



# ***Parshas Chayei Sarah***

## **A Parsha Story for the Shabbos Table**

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In parshas Chayei Sarah, we meet the rasha Lavan for the first time. Rashi tells us that we know he was a rasha because he spoke up before his father. Kibud av v'em is an important mitzvah. Acting like you know more than your parents is not honoring them.

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At school today there was going to be a very interesting assembly. The principal, Rabbi Feldman, was more excited than anyone. He kept telling everyone, "In my 30 years as principal here, this is the first time my father is coming to speak to the students!" He was obviously very proud. "The first time in 30 years!" he said to the teachers, the students, the janitors, and basically everyone else. He was positively giddy.

The students all crowded into the auditorium to hear from the senior Rabbi Feldman. He sat at a table on the stage, smiling widely at the audience. He was short, wrinkled, and alert. He looked to be at least 90 years old.

When everyone was seated, the principal came on stage to introduce his father with great enthusiasm, then he stood the microphone on the table in front of his father. His father cleared his throat. Everyone was silent.

***What do you think the principal's father might talk to the students about?***

"Well, Shloimele," he said to his son – everyone giggled at hearing Rabbi Feldman called by his first name like that – "what a beautiful school of talmidim you have here! You've been leading this school for I think, what, 20 years now, is that right?"

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Rabbi Feldman junior paused for a moment, glanced around, and replied, “yes, something like that.”

The students started to whisper among themselves, but the principal shushed them quickly. “Please please,” he said, “let’s show the proper respect.” The room quieted down and the elder Rabbi Feldman went ahead with his talk. He was engaging, clever, and funny. Everyone loved the assembly.

Afterwards, Avrami ran up to the principal. “Rabbi Feldman, I don’t understand. Everyone knows you’ve been here for 30 years! Why didn’t you say something?”

“Have I been here for that long? Oh my. When you get to my age, I guess to start to forget details like that.” He smiled, shook Avrami’s hand, and went to help his father off the stage.

***Do you think Rabbi Feldman forgot how many years he’d been working there?***

***What are some examples in this story of how Rabbi Feldman honored his father?***

***What are some ways you honor your parents in your home?***

## ***Good Shabbos!***

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