

HAVE A NAGEELA SHABBOS

KID FRIENDLY TORAH MAGAZINE
A PROJECT OF NAGEELA WEST COAST,
JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

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SEASON 9, EPISODE 10

PARSHAS VAYIGASH 5785



Torat Scene-A-Eye

This features an AI generated picture that has numerous hints to the weekly parsha or relevant holiday. How many hints can you find? This week's is about Parshas Vayigash

Disclaimer: These AI generated images are NOT meant to portray actual people or events from the Torah. They are simply hints to get you thinking.

News

.....
 We hope your Chanukah was as bright and enjoyable as possible! Too much happened over Chanukah to write about

Let's focus for a moment on the Chanukah Photo Challenge. Kids from West Coast NCSY as well as from Atlantic Seaboard (Baltimore area) and Central East (Cleveland) regions participated in a creative photo contest, capturing some of the spirit and excitement of Chanukah in pixels. We'll share some of our favorites on page 5.

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You can sponsor a week of Nageela Shabbos in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. Help us reach more Jewish kids with interesting Torah content!



Deep Thoughts

.....
If a girl works for a phone company, is she Miss Communication?



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.....
We have programs for Middle School kids from all over the West Coast. Please contact us for details!



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DVAR TORAH

DRIVE SAFELY

.....

I can't even imagine the emotion and excitement of the moment. Joseph is finally reunited with his brothers- truly reunited, as they seem to have really changed for the better. Joseph and his brothers cry, hug and share photos of their wives and kids. Now, with famine still raging in the entire known world, and supply shortages everywhere, Joseph instructs his brothers to go back to Canaan and to bring Jacob and the entire family.

What deep messages would Joseph send? What lessons of brotherhood and life would they be given as they hit the road?

Drive safely.

The instructions Joseph provides amounts to that. Drive safely. I suppose I can explain that a bit more. Joseph's actual words of advice to them are, "Don't get agitated on the way." What precisely is that supposed to mean? Well, it could mean, "Don't fight with each other, and blame each other for what happened." Maybe. However, Rashi and other trusted commentators give a different explanation. He says it means not to get too involved in deep Torah study. When people really get involved in Torah study, they can get distracted and fail to pay attention to traffic rules, forget to check their rear view mirrors, or fall prey to bandits, wild buffalo, potholes, squeegee operators and a whole slew of other travel dangers. Joseph warned his brothers not to get distracted with the kind of intense study that might cause danger.

So often, we feel like every lesson we learn from the Torah must be a deep spiritual or philosophical concept. Yet many of the Torah's lessons are straightforward. Caring for our safety and the safety of others is an extremely high value. Joseph's primary concern at this point is that his brothers make it home safely. This is not just a good idea, it's a mitzvah. When you stop at a red light, you're performing a mitzvah. The same applies when you go to a doctor, exercise, eat healthy foods or drink from the fountain of youth. Get a life. Your own.



ANSWER ON PAGE 4

Question of the Week

.....

How many of Jacob's sons were born in Israel?



LOLZ

.....

Do plants ever grow at right angles?

Only if they have square roots.



Nageela Fun Fact

.....

For a long time, Camp Nageela West was the only Jewish camp in Utah.



165

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION



190

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

PARSHAL PARSHA

a brief summary of the weekly
Torah parshon

PARSHAS VAYIGASH- Brothers Brawl



- 1 THE STAGE HAS BEEN SET FOR AN EPIC SHOWDOWN. IT'S HARRY VS. VOLDEMORT. EXCEPT IN THIS CASE BOTH PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOSES.
- 1 JOSEPH IS STILL UNRECOGNIZED BY HIS BROS, AND IN HIS ROLE AS EGYPTIAN BIG DAWG HE HAS ACCUSED BENJAMIN OF STEALING HIS (JOSEPH'S) SPECIAL MAGICAL GOBLET. IT'S NOT A CUP, IT'S A GOBLET. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DIFFERENCE IS. HE INSISTS THAT BENJAMIN MUST STAY PERMANENTLY AS A SLAVE, AND THE OTHER 9 BROTHERS MAY RETURN HOME TO THEIR FATHER.
- 1 JUDAH STANDS UP TO THIS EGYPTIAN RULER, AND ACCORDING TO THE MIDRASH THEY HAVE A PRETTY INTENSE SHOW OF INTIMIDATING EACH OTHER.
- 1 SEEING THAT HIS BROTHERS ARE STANDING UP FOR BENJAMIN, JOSEPH DECIDES IT'S TIME TO REVEAL HIMSELF. HE CLEARS THE ROOM OF EVERYONE NOT IN HIS FAMILY, AND HE REVEALS HIS IDENTITY. THE BROTHERS ARE SPEECHLESS, AND EMBARRASSED BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTAND THE EXTENT OF THEIR EARLIER MISTAKES.
- 1 AMAZINGLY, JOSEPH DOESN'T YELL AT HIS BROTHERS, PUNCH THEM OR BLAME THEM IN ANY WAY. HE RECOGNIZES THAT HIS 'ADVENTURE' WAS GOD'S WAY OF ENSURING THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE FAMINE.
- 1 JOSEPH (WITH PHARAOH'S PERMISSION) SENDS HIS BROTHERS HOME WITH WAGONS FULL OF GOODIES, AND INSTRUCTIONS TO BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY

DOWN TO
RELOCATE IN
EGYPT.

