

have a Nageela Shabbos

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

Season 4
Episode 11

Getting Greater by Rabbi Dani Locker



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
@NAGEELAWEST

You're a student, right? What is the best way a teacher has ever gotten you to improve?

Here's a question I posed on Facebook this week, and some of the beautiful and thoughtful (and some silly) answers people contributed.

Moses was an incredibly great man.

Yet, something happened during this week's Torah reading (well, it didn't actually happen during the Torah reading. It happened thousands of years ago; we just mentioned it in this week's Torah reading) that helped him achieve an ever higher level of greatness.

God had spoken with Moses in between each plague, giving him step by step instructions of exactly what to tell Pharaoh. Yet during all that time, these conversations did not take place in Pharaoh's capitol city. You see, Egypt was corrupt in every sense of the word. Their very beliefs, from the gods they worshipped (even treating their very human king as a god) to their moral depravity, Egypt was a place of spiritual filth. Although God is everywhere, prophecy is usually limited to places of purity and holiness (in most cases, only in Israel). God speaking to Moses in Egypt proper was NOT supposed to happen.

Then came darkness. When Moses warned Pharaoh about the plague of darkness, Pharaoh threatened him. He said something like, "You best beat it, buddy. Don't be showin your holy face 'round here no more!" Moses agrees and swears never to visit the palace again. But wait, he's still got to warn the Egyptians about the final plague! What should he do? In a surprising move, God appeared to Moses, right there in the palace, so that Moses would be able to keep his word and not return again! The Midrash tells us that

Dani Locker
Tuesday at 12:09 AM · 📍

A little social experiment (for discussion in the upcoming episode of Nageela Shabbos)...
What method or tool have you found (as a student, teacher, mentor, employer, child or parent) to be most effective at helping/ motivating/ propelling a recipient to success?

Applaud every positive accomplishment like crazy- even the small ones like remembering to raise a hand before speaking. (speaking as a teacher, I got a ways to go as a parent...)
2d Like Reply

Shared vision, celebrate the small wins, fight for them as individuals, show them the potential impact, accept "not yet" instead of no.
1d Like Reply

**1. The strength of your relationship which is dependent on unconditional acceptance
2. The recipient being independently motivated to succeed
3. Lead by example**
1d Like Reply

I find that prizes for things tend to work well with younger children
2d Like Reply

Shout. Loudly.
1d Like Reply

Dani Locker
[redacted] only works in a British accent
1d Like Reply

I have found the kid is far more engaged if you take even a little one on one time with them at some point to show you care and they have potential (soccer training) sometimes ill take a kid aside and talk to just them for thirty seconds on what part of their game is good how they can improve other parts and what that will allow them to do
2d Like Reply

Honestly because it shows you care about them as an individual and that you do truly see growth in them, even if a kid is struggling I would be like add this to your game and it would be so much better. I think its the idea they are just not another face in the crowd and you do believe in their talents enough to point out specific things to them
1d Like Reply

**1.) A child can't buy into themselves if their parent or teacher doesn't believe in them
2.) a child can't buy into what you might have to say unless it's something you yourself are passionate about and know why it can possibly mean anything to them.**

this might sound horrible but i mean it with the best intentions 😊 i like seeing other people's regrets and looking at others mistakes and try to change myself based off of what that person regrets. for example, if two older folks are talking about all the things they wished they did when they were young, i like to make a list of the things i want to accomplish by 30. so for some teens it may help hearing others stories and make goals based off of that
23h Like Reply

Candle Lighting:
Henderson 4:48
Las Vegas 4:48
Reno/ Tahoe 4:59
San Diego 5:02
Irvine 5:03
Los Angeles 5:04
Scottsdale 5:39

Change the world, one page at a time.
Become a sponsor of Nageela Shabbos!

to sponsor an episode
of Nageela Shabbos,
please contact dlocker@
nageelawest.org

NAGEELA



2020



when Moses experienced this, he was super happy, and he became great! Now, Moses was great. So great, that he was God's emissary to the Jewish people. So great, that he received prophecy. So great that he was chosen to lead the Jewish people out of Egypt and broker our reception of the Torah. So great, that God 'jumped' into the smelly palace of Pharaoh on his behalf. So what is meant when it says he NOW became great? It means that he had a big bump in his greatness. He got a turbo boost that made him even greater.

Here we have a man who has achieved so much in life. Overcoming adversity, working hard, discovering himself, standing up to bullies, speaking with God. WHAT propels him to greatness? Seeing that his teacher/mentor respects and cares about him enough to do something he ordinarily wouldn't have. It is this incredible show of 'respect for the student' shown by God that pushes Moses to achieve his greatest heights yet. Of course, there are many tools that can be used to help our friends/students/children achieve greatness. One of the most effective tools is when you exhibit to them just how important they are to you, by taking yourself out of your comfort zone to show them respect.

Now is a great time to contact us & find out more info about our incredible Grand Tour featuring Mount Rushmore!

147

DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST GIRLS
SESSION

165

DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST BOYS
SESSION

Find out about our Grand Tour 2020 and see photos from GT2019 at nageelawest.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to family members celebrating this week!

