

have a Nageela Shabbos

A KID FRIENDLY WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF NAGEELA WEST COAST JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

SEASON 4
EPISODE 24

THE HARDEST DAY OF CAMP

BY RABBI DANI LOCKER



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It can be stressful to run a summer camp.

Let's set aside for the moment any discussions of pandemics or social distancing. During a typical summer, each day is packed with worries and concerns. Campers are playing ball. Will someone get injured? Jessie has a slight fever this morning, is a doctor visit required? The Art counselor might not have enough glue. Will the schedules be printed on time? Two bunks are on a boating trip. I hope they'll follow instructions and stay safe! As a camp director, each day has a certain anxiety, but trusting in God and utilizing careful planning takes care of them. What is my most stressful day of camp each year?

It's probably the first day. Not because of any safety concerns or programmatic challenges. It's giving out the bunks. I spend days figuring out the bunks and rooming. Which counselors should I put with which children? These two boys don't get along, but they're the same age. What can I do? Sam really wants to be in the same bunk as Matt, but they're 2 grades apart... After 25 years in the business I'm fairly confident that I'll make pretty good decisions on bunks and staff. But no matter what I do, there will be a bloodthirsty, angry mob of "I wanted to be in that bunk!" "I wanna switch!" "Would you please consider putting me with my brother?" and "This is dumb, I wanna go home." This is probably the most aggravating part of the job, but thankfully I've found a pretty good way to deal with it.

My answer is always the same. "Thank you for telling me about your request. We are not making switches today or tomorrow. If after two days, you still feel you need to switch, then I guarantee I'll

consider

your request very seriously." Guess what happens then. Most of the time the problem is forgotten as the complainer develops a warm relationship with his or her bunk. On a few occasions, there was still something wrong, and changes had to be made. Now I've given away my secret. I hope no campers will use it against me!



People don't like being put into a box that they didn't choose, even if the one who chooses it knows better than they do.

In our Torah portion, God assigns flags and positions to all of the Jewish tribes traveling through the desert. Tribe of Judah, you go here. Dan, you're in the back. Naftali, set up your tents on this side. Moses is worried, perhaps even stressed. He

expressed his worry to God that the people won't want to listen to him. They will each have reasons why they want their tribe to be somewhere else. We can assume that these would not be pre-K complaints, but intelligent, logical claims.

That still sounds silly. Would any Jew in the desert actually think that when God made their 'bunks' that He didn't do a good job? Could any imagine that their ideas would be smarter than God's own plan, as explained by

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Carrot Top

Hi Rabbi,

Who were the carrots? What did they have to do with Jewish history and the Torah?

Thanks,

Orel Lawson



**stump 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.*

Dear Orel,

I asked Alexa. The Carrots are an Indie Pop group based in Austin, Texas. I hope that has answered your first question. As for what they have to do with Judaism, a Google search for “Jewish carrots” brought back almost 3 million results, apparently all recipes for the traditional Jewish dish called ‘tzimmes.’ If you haven’t tried tzimmes yet, you’ll probably like it.

Wait... oh, did you mean Karraites? Let me start from the beginning.

When Moses hopped on down from Mount Sinai he did not simply carry with him ten commandments. If you’ve at least been to Hebrew School, you probably know that the written Torah consists of 613 instructions that God gave us to keep. The “ten commandments” are more of a mission statement, or elevator speech for the whole Torah. Perhaps next week we’ll print something about them, in honor of Shavuot. So, anyway, Moses comes down from Sinai and tells us the words of the Torah, and we’re like, “Huh? That’s so vague and unclear! It says to keep Shabbos, but not how too! I see something about tefillin. What do they look like? What color or shape are they? Am I supposed to wrap an octopus around my arm? Maybe spaghetti? Do I still wrap the spaghetti on Passover? Can you explain it to us more?”

Basically, my point is that the Torah does

not give enough information.

Not even close to enough information on many important topics. So Moses, having learned

everything a human possibly could learn from God, explained it to us verbally. These explanations are called the Oral Torah and are recorded in the Talmud (for more on this, including why God didn’t include the Oral Torah in the written Torah, read the final episode of season 2, available at nageelawest.org).



Since they don't
follow a consistent
oral tradition,
their rules vary
drastically.