- 1 GOD APPEARS TO JACOB AND PROMISES HIM THAT HIS DESCENDANTS WILL EVENTUALLY RETURN FROM EGYPT, AND THAT JOSEPH WOULD TAKE CARE OF HIM.
- 1 JACOB BRINGS THE ENTIRE FAMILY, CONSISTING OF 70 PEOPLE IN TOTAL, TO SETTLE IN EGYPT.
- 1 WHEN THEY ARRIVE, JOSEPH INTRODUCES HIS FATHER AND HALF OF HIS BROTHERS TO PHARAOH, AND SETTLES THEM IN THE SUBURB OF GOSHEN. THEY END UP LIVING IN GOSHEN FOR OVER 200 YEARS.
- 1 JACOB BLESSES PHARAOH AND THE FAMINE ENDS, ONLY 2 YEARS INTO THE 7 YEARS IT WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE. THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD DEAL.
- 1 DURING THE FAMINE, JOSEPH HAD SO SUCCESSFULLY STORED UP FOOD, AND EVERYONE ELSE HAD DONE SUCH A POOR JOB, THAT HE EVENTUALLY OWNED ALL THE MONEY. LIKE ALL OF IT. FROM EVERYWHERE. HE ALSO WAS ABLE TO GAIN PARTIAL OWNERSHIP OF ALL THE LAND IN EGYPT, AND RELOCATED MANY OF THE EGYPTIAN CITIZENS TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE JEWISH IMMIGRANTS FROM FEELING LIKE STRANGERS.
- 1 THE JEWS HAVE MANY, MANY CHILDREN



Torat Scene-A-Eye Explained

This scene represents Jacob's family moving to Egypt. Members of the caravan are numbered until 66, which is the total number of family members who traveled in their convoy (Joseph and his two sons were already in Egypt). Yocheved, the daughter of Levi was born 'between the gates' represented by a baby at a gate. We're told Jacob said the Shema prayer as he was reunited with Joseph, hence the guy covering his eyes in the bottom left corner. Joseph's brothers presented themselves to Pharaoh as shepherds. Joseph sent wagons to Jacob, so there's a wagon here, and the number 130 represents Jacob's age as he stood before the king.

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.



GARDEN VARIETY

Hi Rabbi,

I have a small garden in my back yard where I've planted all sorts of plants and vegetables. I heard that it's against the Torah to plant seeds near each other. What are the rules, and is there anything else I need to worry about?

Thanks,
Agudal Green

Dear Agudal,

Did you know there's a rule that you need to be tied down when you sleep?

Well, OK. That rule is only for astronauts while they're in space. You might not have heard of it because it doesn't apply to the environment and society in which you live.

The Torah contains many, many instructions that deal with planting, because everyone back then lived in agricultural societies. Life revolved around plants, the planting seasons, crop rotations, grazing and food combinations. We may not understand these days just how much a part of life these things were. Now, we have lots of rules about cars, airport security, credit card and identity theft, and how to tell if students are using Chat GPT to write their essays.

Some of these rules are in order to provide for poor people, some are for deep spiritual reasons and don't have easily understandable explanations, and of course for all commandments, the reasons are beyond us to fully grasp. There are many more than we can ever absorb. Still, some of these commandments only need to be followed in Israel, and some don't apply in modern times at all. I'll give you a brief overview of some of the rules the Torah sets for planting stuff, and then I'll explain which do or don't apply depending on where and when you live.

Mixing seeds: The Torah has standards for each plant staying in its own separate area or pot. It's even stricter when it comes to grape

seeds.

Grafting

trees: One may not graft trees, which is basically attaching the branch of one tree to another one (which is kind of cool) and having them grow together.

First 3-4 years: Fruits (not vegetables) of trees planted within 3 years may not be eaten at all, and the 4th year's produce may only be eaten in Jerusalem.

Sabbatical Year: In Israel, there are restrictions on planting and harvesting in the 7th year of the Sabbatical cycle.

Tithes: In Israel, all produce needs to have a certain amount separated for specific charities before they are allowed to be eaten.

Cutting down: Fruit trees should not be cut down under most circumstances.

However, outside of Israel, few of these laws apply, with the exception of grafting and grape seeds. You may get your bag of seeds from the Home Depot garden center and plant them all in the same flower pot without any concern. One should be careful not to water plants on Shabbat.

Do you know what subject is most popular at plant school?
STEM!

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi



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.



Answer of the Week

Of all Jacob's children, only Benjamin was born in Israel.



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P H O T O !
←←←←**





Pious Priest

Shimon Hatzadik is one of the earliest, perhaps the earliest, member of the period of the Mishna. He lived about 2,300 years ago in the early days of the second temple era, and was a member of the "Men of the Great Assembly."

He served as both the leader of the Jewish people and the Kohen Gadol- High Priest. The Talmud and Josephus both record a historic meeting between Shimon Hatzadik and Alexander the Great upon the latter's visit to Jerusalem (a generation or three before the Chanukah story).

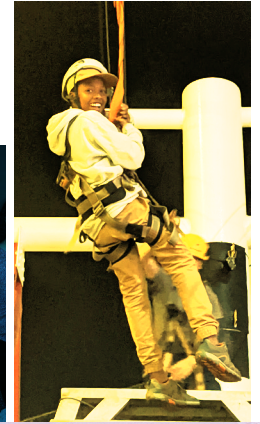
He is the bridge between the generations of prophets (he lived not long after Ezra) and the Tannaim- the scholars of the Mishna. He is also the last figure to serve as the High Priest and Torah leader of the Jewish people, as the priesthood was largely corrupted during the second temple era.



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PICKLE JEWS

For Chanukah this year, I had a wicked menorah!

What? You mean...

I just mean my menorah had wicks. It was a wicked menorah.

LOCKER

Happy Birthdays!

Peyton Schwitters
Ilan Lieberman
Nadav Weiss
Daniella Cohen
Shmuel Jacobs

Joseph Garrel
Samuel Garrel
Jenna Magid
Madi Speidel



Nageela Shabbos is a weekly publication of Nageela West Coast, Joyfully Jewish Experiences.



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