

HAVE A NAGEELA SHABBOS

KID FRIENDLY TORAH MAGAZINE
A PROJECT OF NAGEELA WEST COAST,
JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

.....
SEASON 9, EPISODE 13
.....

PARSHAS BO 5785

Torat Scene-A-Eye

*This features an AI generated picture that has numerous hints to the weekly parsha or relevant holiday.
How many hints can you find?
This week's is about Parshas Bo*



Disclaimer: These AI generated images are NOT meant to portray actual people or events from the Torah. They are simply hints to get you thinking.

News

.....
What's up everyone?

It's February (well, basically) and you know what that means... time to sign up for Camp Nageela West! We can't wait for this amazing summer! If you live in the Reno or Lake Tahoe area, please join us THIS SUNDAY for a summer info session at Temple Sinai.

If you live in Utah, please join us this Wednesday for an NCSY bowling event! Also stay tuned for Utah NCSY joining with Arizona and Las Vegas NCSY for a Mystery Shabbaton!

We had a great time in the LA area this past week, playing pictionary, eating great food and giving out bagels with the Valley View Middle School Jewish club- to the entire school!



*You can sponsor a week of Nageela Shabbos in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one.
Help us reach more Jewish kids with interesting Torah content!*



Deep Thoughts

.....
Potato mashers are useful, because sometimes it's fun not to be able to open the drawer.



JOIN US!

.....
*We have programs for Middle School kids from all over the West Coast.
Please contact us for details!*



camp Nageela West is gonna make some

illi-NOISE

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2025!

FIRST TIME CAMPER'S CAN GET THREE WEEKS OF CAMP FOR JUST \$2,999!

DVAR TORAH

TO ASK OR NOT TO ASK

.....

The Four Questions.

One of the most wonderful and beautiful traditions in Jewish life, kids love asking the four questions at the Passover Seder, and adults love to hear them (the first hundred times or so). But are they a good thing?

In the midst of the chaos of the plagues unleashed upon Egypt and the Jewish people preparing to exit stage left, God predicted that future generations would ask their parents, "What is this?" The Midrash is divided as to whether this is a fortuitous portent or an inauspicious omen; good news or bad news. On one hand, knowing there will be a future generation to ask seems like a really positive piece of future knowledge. On the other, their asking indicates a gap in Torah knowledge, a period where Torah is perhaps somewhat forgotten. That's what the Midrash Mechilta says, and I'm having a hard time understanding it.

We know that asking questions is positive. All of Jewish learning is balanced on top of the belief in the question and answer system of logical exploration. You've got to ask to understand. I don't think the Mechilta disagrees with that. It does not seem to challenge the inherent goodness of the question. Yet the very NEED to ask makes it clear that something was forgotten. Why? Isn't it normal for kids to lack understanding and to ask their parents? Why does the idea that children need to ask their parents mean there's any gap in understanding? Maybe kids are curious and they need to learn by asking. What negativity can be seen here?

Kids see a lot of things at home, and it's interesting to see which they question and which they absorb without thinking. Most teenagers are like, "I think for myself and I don't do anything my parents tell me unless I understand the reason!" while beating their chests. Sometimes that's true, but it's a really limited view. Many psychological studies show how influenced our actions and thoughts are by our upbringing, even without us even



ANSWER ON PAGE 3

Question of the Week

.....
Aside from the plague of darkness, when else was there darkness in this week's Parsha?



LOLZ

.....
The bear couldn't understand why his hair was always sticky. Then he realized he was using a honeycomb.



Nageela Fun Fact

.....
For a long time, Camp Nageela West was the only Jewish camp in Utah.



144

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION



169

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

DVAR TORAH

CONTINUED

.....

knowing it. I know this because my parents told me. As much as we think we have developed our own way of thinking and acting, it's amazing how much we just absorb as a child.



Of course asking questions is a positive. Yet a parent's core self is rarely challenged by their children. Those things are unconsciously transferred. The fact that children are asking, "What is this?" Indicates that something must be missing in how connected their parents are to the reality of the Passover story. If we want our children to maintain a clear, loving, meaningful connection to Judaism, the first step is to strengthen it within ourselves, and then the questions shift from things like, "What on Earth is this?" to "What are the details I need to know?" or "How many pickles should I be eating right now?"



