

Question of the Week

answer on page 2

SEASON 2
EPISODE 14

December 23rd, 2017

Question of the Week is adapted with permission from the book "Question of the Week" by Rabbi David Zaback

Normally, blessings made for performing a mitzvah are made before the act of the mitzvah. For example, reciting the blessing BEFORE lighting Chanukah candles.

In what 3 cases is the blessing made ~~after~~ after the mitzvah is performed?

Candle Lighting:

Las Vegas 4:12
Lake Tahoe 4:22
San Diego 4:29
Los Angeles 4:30
Phoenix 5:07

have a

Nageela Shabbos

Parshas
Vayigash

5778

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

Consistently Consistent

by Rabbi Dani Locker

It had been an intense time.

After 22 years, Yosef (AKA Joseph) finally reunited with his family. The first words out of his mouth after revealing, "I am Yosef" are "Is my father still alive?" He's understandably emotional about meeting his father, but he seems to be asking wrong question. He KNOWS his father is alive. His brothers have talked to him extensively about Yaakov (Jacob) and even asked him not to imprison Binyamin (Benjamin) because of the fear that the shock might endanger Yaakov's life! Why does he now ask, "Is my father still alive?"

Hold up, guys.

You are telling me to be kind, and to spare Binyamin because you care so much

about your father. You say the shock of losing a son might kill him. Is he even still alive after he lost a son 22 years ago? Did you think about his health when you kidnapped ME, his beloved son, and sold me into slavery? Nuh uh!

Yosef has been pretty badly mistreated at his brothers' hands. OK. That's an understatement. He had been really, really uber badly treated. Yet he doesn't complain about their treachery, their cruelty toward him or his years in captivity. He has one criticism of them.

You're being hypocrites.



NO SIGNS
ALLOWED!

Everyone makes mistakes. Even big mistakes. Except cows. They make moostakes.

Yosef could forgive his brothers for the terrible actions they'd done. He could not forgive them for the trait of duplicity- being insincere, inconsistent and living with a double standard.

In fact, this is a trait that Yosef's brothers usually got right. The Torah mentions that they hated him so much they could not speak peacefully to him. Most people have no trouble pretending to like someone, being civil and kind to them, acting politically correct, even while plotting behind their backs. The tribes of Israel were not like that. When they had a problem with their "annoying little brother", they did not pretend everything was OK. Yet this time, though they seemed to care about Yaakov's health and wellbeing, they failed to think about how devastating it had been for him to lose Yosef, his favorite son.

Continued on back page

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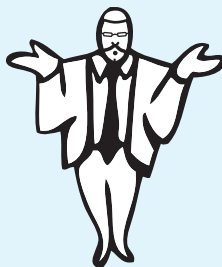
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Stump The Rabbi

Cheat Seat



Hi Rabbi,

I work hard in school and I'm a pretty good student. It always bothers me when kids cheat on tests, cause I guess I work hard for it so they should too. Does that make sense? But I don't want to be a snitch so I don't say anything. Last week I had a math test, and to my surprise, my best friend tried looking over my shoulder! I guess she didn't have time to study, because she's usually a pretty good student, too. I didn't want her to copy off me, but I did not want to act like I was better than her, or say no to my friend! What was the right thing to do?

Thanks,

Temima Plate

Dear TemPlate,

According to an ABCNEWS poll of middle school and high school students, 90 percent believe that

it's wrong to cheat to get a better grade. Yet most agree that at least a large percentage of students do cheat! Before I start talking about your question itself, I'd like to encourage you to read the Dvar Torah I've written in this week's Nageela Shabbos publication, about saying one thing and doing another, AKA hypocrisy.

What does Judaism say about cheating? For one, it's straight up lying. Lying is not only when you speak words of untruth. It's whenever you try to get someone to believe something that's not true. This type of dishonesty, copying the answer from someone else and putting your name on it, is meant to trick the teacher (and your parents) into thinking you know the answer. Which you don't.

