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SEASON 2
EPISODE 35

June 2nd, 2018

Candle Lighting:

Phoenix 7:15

San Diego 7:33

Las Vegas 7:35

Los Angeles 7:41

Lake Tahoe 8:02

have a

Nageela Shabbos

Parshas
Behaaloscha

5778

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

Teachers Rock?

by Rabbi Dani Locker

My greatest teacher is a rock. Or did I mean my teacher rocks? Or my rock teaches grapes?

You might have heard of the Talmudic quote: "Who is a wise person, he who learns from everyone." OK. I can handle that. What about learning from inanimate (for those who need help with vocabulary, see the dictionary clipping attached) objects?

Inanimate [in·an·uh·mit]

adj. A teenager with a cellphone

There's an old story about two kids who play in a muddy puddle, but only one of their faces gets dirty. . When they're done, the one with the dirty face sees his friend and assumes his face is clean. The one with the clean face washes his face, seeing his friend and assuming he's equally filthy. We can't always see our own faces, and our own problems and flaws. When we see someone else messing up badly, sometimes it makes us say, "Whoa. I do the same thing. I gotta stop."

In the biblical book of Mishlei (Proverbs), the wise

King Solomon said... I'll just paraphrase: "I was cruisin down the highway and I passed this ginormous house owned by a lazy dude. It was, like, totally messed up. The walls were broken, the trees were overgrown, and kids had spraypainted all over the walls. I said, "Hey, Siri. Remind me not to be lazy."" Ummm, this may not be an exact quote of King Solomon (he may have been an Android type of King), but you get the idea. He saw the danger of laziness because someone had actually epicly failed. Seeing that inspired him to be more proactive and efficient in his life.

In our parsha, Miriam and Aaron have a conversation about their holy brother, Moshe. Miriam

continued on back

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Stump The Rabbi

IsReality

Hi Rabbi,

I was told by a non- Jewish friend that all Jews are supposed to visit Israel at least once in their lives. Is this true? Why is it important? It seems to just be a country.

Thanks,

Elanor Allan

Dear El Al,

Just a country??? We need to have a good conversation about this one, but it's too long for today. I think I'll tackle that part of it next week, and today, I'll simply address the part of your question where you asked about visiting Israel.

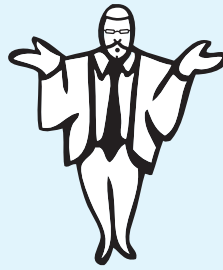
I've often said things like, "Every Jew should go to Israel at least once." However, there's actually no rule or law that says that. I just think it's smart advice.

"Israel is a phone charger."

"OK, Rabbi. You've lost your mind again."

Never had them in the first place...

When I was a kid (back when it snowed in the summer and it was uphill both ways walking to school), phones were attached to the wall. You really couldn't go anywhere if



you were on the phone, or if you expected a phone call. If you had a really, really long phone cord, you could manage to tangle up people in several rooms at once as you chatted. It always resulted in personal injury and severe damage. Hospitals had a separate ward for phone cord injuries. It was like texting and driving. Did you hear about the clumsy kid who tripped over a cordless phone?

Cell phones give us much more freedom to go places, but if you don't plug it into the wall every couple of days (or in my case, every 20 minutes), it's all over. We can live as Jews pretty much anywhere in the world (except for places like Algeria, Bangladesh, Brunei, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen who will not allow an Israeli citizen to enter their countries). We may even have a "good signal" and have a solid Jewish connection. Yet, once in awhile, we've got to go back to our spiritual power source and recharge our batteries. How does it recharge us?

First of all, Israel has the most inspirational places to visit. Scenes of great miracles, places of holy acts, and the burial places of our all- time greatest leaders. It's not unusual for people to cry when they visit the sacred Kotel- the last

VERY
PUNNY

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

Which old time American settlers were always taking medication?

The Pillgrims!

remaining wall of the Holy Temple, which has been standing for over 2000 years. You can see the rocks that were smashed by the Roman invaders, and visit the tomb of the prophet Samuel. I could go on waxing poetic about all the amazing inspiration you can gain in Israel... the truth is, it's difficult for a Jew to fully appreciate Judaism without seeing out history up close.

Secondly, the energy of excitement of a country where just about everyone is a fellow Jew is palpable. It's a land full of ideas, experiments, debate and learning. And felafel. And Krembo... just sayin...

Finally, there are Godly, mystical powers at work. The talmud tells us the air itself makes you wise. Over the years, many of the greatest Torah scholars and righteous people have lived in Israel.

There is a mitzvah in the Torah to visit the Beis Hamikdash, the Holy Temple in Jerusalem three times a year, on the holidays of Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot. Once every seven years, every Jew, even the babies were obligated to visit Jerusalem where they'd hear a public reading of the Torah, usually by the reigning king. These visits were important for many reasons. One of them being that it gave all Jews a chance to meet each other, get strength in numbers, and feel like we're part of something bigger. Which we are.

There's even a mitzvah simply to walk in Israel! In that case, visiting is certainly a mitzvah. I'm pretty sure that in this case, bicycling, driving, kayaking, jeeping or camel riding would also count. I think the buses actually fly, so not sure if that would count.

Although your friend is technically incorrect, I still agree. Every Jew SHOULD go to Israel at least once... There are wonderful Israel trips, some of them free or close to it, through great organizations like JWRP, NCSY and Olami. There are also amazing gap year programs, where you can take a year before you start college to travel and study in Israel. Feel free to email me if you want details on an Israel trip for you.

Remember, Israel IS REAL!

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



ASK US ANYTHING!
stump@nageelawest.org

As the ancient Hebrew are wandering the desert...

Moses and Aaron! I want you to make a bright light that will burn for generations...



The Jews accept the mission and begin construction...

Later...

You know I meant a menorah, right?



almost got it right...

continued from front

makes the mistake of comparing Moshe to ordinary prophets (as if!), and she suffers because of it. Next week's parsha starts with the 10 scouts who spoke negatively about the land of Israel. What's the connection? They should have seen what happened to Miriam, and learned their lesson not to speak negatively at all.

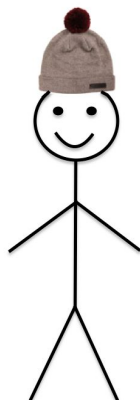
This is what great people do. They see lessons in everything around them. In the plants and the rocks, in their friends and family. Even terrible news we constantly hear about people doing things they should not can help inspire us, if we look at it the right way.

Don't be like Bill.

This is Bill

Bill is too lazy to have a real body.

Don't be like Bill.



DID JEW KNOW?

Because the menorah in the holy temple was made of metal and had seven branches, it is inappropriate for Jewish families to use a seven branched candelabra for Shaabat candles or other purposes. If you have one, consult a Rabbi on whether it may be used.

(see Igros Moshe Y.D. 3:33)

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Subscribe to the "Rabbi Locker" YouTube channel for weekly Selfie Torah videos, educational, entertaining and informational videos.
tinyurl.com/selfietorah

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SAVE THE DATES:

SUN, JUNE 3
TAHOE/ RENO
YEAR END
EVENT

SUN, JUNE 10
LAS VEGAS
YEAR END
BOWLING EVENT

WED, JUNE 27
GIRLS CAMP
ROAD TRIP
START DATE

WED, JULY 18 BOYS CAMP ROAD TRIP START DATE

Happy Birthday!

to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays this week!

Zachary Gray
David Poura
Corben Slater
Akiva Taubenblatt
Solomon Peters

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. Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

