

DVAR TORAH

DIGNITEAMWORK

Sup!
Howdy!
Yellow.
Hola!
Greetings, traveler!
Hey, dude!
Salutations.
Avast!
Good morrow.

We have different ways to greet each other, and it doesn't usually make a huge difference. You might not say wassup to your grandmother, and it would be odd to bow to your BFF, but for the most part, people don't seem to pay much attention to how we greet one another. Does it matter?

In the story of Ruth, we're introduced to Boaz, the man who would later marry Ruth. Boaz was a wealthy land owner who had many employees. Something interesting happens when he arrives at his fields. He greets all the workers with the words, "God be with you!" Well that doesn't seem very unusual, unless you actually read it. You might remember from last week's stump the Rabbi, that God's holy names are never used unless in prayer or while reading a biblical verse. We're pretty serious about the respect-for-divine-names thing. Yet when Boaz greets his workers, he uses the holy name of God. In a casual greeting! What's the deal?

The Midrash tells us that this was not an isolated incident. Boaz and his court (he

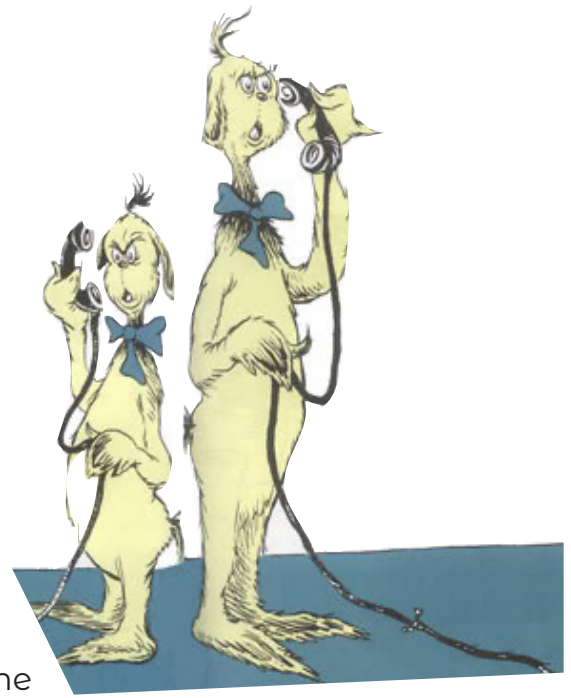
was the acting leader of the Jewish nation at the time, BTW)

noticed there were problems in their society. There was an epidemic of theft, injustice and a lack of compliance with Authority. It was bad and they wanted to fix it, so they had a brainstorming session. What can we do? How can we change the narrative and how can we improve the way people treat each other?

They decided that greeting each other with God's full name would help them realize the incredible value and importance each individual Jew has. So in an absolutely amazing move, they made a decree, advising everyone to greet each other using God's actual name! Let me repeat that to let it sink in. The official supreme court of the Jewish people decided that in apparent violation of one of the ten commandments, it would be worth using God's names dozens of extra times per day, in order to build up the respect people felt for one another.

A couple of things absolutely jump out at me here. First of all, did you know that bananas are berries but strawberries aren't? Mind. Blown.

About Boaz, though... How cool is it that we would use God's name in an edgy,



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never- before- tried experiment, to try to help people gain respect. And beyond that, let's think about the process and the results. This was not simply an issue where people were mean, so we decided to be nice. This is so much more complex. What was the problem? It was lack of submission to authority, and theft. How would you fix that? I dunno. More police? Tougher laws? Give people more free stuff so they won't steal? Maybe do a PR campaign about how important it is to be a good citizen and respect the leaders. Perhaps some of the court members could deliver high level taludic classes so people are awed by their knowledge...

Human decency and respect. The root of the problem wasn't a specific issue with property rights or authority. So many societal issues come because of a lack of respect for the value of a human. You're less likely to complain, to steal, to abuse or condemn those whom you value. In this brilliant strategy, Boaz and his court planned to drastically increase peoples' respect for one another. Who is he? Oh, just someone who gets called BY GOD'S NAME! Oh, in that case... The reality is that every human is designed by and believed by the Creator. We are all worthy of God's name. Keeping that in the forefront of our minds is a sure way to ensure we treat one another in a manner that befits a Godly being.