Secondly, it's more than lying, it can actually be stealing! As an adult, if your boss pays you to do a job, and you just pretend to do it, sounds like stealing to me, doesn't it? It's the same for a student. Even if your school is publicly funded, someone is paying to provide an expensive service to you. A part of that is an agreement on the part of the student to follow certain basic rules and procedure. A student who breaks that procedure is taking the valuable schooling and not giving back what she's committed to provide.

Can you tell, I don't like cheating?

please note:

Nageelatte programs are all off for the duration of Winter Break.

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Answer of the Week

question on page 1

CAUTION:

Don't read this answer until you've read the question on page 1!

DON'T CHEAT!

HEY, STOP LOOKING!

Need help understanding, or have a different answer? email dlocker@nageelawest.org

1. Conversion. When someone who was not born Jewish converts, he or she dips in a special bath called a mikvah. In that case, the blessing can only be made after dipping, because before, she wasn't Jewish yet!
2. Shabbat candles. When the Shabbat candles are lit, the blessing is said afterwards. If the blessing would be said first, it would be accepting Shabbat, and then the candles could not be lit anymore.
3. Hand washing. When we wash our hands for bread, and each morning, the blessing "al netilat yadayim" is not said until after. The simple explanation for this is that hands must be clean to say a blessing.

VERY PUNNY

I find glow sticks to be hilarious!

I often slap my neon them.

Ouch. Have a better pun?
Send it in to dlocker@nageelawest.org

Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?

At the bottom.

Third of all, as you pointed out, it's completely unfair to the person who did all the work!

Your question reminds me of a story I once heard...

Little Mikey is playing Minecraft when his Dad gets a call from the principal. "Mr. Jones, your son Michael has cheated on a test so he will be failing the class."

"How do you know Mikey cheated?" Mr. Jones asked.

"Because his answers were exactly the same as Kate's, who was sitting right next to him."

Mikey's father persisted, "Maybe Kate copied off of my Mikey and she is the cheater!"

"No." Replied the principal grimly. "To one of the questions, Kate wrote, 'I don't know the answer.'" Michael wrote, "I don't know either."

I understand that you don't want to hurt your friend, but what she's doing is dead wrong. You're not being a good friend if you just say nothing. I'm going to go even one step further. If you allow your friend to copy off of your paper, you're not a victim being stolen from, you're an accomplice. Allowing someone to cheat off you without attempting to stop them is actually being a part of the crime.

So be a GREAT friend. Let your BFF know there will be no CFF (Copying From Friend). You can BOR (Blame On Rabbi).

Have - a- Nageela Shabbat,

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

Mitzvah Minute

Giving Charity

a short weekly column introducing one of Judaism's 613 commandments

Source:

Surely open your hand and provide him what he is missing (Book of Devarim- chapter 15 verse 8).

Details:

- This mitzvah instructs us to give money or whatever else is needed to someone who is in need.



- This mitzvah applies to everyone. Even someone who himself receives charity, must give according to his own ability
- Not only Jews are eligible to receive tzedaka, but gentiles who keep the 7 mitzvot of the children of Noah are also eligible.
- A poor relative comes before anyone else. Then the poor of your city, and then all other poor people.
- We give whatever is needed, not only cash. If the asker needs clothing or shelter, we provide that as well.
- Part of the mitzvah is encouraging others to give as well.
- Giving with a smile and kind words is an important part of this mitzvah.

Lessons:

- Tzedaka is the sign of a child of Abraham. Generosity in this matter reinforces the very nature of our nation.
- We do our best to be like God, who feeds and takes care of us.
- Everyone is our responsibility. We do not simply leave people to fix their own problems.

Continued from page 1

We go through life and we do good stuff and we do bad stuff (to put it scienti cally). Of course we should try to do more good stuff and less bad stuff. That's obvious. We learn from Yosef and his brothers that even more important, is acting in a way that is consistent and steady, not pretending to have a certain value and then violating our own rule.



Dec. 29th
Winter Retreat
Bryce Canyon, Utah

February
YOLO SHABBATON!

March 25th- 10:30pm
-March 26th 7:30am
Gravady All nighter!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to Nageela veterans
Naomy Bernheim
Sara Bernheim
Israel Slomiansky
Alec Milton
Sam Lipke



\$300
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RESORT HOME
7-9 GRADERS



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