

Vayeira 5781
November 6, 2020

HAVE-A NAGEELA SHABBOS

SEASON 5 EPISODE 4

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Multitaskinginging

by Rabbi Dani Locker

“Hey Mike, could you please toss me the stapler? I wanna post a flyer.”

(Editor’s note: We do not condone, recommend or approve of tossing staplers. It is a very good way to end up with your tongue attached to the bulletin board.)

“Nah. I’m not gonna give you the stapler.”

“Why on Earth not, Mike?”

“Well, Kyle, let me explain this to you. My job title is Food Service Manager. My job description includes maintaining the kitchen facilities, ordering ingredients and serving food. My job description does not involve passing staplers!”

“Dude. It’s just a stapler. Fine. I’ll do it myself.”

Is Mike being reasonable here?



On one hand, he is correct about his job. He has no obligation to throw staplers, feed pets, mop floors (except in the kitchen, perhaps), file expense reports, or hang up ‘Happy Birthday Fred’ signs (Fred was really bummed that nobody hung up signs for him). On the other hand, what’s the big deal? Perhaps Mike should go out of his way a tiny bit to help someone.

I know what you’re thinking. You’re like, “Rabbi, this is



Candle lighting

Henderson	4:20
Las Vegas	4:21
Reno/ Tahoe	4:33
San Diego	4:35
Irvine	4:36
Los Angeles	4:37
Oakland	4:46
Park City	4:58
Scottsdale	5:12

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such a predictable Dvar Torah! Mike should be kind. The small things matter. Yadda, yadda, yadda. Be kind like Abraham. Right?"

Not even close. You gotta give me more credit than that. I mean, yes, it's important to be kind. Yes, we learn that from Abraham, and yes, the small kindnesses matter. No, that isn't the point of this dvar Torah.

I'm going to repeat the story, and I'm just going to change one minor detail: Mike's job. Then tell me what you think.

"Hey Mike, could you please toss me the stapler? I wanna post a flyer"

"Nah. I'm not gonna give you the stapler."

"Why on Earth not, Mike?"

"Well, Kyle, let me explain this to you. My job title is head of neurosurgery. My job description includes operating on sensitive brain damaged patients. I'm currently in the middle of a 9 hour intensive surgery, and I stepped out to calm my nerves and focus.

Getting involved in any other activity now would be irresponsible and dangerous."

"Whoa. Sorry. Of course I'll do it myself."

I think we can all agree that although kindness is important and the small things matter, Mike has an important job to do. His vital mission includes not getting involved or distracted with anything else. Mike isn't being rude or unhelpful. He's simply hyper-focused on his objective.

Have you ever found it strange that three angels were sent to Abraham and Sara? If your memory needs refreshing, Abraham and Sara, the first Jewish couple, had no children together. God sent 3 angels to bring the news that they would have a baby boy (Isaac). Why 3? The commentaries tell us that one angel was there to deliver the message. The second angel was sent to heal Abraham from his recent surgical procedure, and the third angel was sent to destroy the city of Sodom and its neighbors. What? Angels can't multitask? Hey Siri, remind me to destroy Sodom after I heal Abraham. How hard would that have been? Why did God need to send 3 agents when one could have done the same job? Sounds like pretty inefficient HR management.



Sure, the angels could've done other jobs, if they were kitchen managers, but not if they were neurosurgeons. The point I'm trying to make is that a mission from God is something so important that it deserves complete focus (not that the angels would have lost their concentration, it's more about respect for the importance of the mission). If you are a direct agent of God, you don't stop to pick up Uber passengers along the way. You stay completely dedicated to your job until the end.

What about us? We don't ever have direct missions from God, do we? Yuh Huh! What do think a mitzvah is? Every mitzvah that we have the chance to perform is a mission from God. Doing a mitzvah deserves every bit of concentration, focus and intention we have. Imagine how awesome our mitzvot would be if we kept that attitude, dismissed all distractions every time we planned to do a mitzvah, and truly took a minute to focus, direct our minds and be an elite agent of God.

deep thoughts



ARE ORANGES NAMED ORANGES BECAUSE ORANGES ARE ORANGE, OR... IS ORANGE CALLED ORANGE BECAUSE ORANGES ARE ORANGE?

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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.



#146 Robin Hood's Tefillin

Hi Rabbi,

Can Vegan people wear tefillin?

Thanks,
Valentina Hughes

Dear Val Hughes,

Yes.

Does that answer the question? No? Let's try this.

There are many values that people consider important. To some, duty to your country is the most important. To others, it's taking care of your family. Some people treasure hard work, and others put more emphasis on kindness. For some, protecting the environment is their most important mission, and for others it's protecting vulnerable people. There are some who value knowledge above all else, and some people pursue physical excellence in athletics or in beauty.

