



THE BROTHER'S PROMISE

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In this poignant retelling of a Talmudic story, siblings recall the promise each lovingly made to his father.

The imperative to honor one's parents (*kibbud av va'em*) is first found in Exodus 20:12, the fifth of The Ten Commandments. This commandment states that one who honors one's parents will be rewarded by an extended life and a connection to the land of Israel. The Commandment states: "Honor your father and your mother so that your days will be lengthened on the land *Adonai* your God gave to you."

Yankel and Josef honor their father and his memory by respecting his last request. Talk with your children about ways in which you expect them to honor and respect you. Each family has different expectations based on culture, family history, etc. While in some families expectations have included outward gestures such as standing when parents (and other adults) enter a room or referring to one's father and mother as "sir" and "ma'am," your family will have its own preferred ways, such as not interrupting you, clearing your plate from the table, or accepting your decisions with minimal discussion. You might use a family meeting to explore this topic and together list expectations that will surely change over time as your children grow and mature.

GEMILUT HASADIM—LOVING ACTS

Judaism teaches that the world rests on three things: Torah, *avodah* (first, "service;" later, "prayer") and *gemilut hasadim* (loving acts). Children can learn that such acts begin with consideration for the feelings of others—empathy. Josef and Yankel's ability to put themselves in each other's place allowed them to actively help each other.

Before we can perform loving acts, we must first be able to notice a need. Point out ways in which your children can help others. Talk about things they can do within your family, recognizing that as your children mature their actions will naturally extend to the greater community. Help your children devise a specific plan to perform loving deeds, explaining that even the smallest act counts. Pj

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