

nageela

Shabbos

SEASON 7, EPISODE 11

Registration is
open for Camp
Nageela West
2023
nageelawest.org/summer

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH

Jacob thought inside the box. Literally.

Let me unpack this for you. Our parsha begins as Jacob has just left his father-in-law, La-

van, and is traveling toward his parents' summer cabin in Hawaii. Or it may have been Israel. I may be fuzzy on some of the details. Anyway, as he's traveling, he checks his Snap Map and sees that his hairy big brother is nearby. At this point, Jacob is pretty frightened, because, as we said, his big hairy brother is coming. Eventually, with a large donation to Esav's favorite charity (which happened to be his own wallet) Jacob manages to calm Esav down and they leave each other in peace.

At one point during this episode, the Torah mentions Jacob, his wives and his ELEVEN children. The problem is that at that point he had

twelve children. Though Benjamin had not yet been born, Dinah, the youngest,

Inside the Box

by Rabbi Dani Locker

was child number twelve. Where was she? In the box.

Hopefully it was a large comfy box. If Dinah was lucky, it might have had LED lights and bluetooth speakers. But either way, she was hidden in a box. Jacob knew his brother well. Jacob was seriously concerned that Esav would see Dinah and decide he wanted to marry her. Hiding her from Esav's greedy, beady, needy eyes was the best way to ensure Dinah's safety. Was it the right decision? It seems that Jacob did something wrong, because we are told that one of the reasons Dinah was abducted by Shechem was as a punishment for hiding her from Esav. He is considered to have "withheld kindness from his brother." Since Jacob refused to allow her to connect with Esav, she was forced to be connected to Shechem, who was worse.

But Dinah wasn't the only person to be hidden from Esav. When Jacob introduces his family to his long estranged brother ("Hi Uncle Esav. Nice to meet you. You owe me 9 years of Chanukah presents."), he introduces each wife and then their children. With the exception of Rachel. Joseph, who was only 6 at the

Would you consider sponsoring an episode?
I'd tell you about all the blessings & rewards you'll get,
but then you might lose out on some of the merit!



time, approaches ahead of his mother. Either he was running to get his uncle's supply of jawbreakers (get it?) or he had some other reason. OK. Yes, he had another reason. Joseph was also afraid that Esav would want to steal and marry Rachel, so he attempted to hide her. I'm not sure if he was really tall for a 6 year old, if Rachel was really short or if there was some miraculous intervention. Either way, Joseph is praised for protecting his mother. What's the difference?

Jacob boxes his daughter, and he is blamed. Joseph blockses his mother (calm down, I know it's not a word) and is praised. What is the difference between the two? Why is one good and one wrong? There's actually no difference in the actions of Joseph and Jacob. Both acted to protect people they loved from a big hairy meanie. There was just a difference in their intent. When protected his mother, he had ly no thoughts of trying to hurt

Our actions matter, and our intentions also matter.

tiny Joseph absolute-

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP
by Dani Locker, 2022



Esav. Esav was not a factor in his mind at all. It was a math equation: Mother + Possible pain = Protect mother. Jacob's intention was similarly to protect his daughter. He had no interest in hurting Esavm, not really. But they had a history, and on some small subconscious level, Jacob's action was intentionally withholding kindness from his brother. Our actions matter, and our intentions also matter. Even if we're making the right choices, part of our duty is to make sure we're making those choices for all the right reasons.

See all 170 Selfie Torah videos on YouTube!
Visit youtube.com/@rabbiLocker

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

198

DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2023

215

DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2023

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

(Most) questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

Note & Disclaimer: 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. The answers here should not be taken as halachic decisions. You should always ask a competent Rabbi personally.

Hi Rabbi,

#223

OFF THE WALL

Is it considered idol worship to pray to the Kotel? Lots of people do it, why is that OK? While we're at it, if God is everywhere, what's the point of going to a particular place to pray?

Wally P. Ray

Dear Wally,

These are great questions, which will lead us to speak about a great misunderstanding people have about praying at holy sites. We certainly believe in the value of praying at special spots. Next week we'll cover why that's a good thing. For today, let's focus on the idolatry angle.

To make a long story short, you should not pray to the Kotel.

You should pray near the Kotel.

Now I'll explain. I once gave a presentation introducing Judaism at a school where almost none of the students were Jewish.

