

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Feel the Squeeze

by Rabbi Dani Locker

What's so special about olive oil? We know Chanukah candles can be lit from wax, paraffin, anything that will create a light. Yet olive oil is considered the best to use. Shabbat candles, too, may be made of any material, still many women make a point to light with olive oil specifically. This week's parsha begins with something even more intensely demanding, the menorah that existed in the mishkan and the holy temple were required to only be lit with pure olive oil. Why not light with kerosene? Or better yet, pickle juice?

Olives are interesting. Do you know what it takes to get oil from an olive?

Sure! You take a few olives and push the "GET OIL" button.

Not quite. Did you know that it takes about 2,000 olives to get one liter of olive oil? Of course you didn't, because that would

be ridiculously specific trivia to know.

The olives have to be crushed, mashed, squeezed, pressed, compressed, squashed, triturated, pounded and expressed. Only then is the amazing product called olive oil produced. Some of the better brands of olive oil can cost as much as a couple of hundred bucks a bottle!

According to the Midrash, the insistence on olive oil is very

symbolic. Olive oil is like the Jew. We too squeezed, pounded and squeezed some more before we produce greatness. Yet the adversity does not dampen our greatness. It pushes it forth!

What a beautiful lesson. It's normal to view the difficulties of Jewish history in continued on next page a pained, neg-

ative, bitter perspective. Of



Henderson 4:52 Las Vegas 4:53 Reno 5:05 San Diego 5:06 **Irvine 5:07** Los Angeles 5:09 Oakland 5:18 Park City 5:29 Scottsdale 5:44 Honolulu 6:05

How many episodes of Nageela Shabbos does it take to change a lightbulb? I dunno, but it doesn't take much to sponsor one. Contact dlocker@nageelawest.org for details

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How many couples listed in TANACH (biblical literature) can you name who had names starting with the same (hebrew) letter?

I'm not looking for a number, but for you to come up with all the names you can. Any kid who comes up with 10 without looking at the answer and emails them in, will recieve a prize.

It is no fun and no challenge if you just skip to the answer on page 4.

Think, crack open a book. LMK if you figure it out!

answer on page 4

course, they haven't been fun, to say the least, and it's fair to be sad about tragic events in the past. Yet overall, the difficulties of our history

continued from page 1 Adversity does not dampen our greatness. It pushes it forth!

have

us into the strong, deep rooted, immortal nation we are. We are olives, and while a squashed grape just lets out a little whine, we let out the brightest of lights.

Braden Martin Adam Adelson Avrohom Caro Ayala Ben-Shimon Michael Dahan Maya Bega Madden Marks Wyatt Rozea

Victorial'oren Sefia Israel Ivai Lior Facher Gitai Gazala Lielle Shlasinger Asher Hennes McGwire Pinkus



MAZEL TOV!

to Yehuda and Tehila Palgon upon the birth of a baby girl!

MAZEL TOV!

to Eli Lugasi who recently celebrated his bar mitzvah!



GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022



ask ANY Jewish question.

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

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

Note: 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.



#196 Spiritual Snapstreaks

Dear Rabbi.

I don't get prayer. Like, at all. You mumble some words to yourself, and then, what? Zap! Bang! Magic happens? Is it meditation? Is it all pretend? Is it just to make you feel better like a placebo pill?

Thanks

Simon Esray

Dear Simon,

Streaks. My answer is streaks. No, not streaks on the mirror that wasn't cleaned properly, or putting lines of color in your hair. Or a misspelled steak. I mean snapstreaks.

Snapstreaks. Snap Streaks. Strapsneaks? I'll try to explain.

How would you define prayer?

"A religious ceremony."

"A series of words read from a prayer book."

The truth is, prayer is many different things, with multiple purposes. Here are a couple of good ways to look at it:

> you're one of the lucky ones not familiar with Snapchat, the social media app has a feature where if two people send each other photo or video messages for 3 or more days, they have a snap streak going. Some people will do almost anuthing to keep a streak

going, and the longest current streak is over 2,500 days long (the feature was introduced in 2015)! Incidentally, streaks are OUT if you keep Shabbat or if you go to camp. Why are streaks a thing? Why do so many teens (and some adults) put so much effort into maintaining their streaks? A few quotes that are thrown around online are "It's a way to measure your friendship in a good way," and "Streaks are sort of proof of commitment to someone," or "Once you start a streak with someone, you've got to be committed to just send a quick message every day. If you stop it, it shows that you don't really care about that person."

Now, we're not talking about the heart doctor and the patient needing to keep in touch with each other every day. We're talking about casual friendship. Pretttty sure most of these streaks aren't discussing majorly important topics (like is pickle flavored ice cream a great idea or a horrible one?). In fact, most of them have no topic at all.

You're

Just.

Staying connected

I feel another prayer series coming on! Way back in season 2 we did a few segments on prayer (take a look at the archives, it's in episodes 7-9), but there's soooo much more to discuss and we get a ton of questions about prayer, so here we

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For the sake.

Of just staying connected.

And this, my friend, is the very first step in understanding prayer. In your question, you asked if prayers are words people mumble to themselves. NO. You're not talking to yourself. You're talking to SOMEONE (I use a bluetooth, so my conversations with other people often look like I'm talking to myself. But I'm not. Really. Well, usually. OK, sometimes). A prayer, by this definition, is a conversation with God. It's a streak with God. Talking to God just to keep a connection with God. We talk. He listens. The more often and the more consistently we have any conversation with God, we deepen our relationship with God, show we care, and measures our friendship- in a good way.

In the rules of prayer (yes, there are actually rules of prayer), it

...continued

says that we should visualize that God is directly in front of us. That's why we should dress respectfully to pray, make sure the room is clean and doesn't smell bad, and most importantly, we should understand that we're actually talking to God. SNAP streak (Sincere, Neshama Affirming Prayer).

I haven't counted my prayer streak #, but it's a lot longer than 2,500. So if you haven't yet, start your streak today (this streak even works on Shabbat and at camp).

That's one small angle, and next week we'll explore some more. Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

ASK MORE QUESTIONS AT STUMP@ NAGEELAWEST.ORG

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

The question is on page 2. Hey, be patient. Try to figure it out without looking right away. Heyy, yeah, you!

Масһіг- Маасһаһ Esther- Achashveirosh Chiizkiyahu- Cheftziva χεμολασα- χεμοεμαλα

HChav- Izevel Hsniel- Achshah Aharon- Elisheva Еѕол- Ноон υοσεμ- υσσωσμ

here are a Few: This is not a complete list, but

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children of all backgrounds.

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Mom: Cindy, would you please give 50% of that cookie to your brother?

Cindy: Awww, do I halve to?

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