

## Who Are Yaakov and Esav?

### Source 1a. דברים ו:ד,ה

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ ה' אֶחָד

וְאַהֲבַתְּ אֶת ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל מְאֹדְךָ

Hear, Jews: Hashem, Our God, Hashem is One! Love Hashem, your God, with all your heart, soul, and possessions.

### Source 1b. ספר המצוות לרמב"ם מצות עשה ג

והמצוה השלישית היא שצונו לאהבו יתעלה... מצוה זו כוללת גם כן שנדרוש ונקרא האנשים כולם לעבודתו יתעלה ולהאמין בו. וזה כי כשתאהב אדם תשים לבך עליו ותשבחהו ותבקש האנשים לאהוב אותו. וזה על צד המשל כן כשתאהב האל באמת כמה שהגיעה לך מהשגת אמיתתו הנה אתה בלא ספק תדרוש ותקרא הכופרים והסכלים לידיעת האמת אשר ידעת אותה. ולשון סיפרי (שם) **ואהבת את י"י וכו' אהבה על הבריות כאברהם אביך** שנאמר ואת הנפש אשר עשו בחרן. ר"ל כמו שאברהם בעבור שהיה אוהב השם כמו שהעיד הכתוב (ישעי' מא) אברהם אוהבי שהיה גם כן לגודל השגתו דרש האנשים אל האמונה מחוזק אהבתו כן אתה אוהב אותו עד שתדרוש האנשים אליו

The 3<sup>rd</sup> מצוה is that we are commanded to love Hashem. This מצוה includes that we are directed to call others to serve Hashem and to believe in Him. This is because **if you love a person, you'll try to make him look good and cause others to love him**, also... This is like what Avraham did, because he caused Hashem to be loved by other people. Since Avraham loved Hashem, he tried to explain who Hashem was to other people; we should do the same thing to show our love for Hashem.

### Questions to Consider:

1. What made Avraham so special? How did he earn the title of someone who loved Hashem?
2. What's something you can do to show how much you love Hashem?

### Source 2a. בראשית כה:כז

וַיִּגְדְּלוּ הַנְּעָרִים וַיְהִי עֶשָׂו אִישׁ יָדַע צִיד אִישׁ שֹׂדָה וַיַּעֲקֵב אִישׁ תָּם יוֹשֵׁב אֹהֶלִים

And the kids grew up, Esav became a man who knew how to trap - a man of the field, while Yaakov was a man of purity-one who lived in the tents.

### Source 2b. משלי כב:ו

חֲנֹךְ לַנְּעָר עַל פִּי דַרְכּוֹ גַם כִּי יִזְקֵין לֹא יִסּוּר מִמֶּנָּה

Teach the child according to his way; even when he grows old, he will not turn away from it.

### Source 3. Rav Hirsch: כז פרק כה פסוק כז

אילו העמיקו יצחק ורבקה לחדור לנפש עשו, אילו הקדימו לשאול את עצמם, היאך יכולים גם האומץ, הכוח והגמישות הרדומים בנפש עשו היאך יכולים כל אלה להטות שכם לעבודת ה', כי אז "הגיבור" שלעתידי לא היה הופך ל"גיבור ציד", אלא ל"גיבור לפני ה'" באמת. יעקב ועשו, על כל נטיותיהם השונות, היו נשארים אחים תאומים ברוחם ובדרך חייהם; עוד מראשית היתה חרבו של עשו כורתת ברית עם רוחו של יעקב

If Yitzchak and Rivka had looked into Esav's character, if they had asked themselves how to best direct his strength and courage towards serving Hashem, then he would not have become the hunter/trapper he developed into, but rather would have stayed a hero before Hashem for his whole life. Yaakov and Esav would have remained brothers, twins in their lifestyles and focuses. Esav's sword would have been partnered with Yaakov's spirituality.

#### Questions to Consider:

1. Based on what the Pesukim tell you here, describe Yaakov's character. Describe Esav's character.
2. Is Esav's character necessarily bad?
3. What kind of jobs/professions can be used to make Hashem happy? Doctor, basketball player, carpenter, governor, professor...  
Rabbi Jesse Horn: Rivka directing Yaakov to run to Lavan was meant to teach him how to live with a trickster and be involved in the wider world. After stopping in Yeshivat Shem V'Ever to learn Torah for 14 years, Yaakov was ready to learn that lesson.
4. What did Rivka teach Yaakov by making him 'steal' the Brachos and run to live with Lavan?
5. What did Yaakov do before going to live with Lavan? Why?

## YU Student's Song Chosen As Theme for International Kindness Flash Mob

From the [Jewish Link of New Jersey](#)

A 20-year-old yeshiva student from Queens composed a song about making the world a better place, but he never envisioned that one day it would be used as the anthem for a worldwide flash mob that organizers hope will attract over 10,000 participants. Sometimes, as Yaakov Feldstein found out, life is full of surprises.

Feldstein, who describes himself as an “overall music enthusiast,” was about to release his song *More Light* on iTunes when he heard that the organizers of a mass global dance event were looking for a theme song.

“Someone forwarded me an email that they were calling on songwriters to submit a song for this big competition,” said Feldstein.

The event was *Dance for Kindness*, a project of *Life Vest Inside*, which inspires people to spread kindness around the world. Last year's *Dance for Kindness* attracted 10,000 participants at more than 80 locations in over 30 countries around the world who all danced to the same song with the same choreography on the same day. Organizers were looking for a song that would continue their positive message for this year's event.

Feldstein figured he had nothing to lose and instead of submitting his song to iTunes, he turned it into *Life Vest Inside*. Feldstein was surprised to find out that his song had made the top 10, with the winning song to be chosen by public vote. He placed requests for votes on social media and as days went by, he found himself in serious competition for the lead.

By the time voting closed on July 10th, Feldstein had the lead. Once all the votes were verified, he was officially notified on July 16th that *More Light* had been chosen as this year's *Dance for Kindness* anthem, with 190 more votes than his nearest competitor. The song emphasizes the importance of doing for others and how each of us has the ability to better someone else's life in our own way, no matter how big or small, with inspiring lyrics including,

“Don't need a cape to be a hero. It's more heroic to teach others to fly.”

Feldstein, who hopes to record a promotional video with *Dance For Kindness* in the coming days, sees the entire episode as an opportunity to present Orthodox Jewry in a positive light.

“I view this entire journey as one big opportunity to make a tremendous *Kiddush Hashem* and have a positive impact on the world with my music,” said Feldstein, who is involved with several organizations including NCSY, HASC, Chai Lifeline, Music Vs. and Yachad. “I am a young religious Jewish musician with a kippah, Hebrew name and all, and I am taking on a role of showing the world that it doesn't have to be a place of just war and hate, but rather of camaraderie and kindness.”



Dance for Kindness 2015 will be taking place on Sunday November 8th, in celebration of World Kindness Day on November 13th. While Feldstein may be the face of the event, yarmulka and all, he is quick to note that the true focus of the event is on essential human goodness.

“It’s not about getting my name out, or basking in the spotlight that comes with this victory, but rather about putting my abilities to use and taking the opportunity given to me to make a difference,” said Feldstein.