QUESTION ON PAGE 2

Answer of the Week

.....
During the plague of locust, the Torah mentions that there were so many creatures the sky turned dark.



Didactic Doc

.....

Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon is one of the most important figures in Jewish history.

He's also known as Rambam or Maimonides, and is known to the world as the doctor of Saladin, Sultan of Egypt.

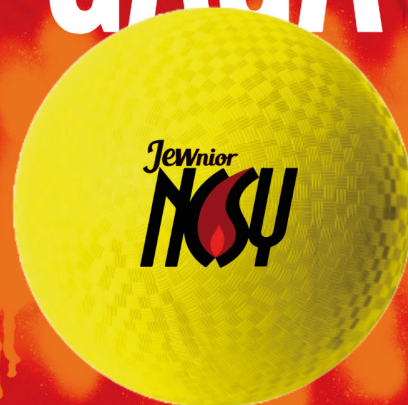
He was born in Spain in 1138, but lived in Egypt.

His writings have completely revolutionized the way Jews follow Jewish law, how we look at the commandments and philosophy.

.....
During his life, there were many Rabbis who disagreed with his approach but he has widely been accepted as one of the greatest Jewish teachers of all time.

He's buried in the city of Tiberias, in Israel.

GAGA



FREEZE

MONDAY, FEB 3, @ZIA
5-6PM FOR GRADES 4-6
6:15-7:30 FOR GRADES 7-8

PARSHAL PARSHA

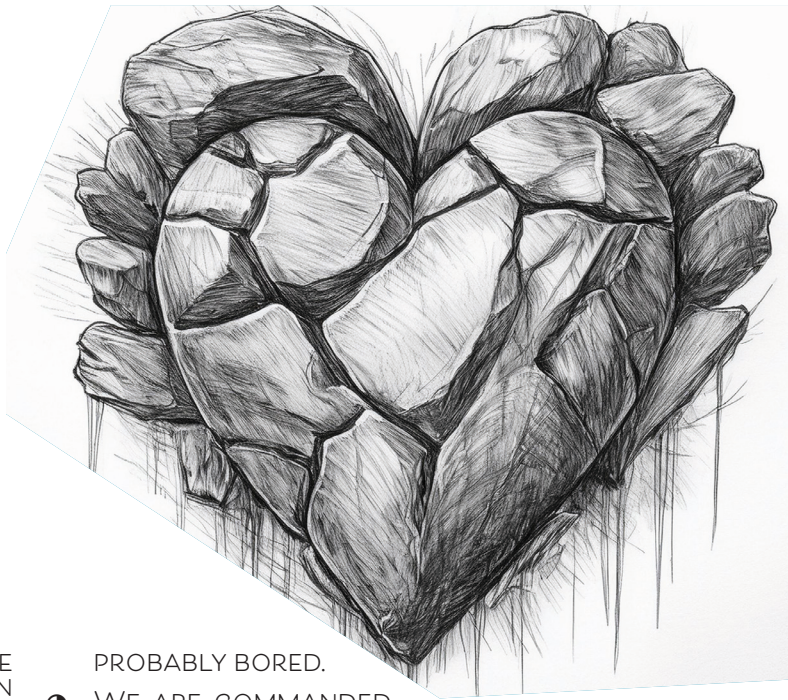
a brief summary of the weekly
Torah porshon