See ya, catch you later, may fortune favor you, y'all come back now, peace out, ciao, until next time, cheers, may the force be with you, zei gezunt, keep it real, take care, adieu, farewell, live long and prosper. Parting is such sweet sorrow. Good Yom Tov and Good Shabbos!



Mazel Tov to Las Vegas NCSY director Marnie Weingarten upon her engagement!



Middle and High School Boys are invited to:

Scholars

THURSDAYS
MAY 14 - ON
MAY 21 - OFF
MAY 28 - ON

Thursday, 8:15-9:00
@ Mesivta of Las Vegas
2600 Lake Sahara



Find over 200 interesting an educational videos at the Rabbi Locker YouTube Channel.
youtube.com/@rabbi-locker

PARSHAL PARSHA

a brief summary of the weekly Torah parshon

MEGILLAH OF RUTH A FOREIGNER BECOMES ROYALTY

On the holiday of Shavuot, the Book, or Megillah of Ruth is read. This is a section of Kesuvim- the Holy Writings and the time period is during the early days of the Jews in the Land of Israel. This is after Joshua brought the Jewish people into Israel, but before the period of the Kings (as we'll see, King David, one of the earliest Kings is Ruth's great- grandson).

There are a number of reasons given for reading this particular book on Shavuot:

- A wealthy man named Elimelech brings his family to Moab in order to avoid a hunger in the land of Israel
- While there, his two sons, Machlon and Kilyon marry local girls, and both die
- Elimelech dies as well, leaving his widow Naomi together with her daughters- in- law, named Ruth and Orpah
- The hunger in Israel had ended, so Naomi decides to return. She says goodbye to Ruth and Orpah
- Orpah goes home but Ruth is tenacious. She refuses to leave her Mother- in- law, and commits herself to become Jewish and follow Naomi no matter what
- The dialogue between Ruth and Naomi have become part of how the Talmud sets the standards for future conversions
- They return to Bethlehem (literally, house of bread) during the harvest season. They are penniless (but since people there probably used shekels, I guess even the rich people were technically penniless) and Ruth supports them by gathering leftovers in the fields of the wealthy
- Ruth discovers the field of Boaz, who is a

It's about accepting the Torah. Not a national acceptance of the Torah, but Ruth is the example of a personal acceptance of the Torah.

It takes place at the time of the harvest.

Shavuot is linked with King David, who passed away on this day. Ruth is essentially King David's origin story (or part of it at least)

relative of Elimelech and is extremely generous with them

Boaz, impressed with Ruth, and having heard of her kindness to Naomi tells her to stay with his staff and that it's not necessary for her to go anywhere else

Naomi sees this as a sign and convinces Ruth to ask Boaz to marry her, as a close living relative to her deceased husband

Ruth, knowing Boaz would be sleeping in the fields that night to work with the harvest, sneaks into his room and asks Boaz to step in for his deceased relative

Boaz agrees, but tells her he must first obtain permission from a closer relative

Boaz purchases one of Elimelech's fields in the presence of this close relative, symbolically taking responsibility for Ruth's future as well

Ruth and Boaz have a child named Oved, who is a great source of comfort to Naomi, who had lost her own children

Oved's son is Jesse (Yishai) and his son is David

Prayer Prompt:

PRAYER IS A BIG PART OF JUDAISM, BUT LET'S BE HONEST. MOST KIDS (AND EVEN ONE OR TWO ADULTS) DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE SAYING. LET'S EXPERIMENT WITH THIS. WE HOPE TO WRITE A SMALL BLURB ABOUT ONE OF THE PARTS OF OUR PRAYER SERVICES EACH WEEK. MAYBE WE'LL START UNDERSTANDING SOME OF THEM!

FIFTEEN MEDITATIONS- PART 6

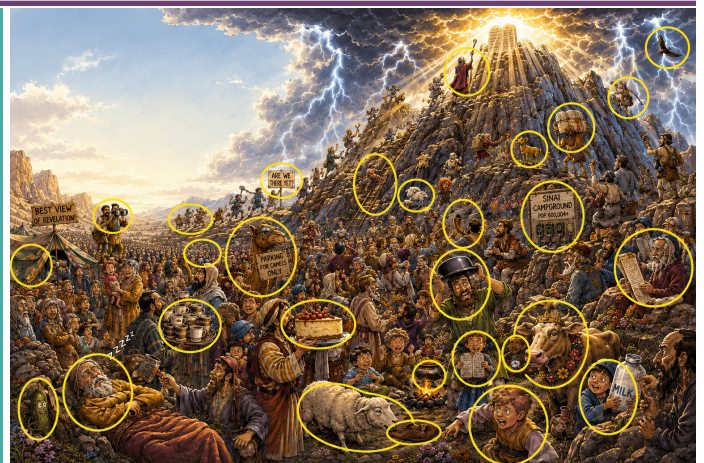
ONE OF THE FIRST BLESSINGS IN OUR DAILY SERVICE IS:

MALBISH ARUMIM-CLOTHING AND SHELTER

MALBISH ARUMIM- HE WHO CLOTHES THOSE WHO ARE UNCLOTHED.

