

Parshas Mishpatim
5779

February 1st,
2019

have a Nageela Shabbos

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

Candle Lighting:

Las Vegas 4:49
N. Lake Tahoe 5:02
San Diego 5:03
Los Angeles 5:05
Tarzana 5:06
Scottsdale 5:40

Season 3
Episode 18

Haters be Helping

by Rabbi Dani Locker



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“Yeah, whatever.

I hate the guy, but I should probably help him.”
Do thoughts like that ever cross your mind?
From a young age, we are trained that no matter how we feel, we have to act the right way (at least I hope so). But is that enough?

The Torah guides us to help people. Not only people who we want to help; even those who we would really prefer not to. The following is not an exact translation. It's a loose paraphrase, based on Targum Yonasan. “If this dude who you really don't like has a donkey- which is weird, because who has donkeys these days- and his donkey is totally getting down (literally getting down; there's a heavy load on it's back, making it crouch), you should chill, get rid of the hate, man, and help your brother's donkey out.” OK. I'm pretty sure that didn't make any sense. The basic idea is that if you see someone's animal struggling, even if that animal belongs to your enemy, you should help him. But it's not enough to simply use your body to help him. You're supposed to temporarily forget your hatred. Don't just act like you like him, try and FEEL like you like him, just for a little while.

Why? It's bad enough the Torah instructs me to help a guy I hate. I can understand that. I've got to be nice. Fine. But why do I have to try and LIKE him? It seems unnecessary and unfair.

The Torah is not an instruction manual for computers and robots. The rules and lessons of the Torah are there to train us to become better people. If we follow the rules of the Torah and we don't change for the better, then we're missing out on something truly valuable. Many of the Torah's instructions tell us how to treat people. This includes commandments to give charity, lend money, do business honestly and give our friends good advice. If you do all these things while thinking, “I really can't stand this guy, but I gotta do what's right anyway,” you're losing out on half the mitzvah. Mitzvot that deal with our relationships with people are only properly fulfilled if they come along with respect and appreciation for those people.

Try this out at home or in school. There will be times when you've got to help out someone you'd rather not help. Take a moment, click pause on that hatred for just a few minutes, and really try to focus on that person's good qualities. It may or may not work, but it will certainly increase your OWN good qualities.

Sponsorship Opportunity

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

Quick Fix

By Rabbi Dov Ber Smith

What would you do?

If someone has only one comfortable bed and a housekeeper working for him, who sleeps on the bed, and who sleeps on the floor?

According to Jewish law, the housekeeper gets the bed instead of the master! Why?

Just because someone is being hired to work doesn't mean he can't be treated with respect. The Torah reminds us to respect EVERYONE!

*mazel
to go!*

*to the Maryles family
on the birth of a baby boy
yesterday!*

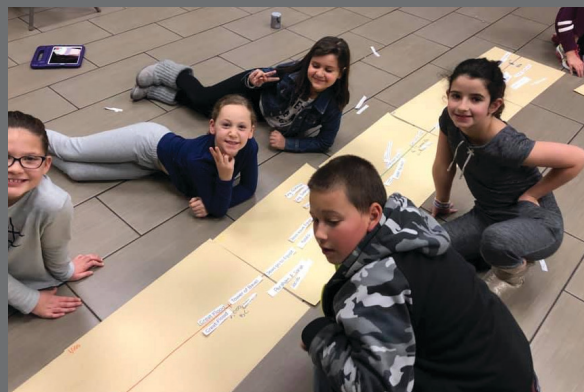


Photo of the Week

Matter of Time

Students at Nageela Hebrew School in Las Vegas working on a massive timeline, putting important events and people in Jewish history in perspective of world history.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Feb 3rd- Super Bowl Party
Feb 7th- Portland open house
February 13th- Reno/Tahoe
February 20th - Phoenix
Open House

February 28th -
SLAMTASTIC evening!
Harlem Wizards take on the
Nageela All- Stars.

