



Parshas Noach

A Parsha Story for the Shabbos Table

In parshas Noach, Noach has to feed all the animals in the teivah for 40 days and 40 nights. The mefarshim teach us that Hashem purposely put Noach into a situation where he would have to do chesed all the time, because that is the most important quality he would need to rebuild the world after the mabul.

"Adina, would you please take out the trash," called Mrs. Markowitz from the kitchen.

"Aw, MOM," complained Adina. "Why do I always have to help out? Can't someone else do it?"

Mrs. Markowitz, being a wise sort of mom, ignored Adina entirely and just waited. A few silent moments passed. "Fine!" hollered back Adina, "But that's it, then I'm taking a break."

Adina grumbled aimlessly as she took out the trash. Then she marched back inside and announced, "I'm bored!"

"Do you want to play with your sister?" asked Mrs. Markowitz.

"No," replied Adina.

"How about doing an art project?"

"No."

"Read a book?"

"Nah."

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"Hm," concluded Mrs. Markowitz, and ended the conversation.

What are some things you can do by yourself to have fun when you're bored?

Adina was still bored. She decided to walk over to Elisheva's to see what was doing over there.

When she got there, she was disappointed to find that Elisheva wasn't available to play. "I'm almost done sweeping the living room, but then I have to mop," she explained. Adina watched as Elisheva scraped at something stuck to the floor. "What a drag," commented Adina.

"I dunno," shrugged Elisheva. "It's kind of fun!" She did a little twirl with the broom.

"Aren't you bored though?" asked Adina. Elisheva didn't hear her. She was still twirling with the broom and singing something to herself. She didn't *seem* bored.

"LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF WORK," remarked Adina loudly.

"I'm pretty tired," admitted Elisheva.

"Then why are you smiling like that?" asked Adina.

"I dunno. Why shouldn't I smile? I'm helping out with the chores. Someone's got to do it."

Adina headed home. "It's kind of weird," she thought to herself. "I have plenty of time to do stuff but I'm totally bored. Elisheva is busy helping around the house and she looks perfectly happy with that."

She got home and went to the kitchen. "Hey Mom," she said, "um, anything else you need help with?"

Are there some household chores you prefer to do than others?

Was Elisheva bored? Or happy? Or both?

What is the real reason Elisheva was happy doing chores?

Good Shabbos!

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