72% OF TEEN GIRLS SAY THAT HOW THEY DRESS IS A MAJOR PART OF HOW THEY EXPRESS THEMSELVES. CAN YOU IMAGINE NOT HAVING THE AVAILABILITY TO EVEN HAVE ANY CLOTHING. TO NOT HAVE WARM CLOTHING FOR THE WINTER OR PROPER CLOTHING FOR RAIN OR SHABBOS OR SNEAKERS FOR SPORTS.

WE THANK GOD FOR THE BLESSINGS OF HAVING WHAT WE NEED.



ANSWER ON PAGE 5

Question of the Week

What is the the connection between Abraham, the commandments, and Pluto (the former planet)?

Answer of the Week

.....

The number 248.
The numerical value of Abraham's name is 248. There are 248 positive commandments. Pluto's orbit around the sun takes approximately 248 Earth years.



QUESTION ON PAGE 4

HOW DAIRY!

MILK INSPIRED JOKES IN HONOR OF THE HOLIDAY

The cheese factory exploded. There was de- brie everywhere!

A cow's fave party game? Moo-sical chairs!

How do you feel? I'm feeling grate today!

Why did the yogurt go to art school? It wanted more culture!

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YEAR-END TRIP

\$150

Sunday, May 31, 2026 **LAS VEGAS**
6AM DEPARTURE 11PM RETURN

PASS ADMISSION INCLUDES:

- TRANSPORTATION LUNCH, BBQ DINNER AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
- TRANSPORTATION
- LUNCH
- EPIC BBQ DINNER
- EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

