

HAVE A

NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH

Seriosity
by Rabbi Dani Locker

Singapore has some really strange rules.



Littering carries a heavy fine, as does spitting, and- get this- forgetting to flush a public toilet.

But first: There's a book you might have never heard of, it's called *Ahavas Chesed, Love of Kindness*. It's an unusual book in that it explains the rules of kindness and charity.

Stop and reread that line. The. Rules. Of. Kindness. And. Charity. Most people think of charity as something wonderful and personally meaningful. Not a technical activity with rules. You can have rules about how many timeouts a football team gets in a game. You can have rules about when to turn your homework in, or not to chew gum in class. Why should we have rules about how to be nice and awesome to people? Well, maybe we should have a rule TO be kind, but beyond that seems unnecessary, and frankly, weird. And doesn't it take some of the beauty and heart out of kindness?

Singapore has some strange laws. For example, it's against the law to play a musical instrument in public. Singapore is rated by travelers as the cleanest city to visit, and some of these laws are the reason. Chewing gum is illegal. Selling gum can get you a massive fine. Graffiti is punishable by jail time, and possibly even by getting whipped.

Some of these laws seem extreme. Maybe they are. But they show that cleanliness is really important to them. Lots of cities SAY cleanliness is important to them, but setting rules shows that you're serious. And it helps.

Every culture says they value kindness. Charity is universally accepted as being good. But it's hard to do. Well, it's not that hard to do a little. It's really hard to make it a major part of your life. Having rules about kindness shows us with great clarity how important charity is to us. This is surely one of the main reasons why Jews are consistently rated as the group that gives the most charity per capita. By telling us to whom we should give, when we should give and how much, God is sending a clear message. "This is important to Me."

In this week's portion, the Torah gives a number of interesting instructions regarding charity. The Torah sets up the 10% number, guiding us to use



This week's episode of Nageela Shabbos is sponsored by Robin & Mitchell Berko in loving memory of Sgt. 1st Class (res.) Yakir Shmuel Tatelbaum. You can sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos in honor or in memory of a loved one.

continued on two, too.

won from page one

one tenth of our wealth for charitable causes. The Torah also guides us to understand that giving \$1 to 100 people is (often) better than giving \$100 to one person (want to know why? Ask!). We're told that giving anonymously is better, so we don't embarrass the receiver, and we're instructed to lending money can be a greater act of kindness than giving a donation outright.

In contrast to the Torah's attitude, the ancient region of Sedom made kindness illegal. They had laws forbidding charity, or hosting guests. Spend some time, and learn the rules of kindness that the Torah gives us. Use them to help you understand how important kindness is.

BTW, in my home, we have rules about pickles. Don't ask.



Lagoon

PARK CITY JSU & NCSY
JEWISH TEEN
BACK TO SCHOOL
LAGOON DAY

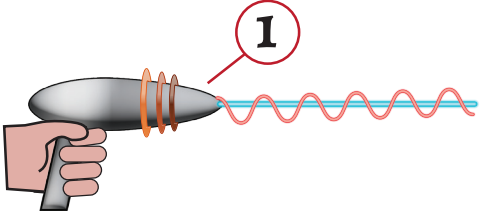
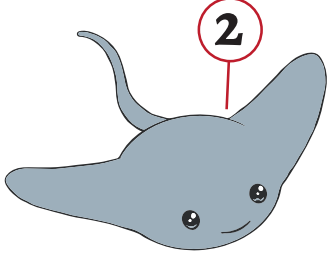
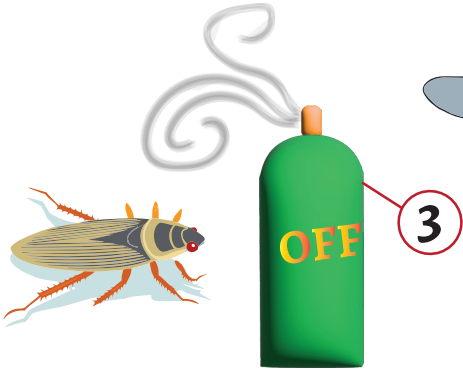

Sunday, September 8
All Jewish teens are invited!

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2024

PAR FOR THE PARSHA.
CAN YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT THESE PICTURES HAVE TO DO WITH THE PARSHA?

- 1 RE'EH GUN
- 2 *Sting Re'eh*
- 3 Bug Spre'eh
- 4 *Re'eh Bans*

We still need YOUR help to fund the amazing, life-changing experience that is Camp Nageela West! Please visit cause-match.com/cnw24 to give! Every bit really does help.



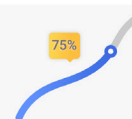
CONNECTIONS THAT LAST FOREVER

Donations **QUADRUPLED**

200K

Join us to experience a summer that will last a lifetime!

BECOME AN AMBASSADOR



\$150,636

\$200,000 Campaign goal

**Classic Stump
#103
Core
Workout**



**stump the
rabbi**

StumptheRabbi

is a forum where kids can

ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

(Most) questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

Note & Disclaimer: We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way.

The answers here should not be taken as halachic decisions. You should always ask a competent Rabbi personally.