When my speech was done, we asked the kids if they had any questions (they had a lot!).

One boy raised his hand and asked, "What do you pray to?"

"We pray to God," I answered.

"Yes, but what do you pray TO?"

"Umm, we pray TO God."

He continued. "But you can't see God, so **WHAT THING** that you can see do you pray to?"

I'm not sure what religion this boy belonged to, but in his mind, prayer needed to be directed to a thing, a statue or picture, or pick-

le jar. He simply couldn't process that we can direct our minds and pray to God without needing an object. "But Rabbi!" you might object. "In the synagogue we pray to the ark, and in Jerusalem we pray to the Kotel." Nope. We don't.

Judaism does not **EVER** believe in praying to any person, object, wall or holy item. It's too easy for that to turn into confusion about who

we're really praying to. In fact, the first versions of idol worship got their start because people were trying to pray toward an item representing God, like the sun or beautiful trees. They used these 'focus points' to help them focus on God, who they couldn't see or feel. But eventually, the God part was forgotten, and all that was left was praying to the tree (and hanging flashing lights on it, I suppose). We want to avoid that. Instead, we pray to God without anyone in between us. We don't pray to a Rabbi, or a very holy dead ancestor. None of those things. As I said,



LOLZ

**A CENTURY AGO,
TWO BROTHERS CLAIMED IT WAS
POSSIBLE TO FLY.**

THEY WERE WRIGHT.

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO [DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

SEVERAL TIMES IN THE TORAH, PEOPLE MIRACULOUSLY RECEIVED EXTRA SPEED WHILE TRAVELING. USUALLY IT WAS TO REACH THEIR DESTINATION QUICKER. GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF A TIME WHEN THIS SPEEDY TRAVEL WAS GRANTED TO GET SOMEONE AWAY FROM SOMEWHERE (OR SOMEONE).

NO CHEATING
ANSWER ON PAGE 4

DEEP THOUGHTS

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO STAND BACKWARDS ON STAIRS

next week we'll discuss why it's good to pray at a holy site, like the Kotel or the grave of a tzadik.

Now you asked if it's idol worship to pray to the Kotel. Not really. It is inappropriate to pray to the Kotel, instead we pray to God, at the Kotel. However just because something is inappropriate doesn't make it idol worship. In order for something to become actual idol worship, one of two conditions must be met. Either you have to believe that that object or person is a godly power, or other people have to believe that and you follow their worship practices. I don't believe that too many people attribute actual divine power to the Kotel. Most people understand that they're praying to God. Therefore, though it's not appropriate to pray to the Kotel, it wouldn't actually be idol worship unless you think that wall is a god. If you think that, you're off the wall. Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

NAGEELA SISTERS

STAINED GLASS & Sushi

WEDNESDAY
DEC 14
PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE
6 - 7:30 PM

GIRLS GRADES
4-8

Join us for
fun, food, and learning!

@ THE KOLLEL
1755 VILLAGE CENTER
CIRCLE

SCAN TO RSVP:



OR VISIT:

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/NAGEELASISTERSLV](https://tinyurl.com/nageelasisterslv)



Jew *nior* NCSU

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 3

AFTER JACOB AND ESAV HAD THEIR INTENSE MEETING WHICH CAME TO A PEACEFUL CONCLUSION, THE TORAH SAYS THAT ESAV RETURNED 'ON THAT DAY' TO HIS HOME IN SEIR. THE MIDRASH SAYS THAT HE MIRACULOUSLY REACHED HIS DISTANT LAND QUICKLY SO JACOB WOULD BE RID OF HIS NEGATIVE INFLUENCE.

HBD

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

ELI BANNER
LEVI GUTTMAN
SEAN PERRY
JOSHUA RAFAEL
ETAI BITTON
CAL CASSIE
ARYEH KACHANI
BENNY NITEVICH

READ OVER 250 EPISODES IN OUR ARCHIVES, SUBSCRIBE AND MORE BY SCANNING THE CODE BELOW



Park City JSU/ NCSY



pre hannukah party & cooking competition

Latke and Donuts Cooking Competition. Dinner. World Series of Dreidel. Chanukah Cover Songs. Middle School & High School Students

\$18 suggested donation

please RSVP to rabbi dani locker at lockerd@ncsy.org or 917-613-1037

Tuesday
Dec. 13th
5:00-8:00p



www.nageelawest.org



801-613-1539