Join us February 28th as Camp Nageela West welcomes to Las Vegas

**TRICKS
DUNKS
PRIZES
LAUGHS**

\$25

General
Admission

\$100

VIP- courtside

Tickets go on sale February 1st at nageelaLV.org

Sponsorships available.
For more information, please contact
info@nageelawest.org



**FUN
FOR THE
WHOLE
FAMILY!**



All proceeds to benefit the Camp
Nageela West Scholarship Fund

**FOOD & MERCH
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE**

**Thursday,
Feb. 28th - 6:00pm
@ the Centennial Hills Y
6601 N. Buffalo Dr.**



NAGEELA WEST
COAST

**SUPER BOWL
PARTY**

FEBRUARY 3, 3:30pm

**For 7-8 graders. PM
Rabbi Locker to RSVP**

GAMES

Tribal & Error

Hi Rabbi,

If the tribe you come from is determined from your father, then what tribe do you come from if your father isn't Jewish but your mother still is Jewish?

Thanks,

Patricia Lynn Neal

*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 Patri Lynn Neal

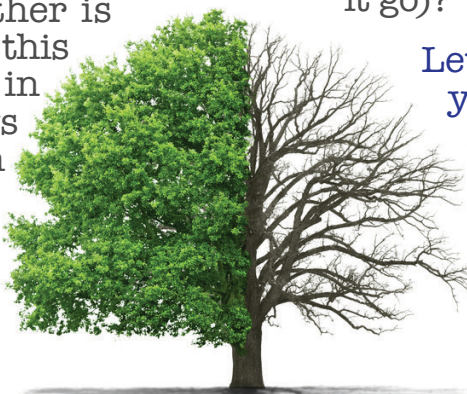
A very thoughtful question, and one that applies to a lot of people. Here's some background for our readers:

We Jews trace ourselves back to Jacob, who lived about 3,500 years ago. Jacob's children formed the original Jewish nation, and were organized into 12 tribes (10 sons of Jacob and 2 grandsons). You're right that you belong to whatever tribe your father belonged to. You're also right that having a Jewish mother makes one Jewish. So what to do if someone's mother is Jewish, and father is not? Well, did you know that this exact situation is mentioned in the Torah? While the Jews were wandering through the desert, there was a man whose mother had belonged to the tribe of Dan, yet his father had been Egyptian. He wanted to join his

mother's tribe, but remembering his father (who had been a horrible guy, BTW) the tribe did not want him. They argued about it for a while, and then finally decided to ask Moses himself! The verdict Moses gave is that this man and those like him (and also people who are not born Jewish but convert to Judaism) are a completely new category of Jew. Does this make this group outsiders? Is it like being in Hogwarts without being a part of Gryffindor or Ravenclaw? Is it tantamount to being a Divergent (if you didn't get those references, just let it go)?

Let me ask you something. Do you know what tribe you're from?

I didn't think so. I don't either! Most Jews don't have any idea what tribe they come from. Of course Kohanim and Leviim do, but
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they're a small minority. In our exile all over the world, our tribes make virtually no difference. Mostly, the point of tribes and tribal identity is land ownership. When the Jews entered the land of Israel, Joshua divided the land among the twelve tribes. Each group got their own unique part of Israel, to keep and pass down to their descendants. The tribe of Levi, our spiritual leaders, did not get land of their own. Rather, they were given cities to live in and carry on their holy work. Converts and those with gentile fathers joined the tribe of Levi in these cities and other areas throughout Israel. They were (and are) a part of the Jewish people in every respect. They can write or read a Torah, testify in court, or become a prophet. They can buy and sell stuff... even homes. Just not permanent land. And they can make a mean gefilte fish.

Nowadays, it really makes no difference at all. Like I said, most Jews don't even know their tribe. So that's pretty much the same as not having one. The important thing to focus on now isn't how to divide us up, but how to bring us together.

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP



**NAGEEL
ALV.
ORG**



Awesometastic birthday wishes to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays:

Ayala Ben-Shimon

Madden Marks

Adam Adelson

Maya Bega

Wyatt Rozea

VictoriaLoren Sepia



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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