

Table 1: Summary of the results of the 1000 Genomes Project

have a
Nageela
Shabbos

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

Season 3
Episode 39

Thinking Outside the Circle

by Rabbi Dani Locker



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It's really pretty emotional. After leading the Jewish people out of a miserable time in Egypt (they had terrible wifi, could you imagine such pain?), and schleppppppppping them through the desert for forty years, all Moses wanted was to enter Israel. He had dreamed of the land, and how it would help him connect to God better. He had tried his best to convince his people to love Israel. And now, when it was almost time, God said NO. Moses had made a mistake, and the consequence of his action is that he was not allowed to enter the land he so yearned for.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

prayed, and he prayed, and he prayed, and he prayed, and he prayed, **and it didn't work.**

Five hundred and fifteen prayers (that's like 103 Yom Kippurs). Count them.. I dare you.

Why didn't God listen to his prayers? They sure were powerful. The Midrash describes the scene. Moses drew a circle on the ground, and fasting, stood in its center, declaring, "I will not move from here until the decree is lifted!" Heaven and Earth shook from Moses' prayers. It still did not work. [If you've heard a similar story about a man named Choni Hama'gil, it's because Choni, as an expert in the oral tradition of the Torah, had certainly heard this story about Moses.] Were his prayers not done right? Were they too weak? I don't think that's it at all. Remember the whole Heaven and Earth shaking thing...

The Midrash tells us what happened. The Jews had made many mistakes during their long stay in the desert. At every crisis, Moses had prayed for forgiveness, and it had worked. Over and over, prayer had saved the day. So when Moses heard that he would die without entering

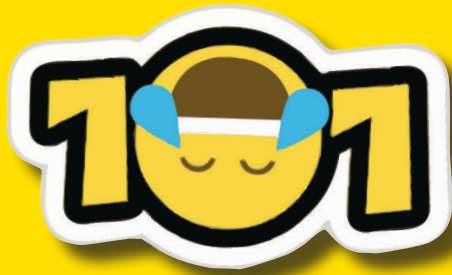
How many Jews does it take to sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos?

Just 1, but he has to love Jewish children!

to sponsor an episode
of Nageela Shabbos,
please contact [dlocker@
nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

Israel, he totally didn't sweat it. "No biggie." he thought. "I got this. I'll just pray and the boo boo will go away." (I can't guarantee those were his actual thoughts) God did not want Moses to take His judgement lightly, so He decreed that just this once, even though Moses DID pray super well, the prayers would not work.

I think this is an extremely powerful lesson for all of us. Even though we understand how valuable prayer is, we can't use it to forget to take personal responsibility. Even if we can pray like Moses, we can't use it as a "get out of jail" card whenever we want. God expects us to take life and our responsibilities seriously. Let's think outside the circle.



I love whiteboards

In fact, I find them remarkable!

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke?

email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to Nageela family members celebrating this week!

Zahava Locker
Talia sharaby
Eitan Goldwasser
Michael Torres
Joney Shlasinger
Nathan Malis
Ellie Piriyeve

**HAPPY
UNBIRTHDAY TO
EVERYONE ELSE!**

SAVE THESE DATES!

2 mega- weekend events in 2020
For 6th-8th graders

WINTER REGIONAL WEEKEND
JAN. 17-20 (MLK)
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

SPRING REGIONAL WEEKEND
MAY 22-25 (MEMORIAL)
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jew^{nior}
NCSU



We've just concluded our successful TENTH summer of Camp Nageela West!

We could not have done it without dozens of volunteers, many sponsors, and extremely dedicated, patient camp families.



**PICKLE
JEWS**

**GALACTICALLY
SYNDICATED
COMIC
STRIP**

OUR SCHOOL HAS
NO PROBLEM WITH
DISCIPLINE...

WE HAVE
THIRTEEN
PRINCIPALS

The core

Hi Rabbi,

I know Jews believe in God. I guess that means at least I know something, right? But what else do we believe? Is there a list of the things it's important for a Jew to know? 'Cuz I'd like to know what I should know!

