) And He said, “Take your son, your favored one, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the heights that I will point out to you.”

בראשית כ"ב:ו'

(ו) וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָהָם אֶת-עֵצֵי הָעֹלָה וַיְשִׁם עַל-יִצְחָק בְּנֹו וַיִּקַּח בְּיָדוֹ אֶת-הָאֵשׁ וְאֶת-הַמַּאֲכָלִת וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו:

Genesis 22:6

(6) Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and put it on his son Isaac. He himself took the firestone and the knife; and the two walked off together.

בראשית כ"ה:כ"ח-ל"ד

(כח) וַיֵּאָתֶב יִצְחָק אֶת-עֵשָׂו כִּי-צָיִד בְּפִיּוֹ וּרְבִקָּה אֶהְרַת אֶת-יַעֲקֹב: (כט) וַיִּגְזַד יַעֲקֹב נֹגֵיד וַיִּבְאָ עֵשָׂו מִן-הַשָּׂדֶה וְהוּא עָיִף: (ל) וַיֹּאמֶר עֵשָׂו אֶל-יַעֲקֹב הֲלֵעִיטָנִי נָא מִן-הָאֵדָם הָאֵדָם הִזֶּה כִּי עָיִף אָנֹכִי עַל-כֵּן קָרָא שְׁמוֹ אֲדָוָם: (לא) וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב מְכַרָה כִּיּוֹם אֶת-בְּכֻרְתִּי לָי: (לב) וַיֹּאמֶר עֵשָׂו הֲגַה אָנֹכִי הוֹלֵךְ לְמוֹת וְלְמַה-גָּה לִי בְכֻרָה: (לג) וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב הַשְׁבֵּעָה לִי כִּיּוֹם וַיִּשְׁבַּע לוֹ וַיִּמְכַר אֶת-בְּכֻרְתוֹ לְיַעֲקֹב: (לד) וַיַּעֲלֵב נָתַן לְעֵשָׂו לָחֶם וּנְגִיד עֲדָשִׁים וַיֹּאכַל וַיִּשְׂתֵּה וַיִּקַּח וַיִּלְוֶה וַיִּבְזֵ עֵשָׂו אֶת-הַבְּכֻרָה: (ס)

Genesis 25:28-34

(28) Isaac favored Esau because he had a taste for game; but Rebekah favored Jacob. (29) Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the open, famished. (30) And Esau said to Jacob, “Give me some of that red stuff to gulp down, for I am famished”—which is why he was named Edom. (31) Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.” (32) And Esau said, “I am at the point of death, so of what use is my birthright to me?” (33) But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. (34) Jacob then gave Esau bread and lentil stew; he ate and drank, and he rose and went away. Thus did Esau spurn the birthright.

בראשית כ"ז:ח'

(ח) ועתה בני שמע בקולי לאשר אני מצוה אתך:

Genesis 27:8

(8) Now, my son, listen carefully as I instruct you.

בראשית כ"ז:י"ג

(יג) ותאמר לו אמו עלי קללתה בני אוד שמע בקולי וגד קח-לי:

Genesis 27:13

(13) But his mother said to him, “Your curse, my son, be upon me! Just do as I say and go fetch them for me.”

בראשית כ"ז:לו"ו

(לו) ויאמר הכי קרא שמו יעקב ויעקבני זה פעמים את-בכרתי לקוח והגה עתה לקח ברכתי ויאמר הלא-אצלת לי ברכה:

Genesis 27:36

(36) [Esau] said, “Was he, then, named Jacob that he might supplant me these two times? First he took away my birthright and now he has taken away my blessing!” And he added, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?”

בראשית ל"ז:א-ה'

(א) וישב יעקב בארץ מגורי אביו בארץ כנען: (ב) אלה הן תלדות יעקב יוסף בן-שבע-עשרה שנה היתה רעה את-אחיו בצאן והוא נער את-בני בלקה ואת-בני זלפה נשי אביו ויבא יוסף את-דבתם רעה אל-אביהם: (ג) וישראל אהב את-יוסף מכל-בניו כי-בן זקנים הוא לו ועשה לו כתנת פסים: (ד) ויראו אחיו כי-אלו אהב אביהם מכל-אחיו וישנאו אתו ולא יכלו דברו לשלם: (ה) ויחלם יוסף חלום ויגד לאחיו ויוספו עוד שנא אתו:

Genesis 37:1-5

(1) Now Jacob was settled in the land where his father had sojourned, the land of Canaan. (2) This, then, is the line of Jacob: At seventeen years of age, Joseph tended the flocks with his brothers, as a helper to the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. And Joseph brought bad reports of them to their father. (3) Now Israel loved Joseph best of all his sons, for he was the child of his old age; and he had made him an ornamented tunic. (4) And when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of his brothers, they hated him so that they could not speak a friendly word to him. (5) Once Joseph had a dream which he told to his brothers; and they hated him even more.

בראשית מ"ה:כ"ב-כ"ג

(כב) לכלם נתן לאיש חלפות שמלת וילבנימן נתן שלש מאות פסוף וחמש חלפות שמלת: (כג) וילאביו שלח כזאת עשרה חמרים נשאים משוב מצרים ועשר אתנת נשאת בר וגחם ומזון לאביו לדוד:

out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, though he was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head—thus crossing his hands—although Manasseh was the first-born. (15) And he blessed Joseph, saying, “The God in whose ways my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has been my shepherd from my birth to this day— (16) The Angel who has redeemed me from all harm— Bless the lads. In them may my name be recalled, And the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, And may they be teeming multitudes upon the earth.” (17) When Joseph saw that his father was placing his right hand on Ephraim's head, he thought it wrong; so he took hold of his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's. (18) “Not so, Father,” Joseph said to his father, “for the other is the first-born; place your right hand on his head.” (19) But his father objected, saying, “I know, my son, I know. He too shall become a people, and he too shall be great. Yet his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall be plentiful enough for nations.” (20) So he blessed them that day, saying, “By you shall Israel invoke blessings, saying: God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.” Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh. (21) Then Israel said to Joseph, “I am about to die; but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers.

בראשית נ' ט"ז-י"ט

(טז) וַיְצַו אֱלֹהֵי יוֹסֵף לֵאמֹר אָבִיךָ צִוָּה לִפְנֵי מוֹתוֹ לֵאמֹר: (יז) כֹּה־תֹאמְרוּ לְיוֹסֵף אֲנִי אֵלֶּךָ שָׂא נָא פֶשַׁע אֲחֵיךָ וְחַטָּאתָם כִּי־רָעָה גְמֹלוֹךְ וְעַתָּה שָׂא נָא לִפְשַׁע עַבְדֵי אֱלֹהֵי אָבִיךָ וַיִּבֶךְ יוֹסֵף בְּדַבְרָם אֵלָיו: (יח) וַיֵּלְכוּ גַם־אֲחָיו וַיִּפְּלוּ לִפְנָיו וַיֹּאמְרוּ הִנְנּוּ לְךָ לַעֲבָדִים: (יט) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יוֹסֵף אֶל־תִּירְאוּ כִּי הִתַּחַת אֱלֹהִים אָנִי:

Genesis 50:16-19

(16) So they sent this message to Joseph, “Before his death your father left this instruction: (17) So shall you say to Joseph, ‘Forgive, I urge you, the offense and guilt of your brothers who treated you so harshly.’ Therefore, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph was in tears as they spoke to him. (18) His brothers went to him themselves, flung themselves before him, and said, “We are prepared to be your slaves.” (19) But Joseph said to them, “Have no fear! Am I a substitute for God?