



## Parshat Chayei Sarah - Anafim Weekly Parsha Brief

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### Synopsis

In Parshat Chayei Sara, Avraham's sends Eliezer on a journey to find a wife for Yitzchak. Eliezer formulates an interesting and telling tefillah asking for success in his search. Within his request, he asks that the right woman offer him a drink and provide water for his camels. What can we learn from this specific request?

### 1. LEARNING GOAL:

Students will be able to explain how this parsha teaches us to have compassion for all creatures.

### 2. CENTRAL TEXT:

בראשית, פרק כ"ד פסוק י"ד

וְהָיָה הַנֶּעֱרָ אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֵלַיָּהּ הַטִּי-נָא כַדָּךְ וְאֲשַׁתָּה וְאִמְרָה שְׂתֵה וְגַם-גַּמְלִיךָ אֲשַׁקֶּה אֶתְּךָ הַכַּחֲתֵת לְעַבְדְּךָ לִיִּצְחָק וְבָהּ אֲדַע כִּי-עָשִׂיתָ חֶסֶד עִם-אֲדֹנָי:

"Let it be that the girl to whom I say, Please, tip over your pitcher that I may drink and she will say Drink, and I will also give your camels to drink, will be the one whom You have determined for your servant, Yitzchok. With her I will know that You have dealt kindly with my master."

### 3. GARDEN CONNECTIONS:

While the pshat (direct translation of the Torah's words) may be compelling enough to show that the Torah prescribes kindness for animals, the Kli Yakar comments "For if her eyes are kind to the creatures, then she is, without a doubt, perfect in all of her character traits." To emulate Rivka's kindness to the animals, let's find ways that we can care for animals in the garden.

### 4. FRAMING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD:

We come from a great woman named Rivkah who was kind to Eliezer when he was a guest. She gave him water and also gave water to his camels. Rivkah is one of the people in the Torah who teaches us to be kind to animals. We can learn from her and take care of animals in our environment. Does anyone ever take care of animals? Does anyone see any animals in our garden?

### 5. TORAH VALUE:

**Compassion:** Have compassion for animals and all of Hashem's creations.

### 6. CONSTRUCTIVE CONFLICT:

*Identify the opposing elements within this value.*

How do we balance the notion that we have a higher place than animals, with the Torah value of caring for them?



## 7. METHODOLOGIES: THE EXPERIENCE:

Explore the elements.

For more, consult our "[Anafim Curriculum Resources](#)" sheet:

1. **Sight: Worm Exploration** Take a look around- can you find some worms?
  - a. **About:** Worms are important for our garden because they help make the soil better through nutrient availability, better drainage, and a more stable soil structure. Worms eat leaves and old vegetable matter to make compost and a very valuable fertilizer - worm castings. Worms tunnel through the earth and let air into the soil like a tiller. There are thousands of different kinds of worms in the world.
  - b. **Explore:** You can use magnifying glasses to go on a worm hunt. When it rains, worms are often brought to the soil surface if its sunny, you might have to dig for them. If you find worms that have been displaced from the garden bed, you can help by moving them in - just be gentle.
2. **Adjust Elements of Reality:** Did you know that insects like butterflies and bees are essential to growth on earth? Birds also help them in a process called pollination. Let's learn how the pollinators help our food grow by playing pollination tag- [click here](#) to play the game!
3. **Include Functional Skills:** Late fall and early winter can be an excellent time to plant pollinating flower bulbs. Plant pollinators that will do well in your garden! Now is a good time to plant spring flowers such as tulips and daffodils around your garden. (You might want to plant these in ground as opposed to in the raised beds to separate them from the edible food)
4. **Give Purpose:** As we move closer to winter, we can plan to help another of Hashem's animals- birds! They have a tougher time finding food when fewer plants are in bloom. Check out which of your plants can be food for which birds [here](#). You can even make welcome signs on certain flowers for the birds that they feed.



This sunflower is a great food source for birds!



## **8. REFLECTION:**

*Make meaning and personal relevance of the lesson.*

All can benefit from kindness. Think back to a time when others were kind to you and how that made you feel vs when someone was unkind to you and how that felt. All of Hashem's creations deserve kindness - including animals. Let's work together on the middah of kindness towards all of Hashem's creations.