Corey Brian Leif



**stump the
rabbi**

Dear Core B. Leif,

This summer, in Reno, I met Ken. Camp Nageela West boys may have already heard a little bit about Ken, but here is the story:

For a couple of days before camp started, we held a staff training seminar at a hotel in Reno. It was the final day, and after an extremely long torrent of meetings, we spent dinner time BBQing and playing frisbee at a local park. Then Ken came over to chat. Ken was definitely quite drunk, and extremely bored, but he stopped by to tell us how impressed he was by our fine, well mannered group of gentlemen (he said it with different words, most of which should not be printed). Then he told us the only thing he doesn't like about Jews is that we believe in 'spreading the good word', and we try to make people believe in our religion. He even went so far as to mention the Jewish missionaries on bikes, wearing ties. I gently corrected him, and explained that Jews don't missionize, and he's probably referring to Mormon missionaries. We continued the conversation (which alternated between love, confusion, violence and incoherence), until he made another spurious claim. He wanted to know why Amish Jews don't use technology. I won't go into details of the rest of the conversation, or his arm wrestle with one of our counselors, but I won't soon forget Ken.

I'm glad you asked this question, 'cuz so many people have misconceptions about Judaism and what we believe. Alright, Ken might not be a great example, altered as he was, yet I constantly hear Jews and gentiles making huge mistakes in understanding basic Jewish beliefs. So here we go:

Jews believe a lot of things. We believe it's important to be kind, and that you should try to buy stuff on sale. But let's talk about

core beliefs for a minute. A core belief is something that is really important to you and forms the base of everything else you believe in. Getting stuff on sale is obviously not a core belief. Even our belief in the importance of being kind is not considered a core belief, because it comes from another core belief (that God gave us the Torah which commands us to be kind).

History's great Jewish thinkers have created a list of "thirteen principles" or thirteen core beliefs that are vital to Jewish thought. In the coming weeks, we'll go through them, trying to clarify what they mean and why each is so important. For now, here are the three categories, and in 'Tree Stump' I've listed all thirteen and how they fit into each category:

Category 1 is understanding that there's a God who is very real, and is active.

Category 2 is understanding the God gave us clear guidance and instruction for how to live.

Category 3 is knowing that God cares about how we live and act, and there are real consequences to all of our actions.

I look forward to continuing this conversation next week. For today, make like a tree and be-leaf..

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.



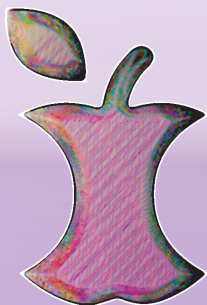
BE A LEADER!

We are accepting applications from rising 7th and 8th graders from ALL WEST COAST CITIES to take part in a regional leadership council that will meet several times over the coming year, helping plan events, developing leadership skills and having a blast.

Please contact locker@ncsy.org to apply.

the 13

core



beliefs
of judaism

brought to you by
Jewnier
100%

G-D

1. G-d created everything and still runs the show. It didn't happen by itself.
2. There's only one G-d. No partners, demigods, trinities or split personalities.
3. G-d does not have a body. No knees, shoulders, ears or toes. For that matter, G-d has no matter.
4. G-d existed before anything else, and will exist after everything else.
5. We only pray to G-d. Nobody else. We don't pray to trees, statues, prophets or Rabbis.

Torah

6. There were people called prophets who truly delivered messages from G-d to the Jewish people.
7. Moses was the greatest prophet, and his word is final. Any prophets who argue with Moses aren't prophets at all.
8. Ya' know that Torah we have? It's the same text Moses first showed us. Nothing has changed in three thousand+ years.
9. The Torah will never be changed. G-d gave us the final edited version. Done.

Consequences

10. G-d knows what's what. He's aware of thie things we do, and even our thoughts.
11. There's a system of reward and consequences. We will get awesome reward for doing what we should, and uncool results when we mess up.
12. There will an end to our long exile. A great leader (Mashiach) will come, and can come at any time.
13. Eventually (when G-d wills it to happen) those who have passed away will live again.



Photo of the Week

Muddy and Exhilarated

Camp Nageela West girls, covered in grime, sweat and smiles, after spelunking through one of California's largest natural caverns.



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.

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