

VERY
PUNNY

Ouch. Have a better pun?
Send it in to dlocker@nageelawest.org

What sports team
sponsors this week's
Parsha?



SEASON 2
EPISODE 29

April 21st, 2018

Candle Lighting:

Phoenix 6:44

Las Vegas 7:01

San Diego 7:04

Los Angeles 7:10

Lake Tahoe 7:17

have a

Nageela Shabbos

Parshas
Tazria/
Metzora

5778

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

An Ode to Ripped Jeans

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Ripped jeans,
why are they so cool?
Why is it that teens
like to wear them to school?
Most of the clothing
that I like to wear
Seem so much nicer
without a tear.
Perfectly fine
Denim or cotton ,
Are shredded
without a care.

What's with ripped jeans?
Sometimes, I think
about walking around with a
needle and thread and offer
people to fix their pants for
them. Or duct tape. Or a
tarp with bungee cords.

Actually, ripped clothes are
mentioned in this week's
Torah portion! No, the Torah
does not write poetry about
ripped clothing. It makes a
certain type of person wear
ripped clothing. Why?

There used to be an unusual
disease called "tzara'as"
which is spoken about at
great length in our double
parsha. It usually looked
like a white skin disease,
and the cure involved living
in isolation, outside of the
public neighborhood, and
bringing a number of unusual
offerings in the Holy Temple;
cedar wood, string dyed by
a worm, and a type of grass.
During this process, the
metzora (that's the guy

with tzara'as) had to wear torn
clothes and was not allowed to
cut his hair. Why?

I'll paraphrase the explanation
of the great Chafetz Chaim,
who explains it quite simply.
When you have allergies, you
get congested. When you share
a cup with someone suffering
from a cold, you'll probably
develop the same symptoms.
When you speak Lashon Hara,
you get tzara'as. Lashon Hara,
the act of speaking negatively
about another person
separates people from each
other. Therefore, part of the
cure is being separated from
others. Why, though does he
have to wear torn clothing and
unkempt hair? Listen to this
beautiful, clear explanation he
gives.

continued on back

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www.nageelawest.org
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Stump The Rabbi

%&#@\$

Dear Rabbi,

My parents are driving me crazy! They are super old fashioned and are very strict about using 'bad words', even words that are only kind of bad. You know what I mean? I don't really understand the whole thing. What makes a word bad, anyway? It's just a word! Why are some words considered bad? Everyone says them, and sees them.

My parents say I need to be as careful with what comes out of my mouth as what goes into my mouth. That makes no sense. Poison can kill you. Four letter words can't! Could you please help me understand?

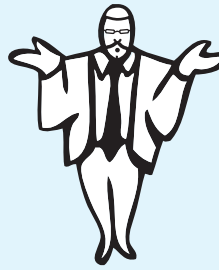
Thanks,

Neville Peh

Dear Neville,

A world famous chef once worked for hours on his finest recipe for an important guest. When it was done, the aroma alone was enough to make the guest's mouth water. However, when it was time to serve the dish, there were no clean plates! In a hurry, the chef quickly placed his delicious dish on a plate where, though he had not realized, there were still pieces of rotted vegetables and some moldy cheese (cringe). The guest took a bite and immediately spit it out! Even though the recipe was great, when served on a filthy plate, tasted rancid.

We do amazing things with our mouths and our words. It's our main



way of interacting with people, and it's our best way to communicate with God. We study Torah, kiss our grandmothers and blow the shofar.

Yet if our mouths smell of filth, that gives a bad taste to all our prayers and study.

When the Torah describes animals that are kosher and those that are not, it uses a very unusual language. It refers to animals that are pure, and to animals "that are not pure," which in Hebrew uses 3 words instead of the normal word 'tamei' which just means profane or dirty. By going out of its way to use overly gentle language, the Torah is teaching us how important it is for us to speak using gentle, and not crude language. The key is to recognize that you're a prince! As a child of God, a human being and a Jew, it's important that you speak like a prince.

There are a few types of inappropriate talk to avoid:

1. Lashon Hara- that's any bad or negative story about another person, even if it's true.
2. Swearing or using God's name for no good reason. Though this is, of course, not filthy talk, it's using our mouths in the wrong way. God's name is special and needs to only be used the right way, at the right time. People also use the words "swearing" or "oaths" to talk about other bad words, but it really just means using God's name to promise something, or using God's name loosely.
3. Cursing someone. Although people use the word "cursing" to describe all foul language, that's inaccurate. Giving a curse is

the opposite of giving a blessing. It's wishing bad upon another person. "I wish you have to watch Barney every day for the rest of your life" would be a particularly brutal curse, or "I hope you never have a pickle again!" ouch.

4. Hurtful speech. Pejorative nicknames like "Shorty" or racial slurs fit into this category.
5. Inappropriate subject matter. Some things are meant to be private and discreet, and not chatted about. Rated "R" conversations might not have any bad words, but they're not fit for a prince like you!
6. Crude or bad words. Some words in just about every language are considered crude. There are seven words that are not allowed on the radio or network TV in the US.

What makes a bad word bad, though?

