

have a Nageela Shabbos

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

Season 3
Episode 16

It's Cold Inside by Rabbi Dani Locker

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Detective Donald McDonald stared at the computer screen, trying not to blink. This was his 31st time watching the daring hostage rescue. His fellow officer, a cop named Roger Roys had broken into the warehouse where three teenagers had been held captive. The teens had clearly been knocked unconscious... either that or they were watching football; it was hard to tell. Officer Roys had single handedly defeated the criminals, managing to keep his shirt tucked in and his hair perfect the entire time. With the teens rescued, Officer Roger Roys was about to get presented by the mayor with the city's most prestigious honor; a golden pickle jar. It was a strange city. Don't ask. McDonald knew something was not right, as he scrutinized the film for the 32nd time. This time he got it, and he hurried out of the precinct, knowing he had an important appointment.

Mayor Garden was standing proudly at the podium in the town square, about to confer the city's highest and most sodium enriched honor upon a brave and daring officer of the law. "I'm so gratified to award this golden pickle jar to Officer Roger Roys." The crowd, excited about the hostage rescue, clapped enthusiastically, and Roger stepped up. "Thanks so much Olive. I mean Mayor G."

Just then, Detective Donald McDonald appeared on stage. "Roger Roys," he announced, "You're under arrest for assisting the kidnapping of three teenagers!"

"This is prestroperous! I mean, it's pestronomous! No, no. I mean it's obstreporous! Argh. Why is this so hard? It's preposterous! I saved those kids. Why would I have done that if I'd arranged the kidnapping?"

Detective McDonald explained how his rescue had seemed too easy. "This aint no fast food joint. Nobody can karate chop their way through 18 inches of concrete without breakin' a sweat. Hostage rescues are difficult and dangerous. It was obviously faked. Admit it, Roys!"

Ronald hunched his shoulders and confessed. "Those teenagers were really cool," he muttered. "I wanted to be their friends, but they wouldn't let me into their club. So I staged the kidnapping and rescue so they would like me!"

So there you have it. The officer had three kids abducted, and then arranged their rescue in a really cool and exciting way. OK.

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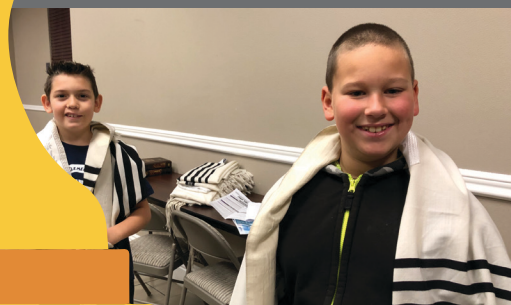
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He needs a hobby. Aside from that, does he deserve the golden pickles? Is he responsible for a great act of bravery, valor and heroism? I don't think so. He made the problem in the first place! This was a very loooooong winded way for me to ask a question:

God runs the world. I get that (kind of). We talk so much about the incredible, edible plagues (not all of them are edible. But the grasshoppers were. Yum). God performed amazing miracles to take the Jews out of Egypt and an exciting prison break. Yippee! But chew on this: **WHY IN THE FIRST PLACE?** God promised Abraham that his descendants would be abused in a foreign country. God knew that to happen for hundreds of years. Why are we celebrating God's great rescue effort at the end of the story?

To really understand this concept and answer the question, we need to get it. We need to get that God does not run a fast food joint. Events that occur are not the direct cause or result of things in their immediate past or future. Sometimes God's plan might span thousands of years, and involve more twists and swerves than a student driver. Yes, God put us in chains, and broke those chains. The entire plan, from start to finish was because we as a nation needed that traumatic experience. It was necessary for many reasons (to name a couple, so we can be more sensitive to people who are downtrodden, and to develop the habit of turning to God in times of need) for us to first be abused, and then to be released.

We praise and thank God for the entire experience. For His daring rescue, plagues and all, and even for the challenging situation we needed to be rescued from. We thank Him for that, too.



