

# have a Nageela Shabbos

A Kid Friendly Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Season 4  
Episode 21

## Call for Help by Rabbi Dani Locker



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**I** should not have to repeat myself.  
**O**h, I don't want to repeat myself.  
**R**eally, repeating myself is completely unnecessary.  
**S**o I will not repeat myself.  
**W**on't repeat myself.  
**I** just won't do it.  
**D**o what?  
**R**epeat... oh, forget it.

**W**hen you repeat something over and over again, it usually either means you forgot that you said it the first 20 times, or it means, you want to stress how absolutely important it is. This is even more true when the Torah repeats something, because the Torah is extremely careful not to use extra words, or even extra letters. It's incredibly concise, precise and terse.

**I**n this week's Torah reading (pro tip: assuming your synagogue is closed this week, sit down and read the Torah portion for yourself. If you don't have an English language Chumash, you can download a printable version from [chabad.org](http://chabad.org)), we are instructed to love converts, and not to abuse

them. That's a perfectly logical commandment. The odd thing is that this is by far from the only time the Torah gives us such instructions. In fact, the Torah tells us... wait for it... **THIRTY SIX** times! 36 repetitions of the same basic commandment to love converts. Why is this necessary?

**H**is Royal Highness King Dashasidkhananda (believe it or not, that was actually the name of an Indian king) was incredibly proud of his royal flock. The royal flock consisted of 7,499 sheep, tended by many skilled shepherds. One day, as the sheep were completing their morning coffee (don't ask, he was a strange king), the shepherds discovered a large, beautiful deer among them.

**T**hey weren't sure what to do with the deer, so they brought their dilemma to the King, who instructed them to allow the deer to stay in the flock, and to treat it really well. They named the deer Bob. From that day on, every time the King saw his shepherds, he would ask about Bob. "How is Bob doing today?" "Is Bob getting enough food?" "What type of coffee does Bob enjoy?" The Royal chief of shepherds finally asked, "We have 7,500 animals. You never ask about any of them, but the deer. Why are you so overly concerned with Bob?"

**K**ing Dashasidkhananda answered, "All of our sheep were born into our flock. They kind of have to be here with us.

**KONTINYOOD ON PAGE 4**



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# The One, Part 2

Hi Rabbi,

What's the most important mitzvah in the Torah?

Thanks,

Itai Prior



**stump the  
rabbi**

*Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question. Have a question? Please send it in to [stump@nageelawest.org](mailto:stump@nageelawest.org)*

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

Dear Prioritai,

Last week we opened a can of worms. They were delicious. Gummy worms, obvs... ugh, what did you think I meant? Anyway, since when do worms come in a can?

As we discussed, we try not to talk about the relative value of commandments. It's not very productive. Another thing to keep in mind, is that although people are imperfect and we might not be able to properly keep every mitzvah in the Torah, we must not use that as an excuse to 'shrink' the Torah. The attitude must be, "I plan on keeping every mitzvah in the Torah. I'm working my way up. In the meanwhile, I've got to start slow."

Yet, the question comes up if you can only do one of two mitzvos, which do you choose?

## So which mitzvah is the most important?

Truth is, there are more factors involved. People are very different from one another, and there are many paths to greatness. Sometimes the answer to "Which mitzvah is most important?" is, "Which one works best for you?"

If based on the person you are, you might excel in one area of Torah life, and struggle with another, it's often best to stick to your strengths (consult a competent Rabbi before making such decisions).

As a general rule, we can answer the question with another question that everyone knows the answer to:

**"If a genie grants you three wishes, what should you wish for?"**

DUH! Obviously, you wish for more wishes!

If you have the opportunity to do a mitzvah, it's got to be the one that brings you 'more wishes', meaning, the mitzvah

that will help enable you to perform more mitzvos. Here are a few examples that were offered by some of my Facebook friends..

"Belief in God." That one certainly helps us perform other mitzvos!

The first thing you do in any self help group i.e. AA is you have to find your higher power. Without a higher power it is that much more difficult, almost impossible to get your life back on track.

"Love your friends like you love yourself." This also leads to many other mitzvos dealing with kindness and generosity. It's an enabler.



vi'ahavta l'reach kamocho

6d Like Reply



"Cling to God." Big discussion there, but the main idea is to be 'close to God' by being 'like God.' That's also an enabler.

"Fear of God." Essentially this mitzvah means to make life choices carefully, and not to fall prey to our natural urges.

But there's another, even greater enabler.

A bunch of Rabbis were hanging out in an attic (this was, apparently pretty common back then- the wifi must have gotten better reception in attics), and asked pretty much this very question. "Is study greater, or is action greater?" Basically, they were asking what the most important thing to do would be...

The Talmud continues that they decided Torah study is greater, because it leads to

action. Ignorance is the enemy of proper action. You just can't be a mitzvah rich person if you aren't learned enough to know what's right and wrong. Torah study is the great enabler. According to this Talmudic passage (and several others, PM me for details), even if other mitzvos might be 'greater' in a vacuum, Torah study becomes the most important because overall we'll do more good.