When I was in about 5th grade, we had one British kid in our class. He had recently moved to the States and still spoke with a heavy accent. One day, someone in the class used the word "bloody," completely innocently (although in hindsight I'm not sure what could possibly be innocent about something bloody). Our resident Brit got super upset. He started yelling at us for using "foul language" and said lots of British things that we didn't understand like "uncouth" and "barmy." Apparently the word "bloody" is considered a bad word in England, and he totally freaked when we used it. Of course, from that moment, we used it constantly. "Hey, I got a cut and my finger is bloody!" "Did you know that vampires have bloody teeth?" Yeah, that really wasn't nice of us. Kids, don't do that. You'll regret it when you're older.

Back to the topic at hand (not a bloody hand, hopefully). Most of the words that are considered bad words today are only that way because the world has decided, randomly to treat them as inappropriate. The reasons for this are many, but most of these words either discuss inappropriate activities, private parts of the body or things that come out of the body—none of which can be considered gentle, kind or refined speech. While it may be at random that some of these words became taboo, now that they're considered crude, a refined person must avoid such speech.

It should be mentioned that all the reasons and categories we've just discussed are NOT JUST FOR CHILDREN. It's completely and grossly inappropriate for an adult to use language like this, not only if children will hear, but ever. For many people who have gotten used to it, this is a great challenge, and try not to harshly judge someone who has gotten into the bad habit of speaking crudely. As a kid, you have a great opportunity. Make sure you never develop the habit, and your life and your interactions will be filled with more kindness, calmness and respect.

Let me end with a funny story that I seem to recall writing in a previous episode, but I couldn't find it, so I'll take the risk of saying it again. An old teacher of mine used to take the train to work every day, and would chat with the man at the booth where he bought the subway tokens. After several years of short daily chats, they'd become something like friends. The subway worker was a pretty nice guy, but he "cursed like a sailor" as they say. Every other word out of his mouth had four letters. One day, the subway worker told my teacher that he sent his children to a private school.



#NAGEELAWALK

50 MILES IN 50 DAYS

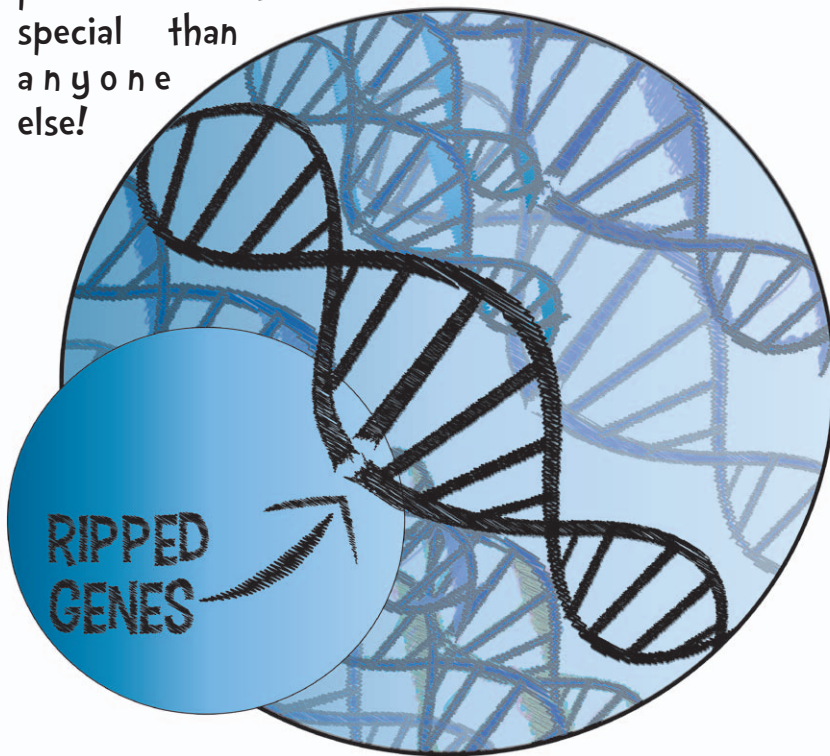


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The main reason people would talk poorly about someone else is because of arrogance. Translation: being a big shot. Thinking you're all that. Everyone has their own problems and flaws. Why would you speak about someone else's unless you believe you're better! Wearing clothing and hair that is undignified helps to remind the lashon hara talker that he or she should realize his or her place. He's not more special than anyone else!

This is also the reason for some of the unusual offerings. The "big talker" thought he was as important as a tall cedar tree, and he needs to think about a worm and grass, both small and low. Yes, each person is important, but not more important than everyone else. Realizing this will help us respect everyone despite mistakes they make and flaws they have.

After all, we all have some rips in our genes.



"Why don't you send them to Public School? Private schools are so expensive!" my teacher asked.

"Are you *&\$\$ kidding me? Do you know what kind of *&\$@ language they use in those @&^%*& Public Schools?"

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

Mazel Tov!

We're so excited to announce the engagement of our Nageela Boys Head Counselor

YEHUDA LEITER

to
RUCHY MAX
(cousin to Nageela counselors, Tzvi and Aryeh)

Mazel Tov!

We're so excited to announce the engagement of our Nageela Girls Assistant Head Counselor

SHALVA FOHRMAN
to
YOSEF SEGAL

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Happy Birthday!

to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays this week!

Alex Sefia
Natan Goldman
Calev Knopf
BZ Locker
Marygrace Bower
Dovid Niman
Max Byrd
Hunter Byrd