Hinda Gross
Nava Freeman
Matt Hollander
Ariel Wexler
Shoshana Wexler
Devon Singer
Belle Teitelbaum

Braden Martin
Adam Adelson
Ayala Ben-Shimon
Maya Bega
Madden Marks
Rabbi Akiva Naiman

Jew^{nior} NCSU announcements

THIS WEEK:

Monday: LV Summerlin featuring a special guest:

5:45 for 4-6 grade

7-8 for grades 7-8

Monday, Tarzana J4r. LNL 6:30

Thursday: Irvine Jr. LNL 6:15pm

Thursday: San Diego Donutz & Scavenger Hunt 5:30 @Krispy Kreme

Thursday: LA City Jr. LNL 6pm

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Orange County Laser Tag event
Feb. 13th

Gravady All Nighter - Las Vegas
Feb. 15th, 11:30pm

Treats for Troops- Arizona
Feb 20th

San Diego 7-8-9 SHabbaton
March 6-8

RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT

Hi Rabbi,

Right side? Wrong side? I learned that I use my right hand to cover my eyes for shema even though I'm a lefty. But I also learned that I should hold a cookie in my left hand to make a blessing. Why are they different? Come to think of it, why do we do things with specific hands at all? Why does it matter?

Thanks,

Ryley T. Yemini



**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*

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

Dear Rye T. Yemini

On June 19, 2008, pitcher Pat Venditte entered a game for the first time, pitching for the Staten Island Yankees (minor league). Venditte, like most pitchers, was wearing his mitt on his left hand, preparing to pitch with his right. The batter, a switch hitter, decided to bat lefty. In case you're not up on baseball strategy, this is very common. When it comes to late innings of an important game, a manager will almost always try to bring in a lefty pitcher to face a lefty batter, and a righty pitcher to face a right handed batter. The hitting team will try to do the opposite.

When using the same arm, (righty vs righty or lefty vs lefty), the pitcher has an advantage. Back to our story. The batter stood on the lefty side of the plate, so Pat Venditte switched hands. He transferred his baseball mitt to his right hand and prepared to pitch lefty. It's very rare, but Pat Venditte is a switch pitcher, who can pitch with either hand. Batter Ralph Henriquez, though, switched to the other side, to bat righty. So Venditte switched sides again, preparing to pitch with his right hand (his unique baseball mitt has 6 fingers and two webs, allowing him to use it on either hand). So the batter switched sides. So the pitcher switched sides. This happened over and over for about 6 minutes, in a rather entertaining at bat. Eventually, baseball changed the rules to clarify what happens when a switch pitcher faces a switch hitter (for the record, the pitcher has to choose a side and pitch at least one pitch from that side before switching).

Kind of like in baseball, Jewish practice cares about right and left sides. [Here's where it can get a little confusing.](#)

Sometimes we prefer the right side, sometimes the left. Sometimes we use our toes. That was a joke. Here are a few examples of things we do with one side specifically:

The mezuzah goes on the right side of the doorway.

While reciting shema, we cover our eyes with our right hands

We put on our right shoe first, but tie our left first...

Tefillin, for most people, are worn on the left arm.

We lean on our left side at the Passover seder.

Shofar is blown on the right side of the mouth.

When we make a blessing on food, we hold it in our right hand (we'll discuss exceptions next week).

When our great ancestor, Jacob blessed his grandchildren, he insisted on placing his right hand on Ephraim's head, insisting that Ephraim would be greater than his older brother. Here, too, Jacob shows us that the right side is more

*mazel
tov!*

*to Camp Nageela West counselor
Yitzy Bergida upon his recent
wedding!*



My new pair of gloves are
both 'left.' On the one hand,

it's great. On the other hand,
just isn't right.

OUCH! GROAN! got a better joke? Email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

important and significant.

For most things, we simply favor the right side because it's physically more dominant. For 90% of people in the world, the right hand is stronger, and therefore more significant. Doing mitzvot with our right hand shows our respect and importance for mitzvot. Yet there are more subtle and interesting reasons for hand and foot preferences. The Midrash points out that the angel Michael is 'on the right'. Michael is the force of mercy, compassion and love for the Jewish people. Gabriel, 'God's strength' represents judgement and justice. By preferring the right side, we emphasize the hope that God's mercy will outweigh His justice. We constantly turn to the right side, emphasizing the importance of kindness, mercy and compassion.

So why do we do some things on the left? And what do lefties do? All this and more in next week's episode of Nageela Shabbos. Speaking of right sides and left sides... you know, my brain has two sides. The problem is, in the left side of my brain, there's nothing right. And in the right side of my brain... there's nothing left!

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

PICKLE JEWS

**GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED
COMIC STRIP**



GRAVADY ALL NIGHTER

**FEB 15TH,
11:30PM**

**HOURS OF JUMPING!
SOOO MUCH FOOD!
CONTESTS & GAMES!
PRIZES!**

WESTCOST.NCSY.ORG/GRAVADY



DEEP THOUGHTS

**Why do cars drive
on parkways,
and park on
driveways?**



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.

844-NAGEELA www.nageelawest.org info@nageelawest.org