



Student Dvar Torah - Parashat Vayeishev
By Jack Hadar – Grade 8

The Pasuk in this week's Parashah says (37:21-22): "And Reuven heard and he saved his brother from their hands. And he said, let us not hit a mortal blow, and Reuven said to them, do not shed blood." Rabainu Bachya states that Reuven wanted to save his brother Yosef. If he were to have said, "let us not hit him," he would've shown his brothers that his motivation was compassion for Yosef and they would not have listened to him. Therefore, Reuven added the word nefes, "I don't want you to commit murder regardless of who the person is, "was his message. Similarly, in verse 22 he said to them "Do not shed blood." He did not say "his blood." This implied, "I, too, hate him and it is not his blood I am concerned about. I am concerned that you should not become murderers." We learn from this that when we are trying to convince someone about something, if you have many reasons that you are right, don't just tell him any reason, rather, tell him the reason that he would want to hear.