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NEWS & VIEWS

December 13, 2018 | 5 Tevet 5779

Blog Edition



Mirroring political struggles and victories at home

Parashat Vayigash (*Genesis 44:18-47:27*)

By Rabbi Josh Weisman, Rab`18, MAJS`18

Rabbi at [Kavanah Cooperative](#) in Seattle, WA



While talking with a couple of other dads from my community, we found ourselves commiserating about how much more we wanted to be involved in work for social change. The reason we couldn't do so, we all agreed, was parenting. None of us complained about time spent with family – we were happily gathered with our toddlers and spouses at a Hanukkah get together – but we wished we could do both.

The conversation struck a deep chord in me. How many times have I felt a fire in the belly to do something about yet another injustice and instead had to take a deep breath and set it aside for another round of dishes? Even for those of us who are fortunate enough to have jobs that allow us some opportunity to pursue social change, there's a desire to do more because the needs are so vast.

All our roles in the private sphere – not just parenting young children but all family obligations - can feel like not only like obstacles to engaging in the public sphere, but so distant and irrelevant. Our private lives are filled with the joys and challenges of relating to those in our inner circle, while public action requires relating to people whom we usually don't even know.

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