Hi Rabbi,

I know Jews believe in God. I guess that means at least I know something, right? But what else do we believe? Is there a list of the things it's important for a Jew to know? 'Cuz I'd like to know what I should know!

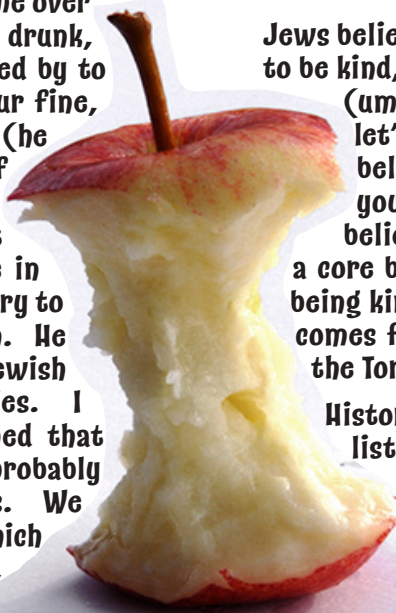
Thanks,

Corey Brian Leif

Dear Core B. Leif,

One summer, in Reno, I met Ken. Camp Nageela West was starting our road trip camp in the Lake Tahoe area, here is the story:

For a couple of days before camp started, we held a staff training seminar at a hotel in Reno. It was the final day, and after an extremely long torrent of meetings, we spent dinner time BBQing and playing frisbee at a local park. Then Ken came over to chat. Ken was definitely quite drunk, and extremely bored, but he stopped by to tell us how impressed he was by our fine, well mannered group of gentlemen (he said it with different words, most of which should not be printed). Then he told us the only thing he doesn't like about Jews is that we believe in 'spreading the good word,' and we try to make people believe in our religion. He even went so far as to mention the Jewish missionaries on bikes, wearing ties. I gently corrected him, and explained that Jews don't missionize, and he's probably referring to Mormon missionaries. We continued the conversation (which alternated between love, confusion, violence and incoherence), until he made another



spurious claim. He wanted to know why Amish Jews don't use technology. I won't go into details of the rest of the conversation, or his arm wrestle with one of our counselors, but I won't soon forget Ken.

I'm glad you asked this question, 'cuz so many people have misconceptions about Judaism and what we believe. Alright, Ken might not be a great example, altered as he was, yet I constantly hear Jews and gentiles making huge mistakes in understanding basic Jewish beliefs. So here we go:

Jews believe a lot of things. We believe it's important to be kind, and that you should try to buy stuff on sale (umm, that one was a joke, for the record). But let's talk about core beliefs for a minute. A core belief is something that is really important to you and forms the base of everything else you believe in. Getting stuff on sale is obviously not a core belief. Even our belief in the importance of being kind is not considered a core belief, because it comes from another core belief (that God gave us the Torah which commands us to be kind).

History's great Jewish thinkers have created a list of "thirteen principles" or thirteen core beliefs that are vital to Jewish thought. In the coming weeks, we'll go through them, trying to clarify what they mean and why each is so important. For now, here are the three categories:

291

**DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2025**

319

**DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2025**

Don't get too excited, these are just tentative dates.

OKAY, get CRAZZZZY EXCITED!!!! YEAH!!!!

BOARDS FORMING

7TH AND 8TH GRADERS FROM ANYWHERE ON THE WEST COAST CAN NOW APPLY TO JOIN OUR LOCAL AND REGIONAL BOARDS TO GET INVOLVED AND REALLY HELP YOUR PEERS CONNECT JEWISHLY!

See all 170 Selfie Torah videos on YouTube!
Visit youtube.com/@rabbilocker



Category 1 is understanding that there's a God who is very real, and is active.

Category 2 is understanding that God gave us clear guidance and instruction for how to live.

Category 3 is knowing that God cares about how we live and act, and there are real consequences to all of our actions.

I look forward to continuing this conversation next week, explaining how the 13 fit into the 3 categories. For today, make like a tree and be-leaf...

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

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DO YOU WANNA HEAR THE SONG I WROTE ABOUT TORTILLAS?

ACTUALLY, IT'S MORE OF A RAP...

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO [DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)



LAS VEGAS JEWNIOR NCSY

KICKOFF PARTY!

Skating + Pizza

🕒 **MON, SEPT 2, 6:30-8:30** 📍 **CITY NATIONAL ARENA 1550 S PAVILION CENTER** ★ **\$15 IN ADVANCE \$20 AT THE DOOR** ☎️ **LOCKERD@NCSY.ORG 917.613.1037**

4-8 GRADERS INVITED | PRIZES & MERCH | BRING A NEW FRIEND AND GET A \$10 STARBUCKS GIFT CARD!

MAZAL TOV!!!

TO NAGEELA FAMILY MEMBERS
AARON AND AVIA POLONSKY
UPON THEIR RECENT MARRIAGE!

MAZAL TOV!!!

TO
NOCHI LOCKER
UPON CELEBRATING HIS BAR MITZVAH THIS WEEK!