PARSHAS BO- The Captain has Illuminated the Fasten your Seatbelt Sign

- 1 GOD INSTRUCTS MOSES TO STAND BEFORE PHARAOH, SO THAT THE REMAINING PLAGUES CAN BE PERFORMED.
- 1 MOSES WARNS PHARAOH THAT HE WOULD GET A SWARM OF LOCUST, AT NO COST.
- 1 PHARAOH AGREES TO ALLOW ONLY THE MEN TO LEAVE, LEAVING THE CHILDREN BEHIND. THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF BABYSITTERS, SO MOSES DECLINES THE OFFER. THE LOCUST COMPLETELY DEVOURS ALL THE PRODUCE LEFT IN EGYPT, LIKE A HUNGRY TEENAGER AT A BUFFET.
- 1 PHARAOH STARTS A ROCK BAND. OR HIS HEART TURNS INTO A ROCK. SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
- 1 THE NEXT PLAGUE IS ONE OF EXTREME DARKNESS THAT IS SO BAD PEOPLE CAN'T EVEN MOVE AROUND. PHARAOH IS WILLING TO ALLOW THE ENTIRE JEWISH NATION TO LEAVE, EVEN THE CHILDREN, AS LONG AS THEY LEAVE THEIR ANIMALS BEHIND. COINCIDENTALLY THERE IS ALSO A SHORTAGE OF PET-SITTERS.
- 1 MOSES WARNS PHARAOH OF THE UPCOMING GRAND FINALE, WHEN THE FIRST BORN CHILDREN IN EACH HOUSEHOLD WOULD DIE. GOD TOUGHENS UP PHARAOH'S HEART AND HE REFUSES TO LET THEM LEAVE.
- 1 AT THIS POINT, GOD DECIDES TO GIVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE A FEW COMMANDMENTS. CUZ WE WERE

PROBABLY BORED.

- 1 WE ARE COMMANDED TO ESTABLISH A LUNAR CALENDAR, USING THE MONTH OF PASSOVER AS THE HEAD MONTH.
- 1 THE JEWISH PEOPLE ARE COMMANDED TO ACQUIRE SHEEP, 5 DAYS BEFORE THEY ARE LEAVE EGYPT, AND TIE THE SHEEP TO THEIR BEDPOST. IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT IN THOSE DAYS EVERYONE SLEPT VERY BAAAAADLY.
- 1 MOSES TEACHES ALL THE RULES OF PASSOVER, INCLUDING SACRIFICING THE SHEEP, SMEARING THE BLOOD ON THEIR DOORPOSTS, EATING THE LAMB WITH MATZAH, AVOIDING LEAVEN (AS IN "WE'RE LEAVEN' EGYPT!") AND COVERING YOUR COUCH WITH FOIL.
- 1 AT EXACTLY THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT, ALL THE EGYPTIAN FIRSTBORNS TURN INTO PUMPKINS. DEAD PUMPKINS. MINUS THE PUMPKIN PART. PHARAOH RUNS TO FIND MOSES AND AARON, AND INSISTS THAT THE JEWS LEAVE EGYPT IMMEDIATELY.
- 1 BECAUSE THE JEWISH FIRSTBORN ARE SAVED, GOD COMMANDS US TO TREAT THE FIRSTBORN AS SACRED. WE MUST REDEEM FIRSTBORN HUMANS, AND GIFT FIRSTBORN ANIMALS TO GOD.
- 1 THE JEWISH PEOPLE LEAVE EGYPT. FREE AT LAST. OR ARE THEY? OOO! A CLIFF HANGER!



PICKLE JEWS

Have a fun idea
for our next Pickle
Jews comic?

Please share it with
us?
d l o c k e r @
nageelawest.org



STUMP THE RABBI

StumptheRabbi 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.



c a n
shorten it to
ADHD.

INTER... HEY, WHAT'S UP... RUPTIONS?

Hi Rabbi,

There are a lot of mitzvahs out there. Sometimes it can be overwhelming. Are there ever exemptions from doing mitzvahs? Like if you're really tired, or you're super busy?

Thanks,
Jose K. Mitzvah

Dear Jose K,

Does this scenario sound familiar to you? I'm hungry, so I open my fridge to see what there is. I take a carton of eggs out, and bring them to the counter. Next I try to open the drawer to get the spatula, and notice that it's stuck. So I quickly pull out a screwdriver and work on repairing the drawer's mechanism. That's tough work and I'm exhausted, so I decide to make a coffee, but the new container of coffee grinds I bought yesterday are still in the garage. I head to the garage, but by the time I get there, I've totally forgotten what I was looking for. I glance around, trying to remember, and I see the hoodie I've been missing, sitting on top of a shelf. I pick up the hoodie and bring it inside, but then I remember the coffee, so I put the hoodie down, run back to the garage and make the coffee. Once it's brewing, I decide to get back to my omelette, but now I can't find the eggs. I look in the fridge (though I'm pretty sure I took them out already) and they're nowhere to be seen. Well, no eggs, so, hmmm... maybe a smoothie. I grab some frozen mangoes from the freezer and blend them up, which makes me a bit chilly. I notice that hoodie sitting on the counter, and grab it, revealing the carton of eggs that were hiding underneath.