★ YOUR SOME HALF PRICE SPOTS AVAILABLE FOR 11TH AND 12TH GRADERS AS JR STAFF. ★

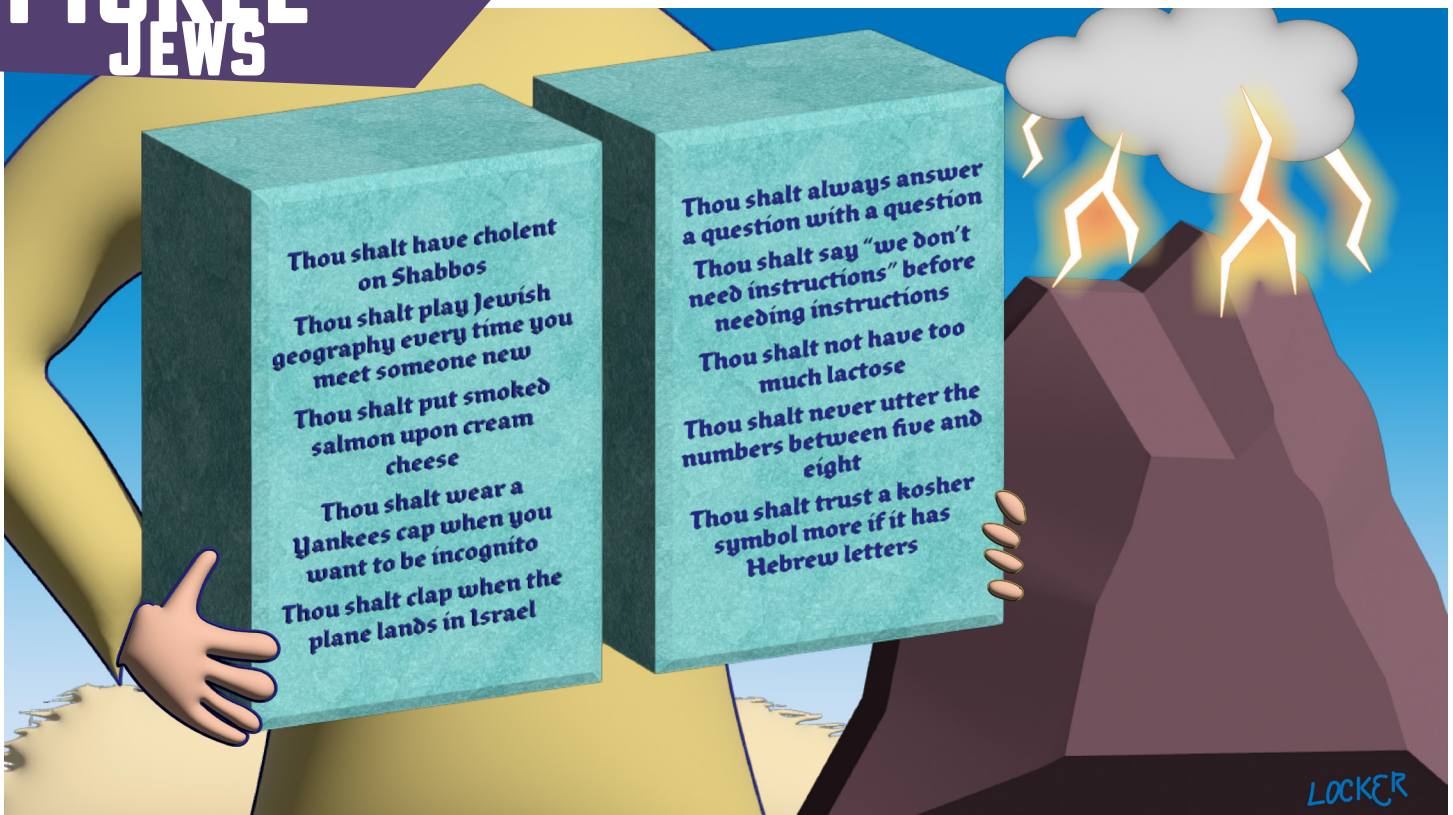
☎ THERE ARE LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE, AND REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE ON MAY 24 USE THE LINK OR QR TO SIGN UP OR CONTACT RABBI LOCKER AT 917-613-1037

REGISTER

JEWNIOR NCSY

LOCKER

PICKLE JEWS



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.



THE BIG TEN

A CLASSIC STUMP FROM WAY BACK IN SEASON 2

Hi Rabbi,

At Hebrew School this week, we learned about the Ten Commandments. We also learned that there are a lot of commandments, not just ten, but these are singled out because they're the most important. My question is, what's special about them? If I had to choose the ten most important rules for life, I don't think most of these would make my list. Can you please clarify?

Thank you,
Raoul Bouke



Dear Rule Book,

Most people would probably not put jealousy on their top ten list of rules for life. Take a minute to think about which rules YOU might put on the list. The Rabbis have been careful NOT to consider these ten commandments the MOST IMPORTANT. Every instruction God gives us should be equally important in our minds. These ten are listed for a couple of reasons. Some authorities propose that they are the main categories that all other mitzvot can be learned from. Others explain that these ten offer a summary of a guide for life in ten critical areas. I'd like to suggest how each one of the ten commandments is super important in living our lives.

1. There's always got to be a boss. When people are left to make up our own rules, we sometimes make horrible choices, like putting pineapple on pizza. Who's idea was that? **Believe in an ultimate boss** to guide you.

2. What is important to you? The second commandment is really telling us not to put our faith in the wrong things, because we make decisions based on what's important to us. What are your priorities? If you believe in God, but you also 'worship' money, celebrities, athletes or politics, your decision might be based on those ideals. **Don't worship anything or anyone else.**

3. Hypocrisy (which, I was relieved to find out, is not a secret branch of government run by hippopotami). Don't claim to be following religion and then do things in 'the name of God' which are against His wishes. Suicide bombing in the "name of God" is **using God's name falsely.**

4. We get soooo busy! Whether it's schoolwork, Snapchat or the swim team, our lives are hectic. Take some time away from the grind of daily life to think about family, God and life. **Remember the Shabbat** because without it we're like rats in a maze. Or tributes in a Quarter Quell.

5. Gratitude may just be the most important trait in life. Living with appreciation of those who help us will enrich our lives and the lives of those around us. **Honor your parents** and appreciate them and



31

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION



53

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

STUMP THE RABBI

CONTINUED...

all the other blessings you have in life.