A slightly weird scavenger hunt you can do at home. Find an item that matches, in some twisted way, with the clue. Even the wrong answers can win. Really creative answers will get prizes! Send to dlocker@nageelawest.org

LAST WEEK'S CLUE:
SOMEONE WHO IS HARD OF HEARING

CORRECT ANSWER:
If someone can't hear well, they say "WHAT?" often. That makes them a 'whater'.
Correct item was water

THIS WEEK'S CLUE:
I. DON'T OWE. YOU. ANYTHING.

Rules reminder:
Only one item per clue and one clue per item
Item must be allowed to be handled on Shabbos

PARTIAL PARTIA

The Torah is the Jewish book of everything. For thousands of years, we've been dividing the Torah into smaller bitesized portions, each called a 'Sidra' or 'Parsha' and reading a portion or two each Shabbos. Most of our Dvar Torah articles are based on the weekly Parsha, so we're including this as a weekly segment, giving bullet points of what happens in the Parsha of the week. With some side comments thrown in. Enjoy and please give us feedback!

Partial Partia - Re'eh Make Good Choices

- We are informed that when we would get to Israel we would receive a number of blessings and curses, and the stage for the presentation of these would be the mountains called Gerizim, and Eival (which is where the word evil comes from)
- When we enter Israel we are instructed to destroy all the places where the previous inhabitants worshiped their false gods
- We are forbidden from destroying a Synagogue or holy object, or the name of God
- We are instructed to build a temple and to bring all of our offerings there
- Once the proper temple is built we will no longer be allowed to bring any offerings anywhere else, so cancel the sacrificial altar you ordered from Temu
- We are instructed to care for the tribe of Levi, who give up the ability to own land and farm in order to be our spiritual leaders
- The Torah warns us (many times) not to be influenced by the nations surrounding us, or even the nations we're conquering. Often conquering nations adopt many of the features of the nations they have overpowered
- We may not add to the commandments or diminish from them. Is that like having a bagel with two holes or with no holes?
- If someone performs miracles (ooooo, ahhhhh) and claims to speak in the name of God, yet tells us to worship in a way that's against the Torah, we can know for certain that person is a false prophet. Even if they walk on water
- We are given instructions on how to deal (very strictly!) with individuals or whole cities who turn to worshipping false gods
- Because we are dear children of God, we may not self harm, including cutting our flesh, even to mourn for someone who passed away
- The Torah reviews most of the rules of kosher animals (hint, green eggs and ham is OUT)
- We're reminded about various tithes (of course I don't know what a tithe is. I thought you knew what a tithe is. Hey Siri, what's a tithe? "Tides are the rise and fall of sea levels caused by the combined effects of the gravitational forces exerted by the Moon and..." Nevermind). The Torah requires us to give 10% of our stuff that grows (and some other things, too) and also about the Sabbatical year, when nobody in the Land of Israel is to farm
- We are reminded about the various holidays. This portion is used as the Torah reading for certain holidays
- When the Holy Temple stands, we are required to visit it three times a year, on the three major festival, Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What's the most amount of Mitzvot (commandments) found in one sentence in the Torah?

Answer is on page 6.

DON'T CHEAT!

DEEP DEEP THOUGHTS

Socks are just carpet that's attached to your body.

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 5

Yo, whatcha lookin at?
You gotta think first!

One verse in this week's parsha contains EIGHT separate commandments. It's Deuteronomy 12:17. The commandments are:
1-3. Secondary tithe (maaser)

7. No sacrifices may be eaten before their blood is sprinkled on the altar.
8. First fruits may not be eaten before they are placed in front of the altar.
9. Meat of sacrifices or sanctified first born animals may not be eaten out of their appointed spots.
10. The elevation offering (olah) may not be eaten at all.

OUR 15TH SUMMER IS IN THE BOOKS!

NAGEELA NOTES:

Camp Nageela West campers share some of their memories of summer 2024



My highlight of Nageela was biking across the Golden Gate Bridge! At first we didn't think we would make it all the way, it was a 10 mile journey! But we pushed our limits and discovered that it wasn't so difficult. We even got to ride an awesome ferry back that included a stunning view of San Francisco. - **Ruby (1st year camper)**



My favorite memory from camp this summer was the third Shabbat in San Diego. Everyone was on a high after a day of surfing and having such a great time singing, dancing, and lots of fun overall. You could definitely feel how the atmosphere changed from the first day of camp to the last few days. We had grown so close and knew as camp was coming to a close that we would miss it so much. - **Aurelia (5th year camper)**



HBD

Happy Birthday wishes to the following Nageela family members: We're a bit behind, so here are some July & August ppl

Avi Maryles
Gabriella Zargari
Geula David
Emma Kantrowitz
Joshua Small
Sophie Guenniche
Chloe Huttner
Ezra Okseberg
Heshy Rubinson

Zollie Nemer
Leah Mizrahi
Zahava Locker
Poppy McGregor
Talia Sharaby
Eitan Goldwasser
Nadav Boskovitz
Michael Torres
Nechama Benstein

Joney Shlasinger
Jaymari Stewart
YoniMishlati
Nathan Malis
Ellie Piriyeva
Jayson Stewart
Shylee Braner
Sidney Ghenassia
Chaya Leiter



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