Photos of the Week

Fringes and Frosties

Above, Nageela Hebrew School students in Las Vegas learning about Tallis and Tefillin. Below, enjoying wayyyy too much ice cream and whipped cream in Tarzana.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, January
14th, NO Summerlin
NageeLatte
January 15th- CNW
open house, LA
January 18-20th -
LIT WEEKEND
(registration closes

soon)
January 21st - Special
Tu B'Shvat program @
Nageela Hebrew School
January 22nd- Phoenix
Event
February 3rd- Super
Bowl Party



Awesometastic birthday
wishes to Nageela family
members celebrating their
birthdays:

Sam Leytes
Ari Freeman
Hinda Gross

**Great opportunity for Los Angeles families!
Attend camp for as little as \$2500**

open house

PIZZA & Snacks

Find out about Nageela's Grand Tour! Get camp swag Meet the camp director Meet happy campers & parents

campnageelawest

Jan. 15th
6:00-8:00pm
The Blinder home
18612 Linnet Street, Tarzana

more info at www.nageelawest.org

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP !



LOT
WEEKEND
JANUARY 18-20

INCLUDING
ALL NIGHT @
GRAVADY
PARTY BUS
INSANE GAMES
SHABBAT

Listen Up!

Hi Rabbi,

Why are people jealous? I get jealous of people, but I don't really understand why. Is it wrong to be jealous? Maybe it's just not fair that some people seem to have better lives than others. Please help me make sense of this mess.

Thanks,

Naomi V. Oz

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

Because this is such a big and important topic, I'll use two weeks to address it. For today, let's talk about why people are jealous and what to do about it.

Dear N.V. Oz,

Jealousy is a curious creature. Consider the example of Hailey the Happy.

Hailey was 12 years old and she had the nickname Hailey the Happy because she always had a smile on her face. Things were good. Just the week before, she'd gotten an iPhone for her birthday. Hailey was super excited! She'd gotten the case she wanted, the apps she wanted, and she had spent the past week happily texting her friends and snapping selfies. Then it happened. Lilah got a new phone, too, and it was much better. Lilah's phone was the newest model, with a larger screen, a better camera, unlimited data, and a really cute popsocket.

Hailey looked at the phone in her hand, which she had loved just a few minutes ago, and it looked different. Somehow, it

seemed old and sad, slow, poor quality and drab. By the time she got home, she had become Hailey the Heartbroken. "Why did you get me a dumb, second rate phone?" She sniffled vaguely in her mother's direction. "I hate it!"

Jealousy does that. Had Lilah never gotten the new phone, Hailey would have been perfectly happy with her own gadget. So why should Lilah's phone make a difference in her happiness?

People are jealous because they feel like someone else's happiness or success somehow takes away from their own. In Hailey's mind, there are 100 points in the happiness game. If I have 50 and Lilah has 50, we're good. But if Lilah suddenly gets 60 points... Oh boy. Now I must only have 40 points, and that's not cool.

Now think about Hailey and tell me, who is getting hurt? Poor Hailey has

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a chance to be happy, and she's ripping it away from herself through her jealousy! People who make life decisions based on what other people have are bound to be disappointed, because there will always be someone with more than you.

There are two tricks I want to share with you to overcome jealousy:

The first is to realize that someone else's happiness does not hurt my own, and my friend's success doesn't stop me from achieving what I want to achieve. The quality of being happy for others is called "Ayin Tova" or "good eye". It means wanting what's best for other people, and realizing that it won't hurt you. Human nature dictates that when you hear that someone gained something you don't have yourself, the first thought is to think, "I wish I had that instead." With an ayin tova, the first thought is, "I'm so happy for his success!" Sure, that might take some work, but it's worth it. Work on loving other people and it'll be easier to be genuinely happy for them.

The second trick is to be rich.

Well, Captain Obvious. That was helpful.

No, I didn't mean it like that.

The Talmud (Avot 4:1) says "Who is rich? Someone who is satisfied with what he has."

What do you think about that?

Do you agree? Is someone with \$10,000 who is satisfied with \$10,000 truly more rich than someone who has \$10,000,000,000 and wants \$20,000,000,000?

Some people might find it confusing, or naive. I think it is brilliant and clearly accurate.

Why do people want money? It's because they think it will make them happy. So happiness is the goal, not money. Makes sense? So... someone who has less money but more happiness, is truly richer. If you always look at what other people have,

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you will never be happy with what you have (like good ole Hailey the Hysterical). Looking INWARDS, and thinking about what you DO have instead of what you don't have, will make you a happier, more satisfied person. And you will never be jealous again.

You'll be really happy... Then I might be jealous of you. Oh, I hope not.

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi



How do you get your boat to move on the Nile river?

You Pharaoh, Pharaoh, Pharaoh your boat...

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? email it to dlocker@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 afterschool 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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