A number of groups of Jews, over the generations, have decided to accept the words of the written Torah but not listen to the Oral Torah (which is illogical). Examples of these practices is that they don’t blow shofar on Rosh Hashana or accept that it is the Jewish new year, they don’t wear tzitzis, but place them upon their wall (the Torah says “You shall see them”), and they count Sefiras

Haomer always beginning from a Sunday, and not necessarily from the second day of Passover (the Torah’s words are ‘the day after the Sabbath’ which the Oral Torah interprets to mean the day after the holy day, and they translate literally). Of course, since they don’t follow a consistent Oral tradition, their rules vary drastically over the generations (which in and of itself shows the inconsistency of this attitude) and different groups. The earliest of these groups were called the Tzedokim (Saducees), and the Karraites are of a more recent (probably 8th century) origin. There

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are around 50,000 Karraites in the world today, and they have their own version of our prayers, holidays, and even Karaite prayer iphone apps.

I do not know if these groups eat tzimmes, or whether they listen to Texas pop music, but we hope and pray that they, along with all Jews will come to realize the beauty and truth of both the Written and Oral Torah.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

the Rabbi.



Photo of the Week

VIRUS CAN'T KEEP US DOWN

So we can't meet in person. So what? Our Junior board members enjoyed Slurpees delivered to their homes as we had our regular meeting!

DID JEW KNOW?

Originally, the first born child of every family was going to be in charge of the Temple service. After the golden calf, they lost this privilege, and the tribe of Levi was chosen to be in charge of religious services.

DEEP THOUGHTS

WHY DO NOSES RUN
AND FEET SMELL?



The holiday of Shavuos has 5 names:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Shavuos (Festival of weeks) | (Festival of the first fruit) |
| 2. Zman Matan Torasseinu (Time of the giving of the Torah) | 4. Chag Hakatzir (The harvest festival) |
| 3. Chag Habikurim | 5. Atzeres (Gathering) |



JUNIOR NCSY PRESENTS
TUESDAY, MAY 26TH, 4:30PM

READY PLAYER ONE

VIRTUAL SCAVENGER HUNT

Jew Junior NCSY

5-8 GRADE.
BRING AN ADDITIONAL PHONE OR IPAD

ZOOM MEETING ID: 317-427-7225
PASSWORD: NAGEELA

VIRTUAL NCSY
A PART BUT ALWAYS TOGETHER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to family members who have celebrated recently:

Rivky Wyne
Ari Polonsky
Andrew Adler
Jason Gloth
Ilan Cohen

Oren Stern
Yehonatan Eitan
Salomon Tibi
Ben Bialek
Eliaana Shlasinger

Moses, the greatest leader and prophet of all time? But people don't like being put in a box, and push back all the time. Understanding this can help us be more sensitive to people who don't follow instructions so well. As friends, children or parents, it's worth it for us to understand how hard it is to just

listen to someone else's instructions, no matter how smart they are.

It is also helpful for us to realize, when we ourselves push back against authority, that we might not actually be presenting good arguments. We might just be pushing against someone else telling us what to do.

Important COVID-19

information:

Please see the website at nageelwest.org for up-to-date information on our response to the pandemic, and CDC, ACA guidelines for running camp

Bamidbar

Want to sponsor Andrew's comic? Contact us!

By: Andrew Galitzer



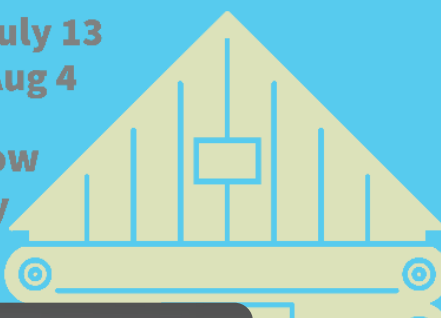
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camp nageela west BIG BEAR 2020

Girls session: June 23-July 13

Boys Session: July 15- Aug 4

Registration is open now
nageelawest.org/apply



Why do bees have sticky
hair?

It must be their
honeycombs.

OUCH! GROAN!
got a better joke?
Email it to dlodger@nageelawest.org

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DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST
GIRLS SESSION

|

DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST
BOYS SESSION

Find out about our Grand Tour 2020 and see photos from GT2019 at
nageelawest.org



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

after-school 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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