

“Torah Alive!”

An Experiential Approach to Teaching Torah to Young Children

NewCAJE9- 2018

Abraham and Sarah and Their Visitors *Ahraham V'Sarah V'Orchim* ~Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-3



Introduction

Avraham and Sarah are now quite old (almost 100!) and have become well known in Cana'an for their hospitality. Their tent was open on all four sides to let people know that they could come for learning or visits at all times. Avraham and Sarah are very happy in Cana'an, but they are sad because they do not have any children and know that they are too old to have any. From this story, we become aware of the importance of *Hachnasat Orchim*, hospitality to guests.

Synopsis

One very hot day, Avraham is sitting in front of his tent, while Sarah is inside. In the distance, he sees three strangers walking toward the tent. Before the strangers arrive at the tent, Avraham gets up and goes out to greet them. He asks them to sit in the shade of his tree and offers them food and drink. Sarah prepares bread and Avraham brings it to the strangers. They ask, “Where is Sarah?” When Avraham tells them she is in the tent, they say, “We are messengers (angels) from God. Tell Sarah, even though she is very old, she will have a baby.” When Avraham tells Sarah the news, she laughs! She can't believe she'll have a baby at 90 years old! Months later, she gives birth to a baby and they name him Yitzchak which means “he will laugh.”

Cast

- Avraham
- Sarah
- Three messengers/angels

Scenery Costumes and Props

- Cana'an backdrop
- Tent with 4 sides propped open.
- A tree near the tent
- Robes for Avraham and Sarah
- White beard for Avraham
- Robes for three messengers/angels
- Food and drink on a tray
- Baby doll

Suggested Scene and Narration

- Narrator:** One hot day Sarah is sitting inside the tent. Avraham is sitting outside. *(The strangers are waiting in another part of the room.)*
- Avraham:** What a hot day! Look, Sarah, there are three strangers coming toward our tent.
- Narrator:** The three strangers are walking slowly toward the tent.
- Avraham:** I'm going to go and see if they would like to rest at our home.
- Narrator:** Walking quickly toward the strangers, Avraham goes to greet them.
- Avraham:** Would you like to sit in the shade of my tree? I'll bring water to wash your tired feet feet?
- Narrator:** The strangers sit under the tree and Avraham brings a pitcher (of water) and pours it on their feet.
- Avraham** *(Avraham walks to tent)* Sarah, please fix some bread, and food, and drink for our guests. *(Sarah hands Avraham a tray of food and drink)*
- Sarah:** Avraham, here's some food for our guests. *(Avraham brings food to strangers.)*
- Avraham:** Please have some food and drink.
- Strangers:** *(Taking food)* Where is your wife?
- Avraham:** She's in the tent.
- Strangers:** We are messengers from God. You and Sarah are very kind. Tell Sarah, she will be having a baby.
- Avraham:** *(Going to tent)* Sarah, these three people are messengers from God. They said you will be having a baby.
- Narrator:** Sarah begins to laugh.
- Sarah:** *(Laughing)* I'm not going to a baby. I'm so old!
- Narrator:** *(Gives the baby doll to Sarah)* Months later, Sarah gives birth to a baby boy. They named him Yitzchak which means "he will laugh."

Discussion Questions

- Why was Avraham and Sarah's tent open on four sides? **(It was open on all 4 sides so people from all directions would know that they could receive Avraham and Sarah's hospitality at any time.)*
- How did Avraham and Sarah treat the guests?
- What did we learn about being kind (hospitable) to guests in our house?
- Why did God make it possible for Sarah to have a baby, even though she was really old? **(God intended for them to be the father and mother of the Jewish people and they needed a child.)*

Related Activities

Avraham and Sarah's tent

Fashion a tent with four openings to remind us of *Avraham* and *Sarah's* hospitality.

1. Use one piece of 9"x12" construction paper and one piece of 8 ½" x 11" copy paper.
2. Place the smaller sheet in the center of the larger sheet. In each corner, staple the white paper to the construction paper.
3. On the white paper only, cut a flap, approximately 3" wide and 2 ½ " deep in the middle of each side. Turn the flaps up. This will become *Avraham* and *Sarah's* tent.
4. Under each flap, the children may draw something that may be offered to guests to show them hospitality.
5. In the center of the paper, they may draw a picture of Avraham and Sarah.

Special Guest Chair

Children will enjoy decorating an old chair to use when special guests, *orchim*, visit the classroom. The children will enjoy giving suggestions as to how the chair may be decorated. Generate a list of guests to invite for a special snack.

Special Snack

Children love to make and knead yeast dough. Bread or pita would be fun to make for snack. Invite *orchim!*

Wall Torah



Continuing the Wall Torah, invite children to draw Avraham, Sarah, 3 strangers, trees, sheep, food for the guests, and a hot sun. A tent may be fashioned from fabric or paper. Arrange the drawings, collage style, to describe this scene.

Parent Connection

Abraham and Sarah and Their Visitors

Same Introduction and Synopsis as Teacher

Discussion Questions

- What did Avraham and Sarah do to show hospitality to the strangers?
- The Torah teaches us to be kind to guests, but we need to be careful when meeting strangers. Discuss the difference between guests and strangers in our own homes.

Related Activities

Hachnasat Orchim- Hospitality to guests.

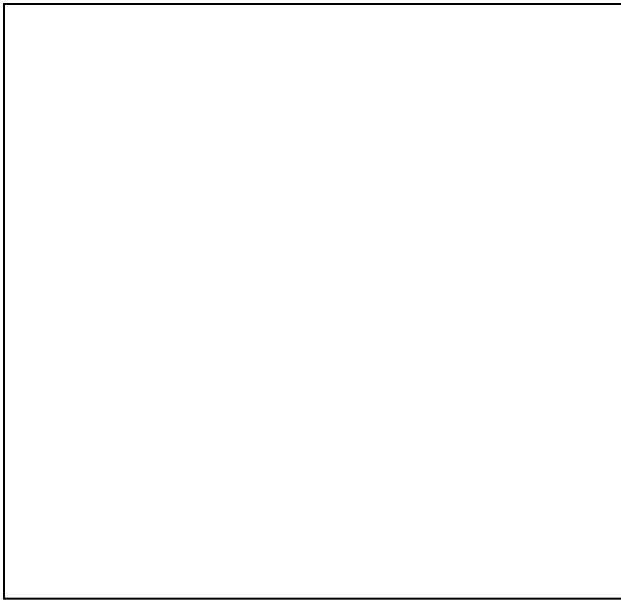
What can our family do to make guests feel welcome in our home?

- Help your child make a special welcome sign or picture to be used next time guests come to the house.
- Bake cookies for your next visitor. They can be frozen and be ready to use at any time.
- Invite guests over for Shabbat dinner and involve your child in the preparations.

X

X

Avraham and Sarah's tent had
4 doors.
How can you be hospitable to
guests?



X

X