

Women's League for Conservative Judaism

**Mishpachah: The Modern Jewish Family**

**ORPAH'S KIDS**

## *Rebecca's Journey Home*

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Illustrated by Michelle Shapiro

**Reader's Discussion Guide**

For children ages 4-8

**SYNOPSIS:** Mr. and Mrs. Stein and their two sons eagerly adopt a baby girl from Vietnam into their Jewish home. This endearing picture book perfectly reflects the growing trend of international adoption among the American Jewish community.

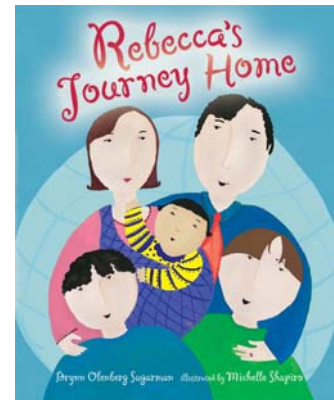
### **ACTIVITIES**

The ultimate goal is to make a family history booklet. You can do this as a scrapbook that includes drawings, photographs, stickers, whatever you want. Look for stickers of country flags in a craft store to use on the project.

This will be a keepsake that stresses the fact that we all come from many places of background, but we can all be Jewish. Stress countries of origin, customs, names.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Why are Jacob and Gabriel so happy? Why do they want their baby sister?
2. How many brothers and sisters do you have? What are their names? Do they have more than one name? Do they have Hebrew names? Where did they get their names from?
3. Draw a picture of your family members and put everyone's name on each person. Include all of their names and ages so you start to get a feel for the family history.
4. Where is Vietnam? Look at Vietnam on a map. See how far away it is. How long do you think the airplane ride is?
5. Do you have anyone in your family who comes from other countries? Your grandparents, great-grandparents? Where are they from?
6. Look up some of the flags from those countries and put them on a paper. Put names and other information next to each flag. Whose flag is it? Who in your family comes from each country?



7. What special foods, customs, words do they use in this country? Do any of your family members from this country have special words that they use? What are they? Put all of this information on separate pieces of paper.
8. What kinds of things were Mommy, Daddy, Jacob and Gabriel doing in their house on each Shabbat as they waited for the right time for Mommy to go and get Baby Rebecca? What did Jacob and Gabriel learn about Rebecca? How many countries will Rebecca be part of?
9. What does Mommy have to bring with her to pick up baby Rebecca and bring her home?
10. When you go on a trip, what do you bring with you? Will Mommy have to bring any of these things for Rebecca?
11. If you were giving the Mommy a present to bring to Baby Rebecca, what would you send in Mommy's suitcase? Why?
12. What other things does Mommy bring for the children in the orphanage? What is an orphanage? Why did the members of the synagogue donate all of these things?  
*[Use this as a teachable moment about giving tzedakkah in all forms. You might also use this as a moment to donate things to some of the child-centered places in your community, especially the ones that deal with children in need.]*
13. How did Baby Rebecca become Jewish? What did the family have to do?