This kind of lack of focus makes us extremely unproductive. We live in a Windows, multitasking world, where we have multiple things going on at once and sometimes we drop a whole bunch of the balls we're juggling. That's why Judaism has a concept called Already Doing Hashem's Directions, or we

In Hebrew it's "Osek b'mitzvah, patur min hamitzvah. Simply speaking, it means, if you've started a mitzvah, don't jump to another mitzvah. Finish the one you've got going on first (usually). If you're Already Doing Hashem's Directions, you're exempt from other directions. So for example, if you're rescuing someone from a fire and it's time to pray, don't stop your rescue to pray. If you're in the process of collecting tzedaka and a friend needs a ride to the airport, you don't need to (and perhaps should not) interrupt your fundraising efforts to do the airport run. If someone's close relative passes away, they have a mitzvah to deal with all the details of the funeral and burial and therefore they are exempt from all mitzvos, including praying, tefillin and tzitzis. This is so that you don't end up doing mitzvahs the way I make eggs and coffee. It's so that you can focus on doing a mitzvah properly. Imagine how ineffectual prayers would be if you interrupted in middle to do other mitzvahs (like studying Torah or checking Instagram).

In case you were planning on implementing these exemptions, there are a few things you should know. Firstly, ADHD only applies to positive commandments, not negative ones. So for example, if you're traveling for a mitzvah, you might not have to shake a lulav. But you can't be like "Hey, I'm traveling for a mitzvah so I'll grab a cheeseburger at a rest stop." Or, "This mitzvah is so important I'll drive on Shabbat (unless it's life saving, of course)." Another important caveat is that if it's possible to do both (without compromising the quality of the first one) you've got to do that. So let's say you're wearing tefillin and now someone asks you for charity. Will giving charity hurt your tefillin mitzvah? No way! So do both if you can. Similarly, let's say you're eating inside a sukkah, and it's time to end the meal. You've still got to bless God for the food you've eaten, because it doesn't take away from your Sukkah mitzvah. A third exception is Torah study. Since Torah study is a constant mitzvah you might think you'd always be exempt from all other mitzvahs. Just study 24



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hours a day, and no mitzvahs required, right? The problem with that attitude is that one of the primary purposes of Torah study is to help us do mitzvahs better. So Torah is an exception to this whole rule. Any physical mitzvah obligation (prayer, tefillin, shofar, megillah, charity, etc) requires us to interrupt our Torah study to rock that mitzvah (and then of course go back to studying).

There's one more idea I want to share. Mitzvahs are awesome. They help us become the best versions of ourselves, they build up a relationship with our loving God, and they truly transform our lives in so many positive ways. We're not looking for the easy way out. Sure if a person is sick and physically unable to perform a mitzvah they are exempt. The idea of this discussion isn't "When can I get out of doing these annoying things?" As I explained before, the purpose of a mitzvah exemption is because it's better to be able to focus on one mitzvah than to be all over the place. It's a culture of quality over quantity. BTW, has anyone seen my frying pan?

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi



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.

Torat Scene-A-Eye Explained

This week's Parsha describes the last three plagues and the Jews finally leaving Egypt. Pictured are a pillar of cloud, a sack of flour on a shoulder, some matzah, a calendar (we received those commandments in this Parsha), a grasshopper, and a broken statue, as all the Egyptian idols were destroyed during the plague of the firstborn.



Happy Birthdays!

Matthew Hollander
Ariel Wexler
Shoshana Wexler

Devon Singer
Belle Teitelbaum
Braden Martin

**CAMP
NAGEELA
WEST
SUMMER
2025**



**WOOSTER LAKE
ILLINOIS
180 acres of
awesome!**



**Mazel
Tov!**

Mazel Tov!

Heartfelt Mazel tov to Nageela West staff member Tehilla Seleh upon getting engaged!

**Mazel
Tov!**

Mazel Tov!

Heartfelt Mazel tov to Nageela West staff member Leah Kantor upon getting engaged!



Nageela Shabbos is a weekly publication of Nageela West Coast, Joyfully Jewish Experiences.



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