The Torah is 'more wishes.'

All this is theoretical though. In practical Jewish law, the most important mitzvah is the one you have a chance to do now. "But what if I'll be able to do a bigger mitzvah tomorrow?" Just do the mitzvah you can do now. Doing one mitzvah leads to another, which leads to another, and well, you get the point.

We never know what the

The one doable the soonest

morrow may bring, and so, if a mitzvah comes available. Just grab it. Hold onto it. Keep holding onto it. And then, wish for more wishes.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

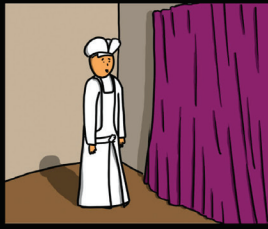
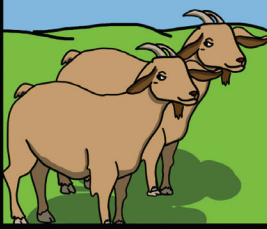
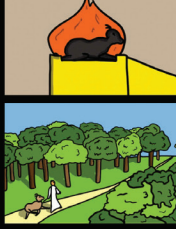

*the Rabbi.*

## DID JEW KNOW?

We're supposed to aim to make 100 blessings every day. However, it's disrespectful to God's name to make a blessing for no reason. Praying 3 times a day and making blessings when you eat and use the bathroom will usually get you there. On Shabbat, since prayers have fewer blessings, it's a little trickier. Saying the complete 'bentching' after 3 Shabbat meals can help a lot!

## Parshat Achrei Mot - Kedoshim

By: Andrew Galitzer

<p>The rules for Yom Kippur are given: The Kohen must go into the Holy of Holies in all white and confess our sins</p>	<p>The Kohen Gadol also takes a lottery between 2 goats, one gets sent away with our sins, and one is offered as a Korban</p>	<p>No inappropriate relations</p>
		
<p>The Torah lists Mitzvot to stay holy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give Charity</li> <li>No Idols</li> <li>Honor Parents</li> <li>Equal Law Treatment</li> <li>Honest Business</li> <li>Keep Shabbat</li> </ul>		<p>"ואהבת לרעך כמוך" "Love your friend as yourself"</p> 

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# DEEP THOUGHTS

IS IT POSSIBLE TO DIG HALF A HOLE?



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Orin Cohen



**KONTINYOOD FROM PAGE 1**

Bob, on the other hand, could have easily remained with his own group, with greater freedom in the wild. Yet Bob joined us. I have great gratitude to Bob for choosing us, and so, his safety and comfort is of great interest to me.”

I think this story (slightly paraphrased from a Midrash) teaches us a great lesson. It's easy to accept someone from the outside (OK, maybe it's not EASY, but it's not so

much to ask). The Midrash is taking it a step further. We have GRATITUDE to those who have voluntarily joined our nation. Why? What have they done for us?

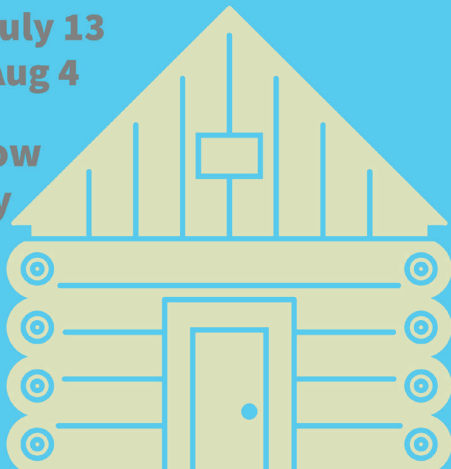
When a sincere person joins a group, he makes the entire group stronger. Perhaps it's because by joining voluntarily, he's showing those born into the group how valuable the group is. Every genuine convert strengthens

us spiritually. They show us how incredibly blessed we are (cuz sometimes we can forget). So the Torah tells us 36 times, repeating itself, and repeating itself, and repeating itself, and repeating itself, and repeating itself, and repeating itself, until we truly treat every 'Jew by choice' with a high level of kindness, care and love.

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## POLL:

RANKED 1-3, WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE FEATURES OF NAGEELA SHABBOS?

- LOL
  - STUMP THE RABBI
  - QUESTION OF THE WEEK
  - DVAR TORAH
  - QUICK FIX
  - DEEP THOUGHTS
  - HAPPY BIRTHDAY
  - DID JEW KNOW
  - NAGEELA COUNTDOWN
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  - PICKLE JEWS COMIC
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I have a large belt made entirely of watches.

It's a huge waist of time.

OUCH! GROAN!  
got a better joke?  
Email it to [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)



Nageela West breaks the mold of old school Jewish outreach by providing out-of-the-box social and educational programs for Jewish children across the west coast. Through

afterschool activities, weekend retreats and our signature summer camp, we engage elementary and middle school children in a fun and meaningful experience.

Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.