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**SEASON 2
EPISODE 34**

May 26th, 2018

Candle Lighting:

Phoenix 7:10
San Diego 7:29
Las Vegas 7:30
Los Angeles 7:37
Lake Tahoe 7:57

have a

Nageela Shabbos

Parshas
Nasso

5778

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

ONE UP Syndrome

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Hang around any family long enough and you'll eventually hear a conversation that goes something like this:

“When I grow up, I'm going to be 10 feet tall.”

“I'm gonna be be 20 feet.”

“Oh yeah? Well, I'm gonna be 20 hundred feet. And an inch.”

“That's no big deal. I'm going to grow to be as tall as the moon!”

“I'm gonna be infinity feet!”

“I'm gonna be infinity plus one!”



At least in most families that's how it goes. In my family, they don't really talk about height. Sore topic. People are extremely competitive, and always want to ONE UP each other. Sometimes this can be very helpful. A little competition can push us to greater heights (like being infinity feet tall). It helps us study harder, run faster and push ourselves to be better. Sometimes, though, our competitive spirit makes it challenging to remember our purposes.

Here's what happened:
Our great- great- great-

great- great (you get the idea) grandparents were traveling through the desert (not through the dessert... that was last week's joke), and built the Mishkan, a temporary (not templerary... that was two weeks ago's joke) house of worship. During the celebration, when the mishkan was completed, the leaders of all twelve tribes brought gifts to be used in the Temple service. They brought wagons, utensils and animals to be used, yet there is something strange about their gifts. They all brought the exact. same. Thing. Can you imagine going to a birthday party and every guest brings the same pack of Pokemon cards? Awkward. Well, not only did they all bring the same gift,

continued on back

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Stump The Rabbi

Holey Problems

Dear Rabbi,

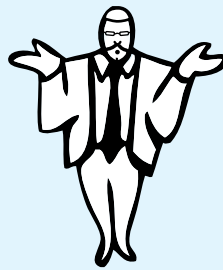
This question is a little embarrassing. Is it OK for me to get my nose pierced? I made a deal with my parents. I really wanted a nose ring, and they said if I got straight A's this semester I could get one. Actually, I already got it, and I was just wondering if that's against Jewish tradition or anything. Thanks. I can't wait to hear what you think.

Thanks,

Ruby Pierce,

Dear Ruby,

Awesome job on getting straight A's! We've spoken about school before and I know you worked really hard to pick up your grades. We're proud of you, and hope you keep up the good work. Body piercing is not something new. In fact, it's something that's been discussed in Judaism for a really long time. At first glance, it would seem that any piercing would be forbidden by the Torah, because we are supposed to take care of our bodies and not injure ourselves (so that plan you had to intentionally sprain your wrist and avoid homework... not gonna happen). But not to worry, as most authorities agree that if it's for a constructive purpose, like to improve your health or appearance, it's gonna be OK. Here's a good example.



I had people with saws chopping up parts of my house this week. Ripping out floors, cutting out sections of wall, smashing chandeliers (I'm kidding about the chandeliers). Why? We had some water damage from a leaking water heater. In order to fix the damage, we first had to rip out the bad parts. This kind of damage is not considered damage at all, it's constructive! It's really the same when it comes to piercing. Even very common piercing like earrings are making holes in your body, which would be a problem, but because they're meant to increase beauty, they're considered to be constructive.

Is there a difference between earrings and other types of piercings? The first thing to determine is the type and location. There are types of piercings that are pretty normal, and some that are unusual, or extreme. Those types of piercings don't fall under the category of constructive because they're strange or abnormal. It's hard to give a clear answer about these, because styles do change. A good rule of thumb is if a piercing would not be acceptable at a place of business, it's probably not "standard." Also, if it's the kind of thing that can't be removed, or that permanently deforms your body, like a gauge, that probably would not fall under the category of constructive. The second important question is why you're doing it. Some people might choose to get a piercing as a symbol of rebellion, or to emulate a celebrity. These aren't great reasons, and should probably be avoided. Sometimes people feel a need to make drastic changes to their appearance to attract



attention, because they don't feel good or positive about themselves. If this is the case, they're better off seeing someone and talking about their feelings, than changing their body.

This reminds me of a boy who came to camp one summer with a new earring. He was the only boy that year who had one, and he was extremely sensitive and self conscious about his stud. Once I walked in to his bunk ten minutes after the start of an activity and

found him in bed. "Jack," I asked. "Aren't you supposed to be on the baseball field now?"

"WHAT DID YOU SAY ABOUT MY EARRING?" was his defensive response.

As always, aside from consulting with a Rabbi, make sure to get advice, and, of course, permission from parents before doing anything that will affect your body. In your case, I know you've already discussed it with your parents. And as for reasons, I can't think of too many better reasons than getting good grades.

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



TEMPLE DONATIONS

continued from front

but the Torah lists the entire thing, word for word, twelve times. That's the reason this is the longest parsha in the Torah.

But why? Why did they bring the same thing, and why does the Torah spend so much time and effort showing us that they brought the same thing? To be fair, there are a bunch of answers to this question. The 14th century French scholar Ralbag gives the following beautiful explanation.

It would have been natural for any of these leaders to have looked at the other 11 gifts and thought, "y'know, I'll just add a little itty bit. One more cow, or a taller wagon. I'll just ONE UP the other guy a bit." They brought the exact same gift because there was zero ego involved in their decision. Their only thought was, "Which gift is right for the Mishkan's needs?"

It is inspiring for us to see what living without ego or competition can look like.

“I need a better phone than she has.”

“He can't score more goals than I can.”

“I need to get a better test score than my sibling.”

Although these can be used to motivate us to get better, we should

try our best to be the greatest we can be because it's what's right for us. Not because we win some imaginary points contest.

Except for my pickles. They're just better than yours.



DID JEW KNOW?

Although many of us had coffee last week to help stay up studying Shavuot night, coffee has been a popular Jewish drink for centuries.

The first coffee house in Europe was opened in 1632 in Livorno, Italy, by a Jewish merchant. England's first coffee house was the Angel Inn in Oxford, opened in 1650 by an immigrant from Lebanon who was known as "Jacob the Jew"



G.O.A.T.

Greatest Of All Time

Quote

"Charity and acts of kindness are the equivalent of all the Mitzvot of the Torah."
- Talmud Yerushalmi, Pe'ah 1:1

YouTube

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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!

Ilan Cohen
Salomon Tibi
Tal Facher
Elana Shlasinger
Tiffani Minkowsky
Yoni Ghalili

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.

