

POSITIVELY TORAH

Step inside the Art – Family Discussion

Chapter 5 – Spirituality

“Step Inside the Art” is a recurring activity that allows learners to slow down, look closely at artistic creations, step inside the scenes depicted, and see biblical texts in fresh and exciting ways. The artwork presented is intended to enhance our understanding of positive character strengths through Torah.

Throughout the year, you will receive “Step Inside the Art” activities to discuss with your child.

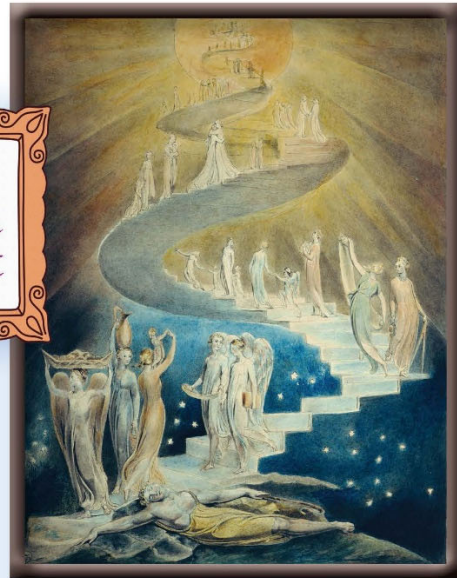
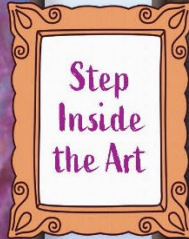
Spirituality: You have beliefs about the meaning of life and your life’s purpose. You feel that you are part of something greater than yourself and that you are here for a reason.

Ask your child to share what they discussed in class, then share your own responses to the questions. I hope you enjoy talking about this art together.

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▲ Painted by Jewish artist Marc Chagall in the early 1960s.



▲ Painted by British artist William Blake in 1805.

Imagining Jacob's Sulam

The Torah recounts how Jacob dreamed of a *sulam*, a ladder or stairway, that reached from the ground to heaven. Since the word *sulam* appears only once in the entire Bible, we aren't sure of its exact meaning.

With your *hevruta*, discuss the following:

- Why do you think the artists chose to create an image of Jacob's dream?
- How do each of these artists depict a *sulam*?
- What part of the Spirituality definition is represented by these artists?
- Choose your favorite art depicted here and explain what you like best about it.
- What would you like to ask the artists?

On a separate piece of paper, create your own illustration of Jacob's *sulam*. Share your ideas and drawing with the full group.



▲ Stairway to Heaven sculpture in Catalonia, Spain.