6. **Do not murder.** You probably had this on your list, too. Respect for the value of human life is critical for doing life right. If we're committed to preserving life we may work harder to make life itself more meaningful.

7. We're supposed to have pleasure in this world. But pleasure needs boundaries to keep it appropriate, happy and good for people. Make sure that you pursue your enjoyment in life in a way that won't hurt others, or destroy the person you want to be. **Don't commit adultery** or use other means of getting pleasure in the wrong ways.

8. It's not just about **don't steal**. A society where people can't trust each other makes it really hard to be happy or productive. Skipping school while pretending to be sick, speaking behind people's backs, cheating on tests or sneaking into the movies. These activities make the world an untrusting, frustrated place, and are directly against the pure truth of God.

9. Our words can be tools of great good or weapons of destruction. With a single story we can destroy a reputation, or make someone feel like a million bucks! **Don't bear false witness.** Don't hurt people or yourself with words. Use encouraging, enabling words to help others grow.

10. Just be happy with what you have! Many people think happiness is something that 'happens' when we win the lottery, get bitten by a radioactive spider or become famous. The commandment **Do not be jealous** reminds us not to judge our own happiness by how much other people have compared to us. We need to make the choice to be satisfied with what we have!

How's that for ten important rules for life? Take a look at your own top 10 list and see if you want to edit any of it now. You see, the Torah is not just a big storybook. It really captures what it means to grow into a stronger, better person. Good luck!

Have a Nageela ShaVUos,

The Rabbi.



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Six Flags

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CALIFORNIA

YEAR-END TRIP

(Grades 6-8)

 Sunday, May 31, 2026 (9am-9pm)

PASS Includes Pass, Transportation, Lunch & Epic BBQ Dinner, Educational Activities

-  TRANSPORTATION
-  LUNCH
-  EPIC BBQ DINNER
-  EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

★ Students will be accompanied by counselors ★



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PODCAST, AVAILABLE ON ALL MAJOR PLATFORMS.



CAMP NAGEELA WEST SUMMER 2026

GIRLS
MAIN SESSION
JUNE 23 - JULY 15

GIRLS
ADVENTURE WEEK
JUNE 16 - JUNE 23

BOYS
MAIN SESSION
JULY 15 - AUG 6

BOYS
ADVENTURE WEEK
JULY 8 - JULY 15







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- ✓ Club Choices

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LAS VEGAS JEWNIOR NCSY CALENDAR 2025-2026

Sep 02	Skating Kickoff City National Arena	COMPLETE
Oct 11	HUT DOG Campout under the stars & sky	COMPLETE
Oct 19	Summer Jump Session Learn about all our amazing summer opportunities	COMPLETE
Nov 7-9	ADVENTURE SHABBATON Alamo, NV	COMPLETE
Dec 11-14	SKI Weekend Utah	COMPLETE
Feb 13-16	Jewnior Regional California Extended Shabbat experience with Jewniers from six states	COMPLETE
April 17-19	AZ District Shabbaton Tucson	COMPLETE
May 24	Summer Sendoff End the year with a bang!	
May 31	SIX FLAGS Join with LA chapter for an unforgettable day!	

FUNLY FIRSTLY
Fun Days, the first Sunday or Monday of the month:

- Monday Nov 3- Laser Tag ✓
- Monday Dec 1- Bowling ✓
- Monday Jan 5- Flipn Out ✓
- Sunday Feb 1- Ski Day ✓
- Sunday March 1- Glow Party ✓
- Monday April 13- Roller Skating ✓
- Monday May 4- Sports Day ✓
- Monday June 1- Ice Cream Party ✓

Weekly Programs:

- Sunday 10am Hebrew School
- Monday 5pm Tween Night (grades 4-6)
- Monday 6pm Teen Night (grades 7-8)
- Thursday 8:15pm Scholars Study (boys)

Look out for...

- Giving Days- Fundraising Drive March 8-9
- Our Board run Instagram account @lv.jewniers
- Sticker Drop Days
- ZOOM classes
- Monthly Challenges and other info at westcoastncsy.org/jewniers.

Director Info - Rabbi Dani Locker
917-613-1037 lockerd@ncsy.org



Happy Birthdays!

Shimshon Levin
Rivka Wyne
Ari Polonsky
Ben Bialek

Eliyahu Minkowich
Andrew Adler
Rey Branton
Liraz Bega
Jason Glotch A'H



JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

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



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