

have a

Nageela Shabbos

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Lend a Hand. But Not Literally a Hand.

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Lending money is considered one of the highest forms of charity.

Really?

Are you sure?

Yeah, I am pretty sure.

Oh man, I'm talking to myself in public again.

Don't worry, I'll put a bluetooth in my ear and people will just think I'm on the phone.

...where was I? Oh yeah... you might think the straight up giving money would be the best form of charity, because you're not asking for anything back. The truth is that a person's feelings are an important part of the charity. When you give a donation and don't ask for it back, it's helpful, but it's also embarrassing for the person who receives it. When you lend money, it feels much more like a business deal and the person can use the money to get back on their feet and then repay the loan (assuming you don't charge interest. We usually aren't interested in interest).

The Torah discusses money lending, and one of the

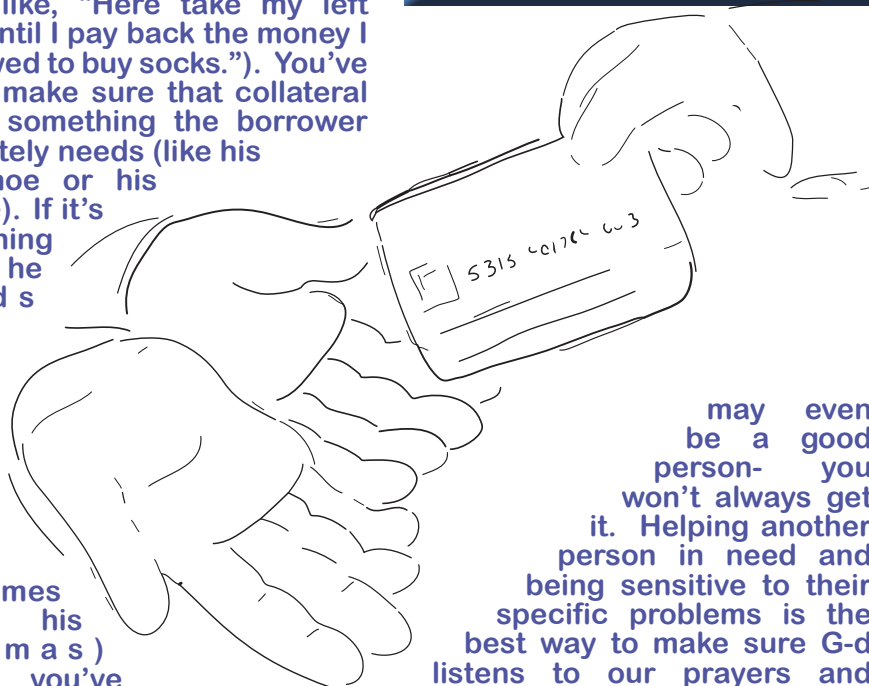
instructions is about collateral (that's something a borrower gives to guarantee he'll pay back- like, "Here take my left shoe until I pay back the money I borrowed to buy socks."). You've got to make sure that collateral is not something the borrower absolutely needs (like his left shoe or his iPhone). If it's something that he needs

sometimes (like his pajamas) then you've got to give it back to him when he needs it (before bedtime). The Torah says that if the borrower calls out to G-d, G-d will listen for He is merciful. According to *some explanations, this means that the borrower will ask G-d to help out the lender with his needs.

This is the way G-d works. You may need something, and you

candle lighting:

Las Vegas 5:13
Los Angeles 5:27
San Diego 5:24
Phoenix 6:03



may even be a good person- you won't always get it. Helping another person in need and being sensitive to their specific problems is the best way to make sure G-d listens to our prayers and helps us. As the saying goes, "G-d helps those who help His children."

Take the time to examine the good deeds and kindness we do. Is there a way to make them a little more caring and sensitive? Can we give without embarrassing? Be creative, be sensitive and have-a- Nageela Shabbat!

*see Da'as Zekeinim



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STUMP THE RABBI



Dear Rabbi,

Why are there sooooo many books? Jewish books, I mean. I've been to your house and you've got like a bazzillion books in Hebrew, in funny little letters. I don't even know what they're about! Do you know what they're about? How could there possibly be so many things to write about?

Thanks,

Elijah Tirate

Dear Elitirate,

Have you ever been in a library? I don't mean the public library down the block where you can pick up "Diary of a Pathetic kid," although those are big. I mean a research library like the Library of Congress or even a college library. The largest library in the world, the British Library has over 160 million items! Many college libraries have well over 10 million. What are all the books about? Just think about one tiny subject. Say, baseball. How many books do you think have been written about stories, strategies, rules, legends, stadiums and personalities within baseball? I'm not sure, but an Amazon.com search of 'baseball' in the book section turned up 256,176 results. Expand that and think about all sports. Now add math and science, throw in US law and then the laws of every country. After that, of course are the books on history, geography, philosophy, engineering, you get the picture! That's how you get millions of books.

The Torah is our guide to life. True, the actual book isn't much longer than a typical novel. Yet the wisdom it contains when studied and decoded properly guides us in everything from marriage to cooking to wars and farming. The Torah literally discusses every aspect of life. So of course there are many thousands of books. Here's my own little (overly simplified) version of how to categorize everything:

- Written Torah and history (includes the 24 books of Tanach, the Midrash and assorted history books).
- Talmud (including Mishna, Gemara and tons of commentaries on those) which helps us squeeze libraries of information out of the written Torah.
- Jewish law (includes Rambam, Shulchan Aruch and thousands of Rabbinic letters, and

DID JEW KNOW?

The Torah contains 613 mitzvot. 248 instructions and 365 warnings.
This week's portion alone contains over 50 of those!

Know a cool Jewish factoid?

email it to
dlocker@nageelawest.org

VERY PUNNY

**WHAT TYPE OF
RELIGION WORSHIPS
THE PARROT ON
THE SHOULDER OF A
PIRATE?**

POLYTHEISM

**HAVE REALLY CORNY PUN?
EMAIL IT TO
DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG**

covers topics like Jewish holidays, marriage, financial law, kosher law and more) explain how to practically keep the rules of the Torah.

- Philosophy and ethics (includes books on self improvement, mussar and the thirteen principles of faith) show us how to apply Torah concepts into our lives.

Like in most reference libraries, most people can not study every single book. Yet there are some uniquely learned people in each generation who are considered experts on the books of the Torah and know them really well. These are the "super Rabbis" who Rabbis call when they have questions.

Well, what are you waiting for? There are millions of books out there. Pick one up and get started!

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

nageela week snapshot (Feb 26-March 4)

SUN	MON	THU	FRI
NAGEELA HEBREW SCHOOL - LAS VEGAS - 10AM JIL BEVERLY HILLS - 10AM	SUMMERLIN NAGEELATTE 6:45PM	NAGEELATTE GREEN VALLEY 5:30	NAGEELUNCH @ ADELSON 12:30

Nageela West provides social and educational programs for Jewish children across the west coast.
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