

NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

Vaeschanan 5781
July 23rd, 2021

SEASON 5 EPISODE 35

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Wor-ship is Sinking

by Hinda Gross

Arizona Jr. NCSY President, ReJEWnal board member

INTRODUCING: Jr. Writers
Over the course of the summer, Nageela Shabbos will feature several Torah essays and articles by some of our young participants and staff members!

In this week's parsha (parshat Ve'eschanan), the Ten Commandments are given. The first two are two that I admit I think could be one. They seem so similar, why do they each need to be their own commandment? They are: 1) I am Hashem your G-d, and 2) Do not serve or recognize any other gods. Meaning, that Hashem is G-d, we should serve Hashem as G-d, and we should not follow any other "gods" or think of the gods of the people around us as G-d. Now, I understand that part. Rashi explained that this law also applies to the gods that are followed far away from us (in other places/ at other levels spiritually), but because we observe how those

after them (losing themselves in the process), the need to warn us against them was an even greater necessity. I'll give some examples of "gods" we may see people going astray and following (or maybe to an extent these are things that we may get distracted by as well). Money, the media, fame as a whole, things (as in consumption), drugs, etc. Although these are things people may not recognize as a god, they worship them as if they were a god all the same. No wonder Rashi is giving us this warning! Worshipping these things will lead to

continued on next page



Candle lighting

Honolulu 6:56
Scottsdale 7:15
San Diego 7:35
Henderson 7:34
Las Vegas 7:35
Irvine 7:34
Los Angeles 7:42
Reno 8:01
Oakland 8:07
Park City 8:31
RANDOLPH 8:32

Didja know you can sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos?
Contact us for details! You just might change your life!

around us
go astray

going astray, and not recognizing Hashem, our G-d as G-d. Now I see that the first two commandments are not redundant; they may be similar but they actually tell us different things. The first is telling us who Hashem is. The second is telling us to not let ourselves give in to the confusion of false gods. May we use this understanding to serve Hashem, and to better ourselves – and what we allow ourselves to be distracted by – with it.

Shabbat Shalom!

MAZEL TOV!



**to LA
Jewnior
NCSY coordinator
Avigayil (Ben-Moshe)
GABAIE upon her recent
marriage!**

continued from page 1

What's big, grey and doesn't matter?

An irrelephant!

OUCH! GRRROAAAN!

Have a better joke and want a shoutout in Nageela Shabbos? Just email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org



WE'RE OFF TO A GREAT START FOR SUMMER 2021 IN JEWTAH

Our girls' session has successfully completed and we're now enjoying our first shabbos of our boy's session, with a record high number of campers!



DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST

2022...

Find out about our summer 2021 and see photos from 2020 at nageelawest.org

**4
THE
CHILDREN**

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

THANKS TO NEARLY 300 DONORS, WE RAISED OVER \$66,000
DURING LAST WEEK'S CAMPAIGN!

MUCH OF THIS HAS ALREADY GONE DIRECTLY TO SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THIS SUMMER!

TO BE A PARTNER, PLEASE CONTACT [DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

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.

Note: We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way.

Stump the Rabbi

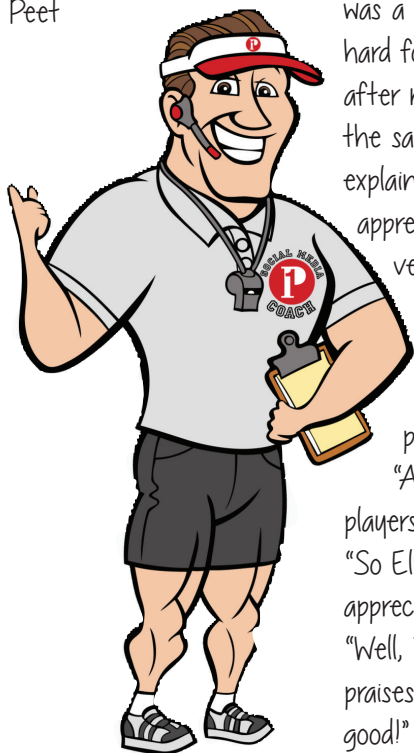


#176 Wash, Rinse, Repeat

Hi Rabbi,

I went to prayers today and I actually paid attention to the words. Whoa! IKR! In the prayers, I asked God for a lot of stuff. Then I realized that last week when I prayed, I asked God for the same stuff. Does God have such a bad memory? Why would I need to constantly ask for the same things? If anything, it seems disrespectful! Please help me understand.

Thanks,
Ramon E. Peet



Dear R. E. Peet,

What a thoughtful, intelligent question! It's awesome that you're thinking about the things you're saying in your prayers. I've had the same question. When my kids ask me for something, and then five minutes later they ask me for the same thing over again. And then 4 minutes later, and again, and again, and rinse and repeat... "Don't you think I heard you the first 94 times?"

This reminds me of the story of a high school football player named Ellis. Ellis was a good player, and he worked really hard for the team. Suddenly though, after more than 2 years playing for the same coach, Ellis simply quit. He explained to his parents, "Coach doesn't appreciate me, and doesn't think I'm very good." So of course, they went and had a meeting with the coach.

"Do you think Ellis is a good player?"
"Absolutely! One of my very best players!"

"So Ellis, why do you think coach doesn't appreciate you?"

"Well, Dad, it's because coach NEVER praises me. He never says he thinks I'm good!"

"Coach, is that true?"

"Well, the first day Ellis made the team almost three years ago, I told him he's a good player. Nothing has changed since then!!!"

The coach may have thought Ellis was a good player, but part of a relationship (in this case, a player-coach relationship) is communicating that regularly. The coach failed at reminding himself and Ellis regularly how much he valued his player.

When we pray to God, we're not just asking for stuff. If we were just asking for stuff, then it would make sense to ask only once. According to the great Jewish philosophers, one of the main reasons for prayer is to remind OURSELVES of how much we need and depend on God. Asking for things 3 times a day, every day for years and year isn't to remind God how much we need stuff, but to remind ourselves how much we need God. So next time you pray, think about all the things you're asking for. Identify in yourself the idea that without God, we can't achieve any of these things. Then when you understand that, rinse and repeat.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

DID JEW KNOW?

The "ten commandments" are listed twice in the Torah, once in Parshas Yisro and once in Parshas Vaeschanan (this week).

There are several differences, but Jewish tradition tells us the God said BOTH versions at the same time!
Talk about double speak!



SIX OUT OF FIVE PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND FRACTIONS

JOIN NAGEELA AND JEWNIOR NCSY

For the 2021- 2022 school year, we will have consistent, awesome Jewish youth programs in:

San Diego
LA- Valley
LA- City
Las Vegas
Park City
Oakland
Seattle
Portland
Irvine
Phoenix

If you're between 5th and 8th grade, contact locekrd@ncsy.org for more info!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

LOCAL EVENTS RESUME IN MID- LATE AUGUST. WATCH YOUR WHAT'S APP AND EMAIL FOR DETAILS.

Best wishes to our friends and family members celebrating this week...

Eve Moga	Gavin Gould	Chase Mennear
Miracle Moga	Adam Borsody	Eitan Lugasi
Avi Gewirtz	Chaya Leos	Orel Kohen
Netanel Gazala	Menacham Sosonov	Jonathan Kessler
PJX Sklar	Maya Elezra	Maeven Fanebust
Aaron Polonsky	Liddor Bega	Shifra Kamin
Rosie Polonsky	Gabriel Lewis	Avi Maryles
Caleb Gould	Jake Michael	Gabriella Zargari

Want to stay in the loop? Text the word **NAGEELAWEST** to **22828**



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Nageela West Coast

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.