

Ushpizin Info Sheets

Day 3: Yaakov

Yaakov's story:

Yaakov is the son of Yitzhak and Rivka and the grandson of Avraham and Sarah. He and his twin brother, Esav, had a very difficult relationship, with both of them vying for Yitzhak's blessing. After Yaakov tricked Yitzhak, he received the blessing but then had to run for his life from his brother. His mother Rivka sent him to go to her brother, Lavan's house, where he stayed for many years, taking four wives – the matriarchs Leah and Rachel, as well as Bilhaa and Zilpah – and having 13 children.

His 12 sons went on to become the heads of the 12 tribes of Israel and overcame significant sibling rivalry toward their brother Yosef, eventually reconciling before Yaakov's death. Yaakov was also given the name "Yisrael" by God, which is the name that the Jewish people continue to be known by. Yaakov died in Egypt after reuniting with his son Yosef, and his last request was for his bones to be moved and buried in *Eretz Yisrael*, a wish that all of his sons fulfilled together.

Yaakov's character traits:

Yaakov is recognized for his perseverance through hard times, and his steadfast faith through it all. He is also known for his willingness to change and learn from his mistakes.