No person can rightly tell another person "My values are more important than

your values." It's actually quite good for people to consider diverse things important; this way we keep each other in check, and all of the important causes have people dedicated to them. Yet this is only true with values that people personally believe to be important. When God personally instructs us to do something (or not do something) that value becomes of prime importance. We can safely say, "God's values are more important than my personal values." Perhaps even better is trying to align our values with God's values, realizing that He is quite a lot smarter and 'gooder' than we are. Sometimes there are two important values that contradict each other. Following one of those values doesn't mean the other value is wrong or unimportant. It just means the other value

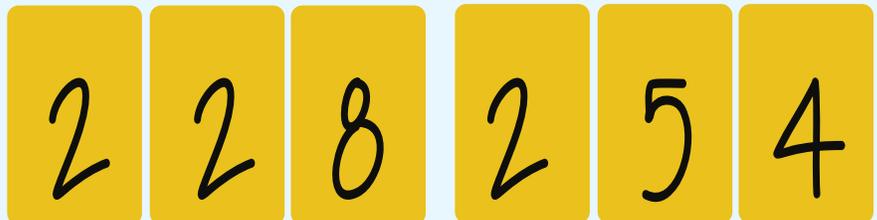


HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Cai Kraft
David Aguila
Jonah Arazi
Gavi Stein
Ariel Luke

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CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2021 IN
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BOYS SESSION

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Stump the Rabbi

continued

takes precedence. For example, it's really important to listen to your parents, right? Yet, if your parents tell you to break rules of the Torah, we should listen to the 'Ultimate Parent' who we all come from.

Robin Hood (who was definitely NOT a vegan) is another great example. Giving charity is an extremely important value. Robin did this well. Yet his charity work came into conflict with another value- not stealing. Even though charity is great, it was wrong for him to violate

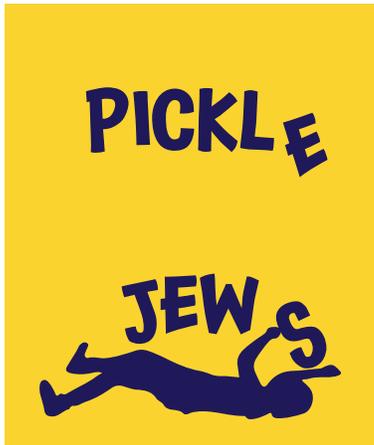
the value of 'not stealing' to achieve this good. I hope that makes sense.

Most vegans will not wear or use leather products. They are showing a great sensitivity toward living creatures (which is a value the Torah promotes). So long as their value doesn't conflict with any other Torah rules, it's within a person's rights to act that way. Yet, the Torah gives a positive commandment for adult males to wear tefillin. This is God telling us that this mitzvah is a higher value.

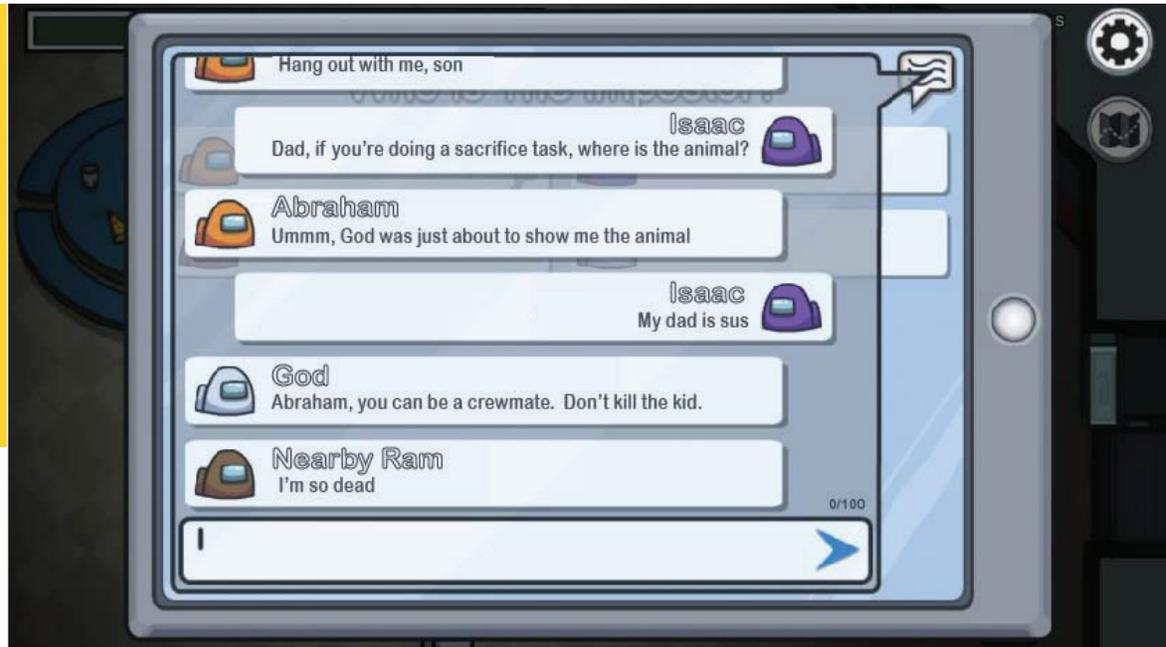
So, yes. Even a person who is extremely sensitive to animals must make sure that value doesn't interfere with other more important values, like hurting people, or obeying the commandments of God.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi



COMIC STRIP



You should never trust atoms.

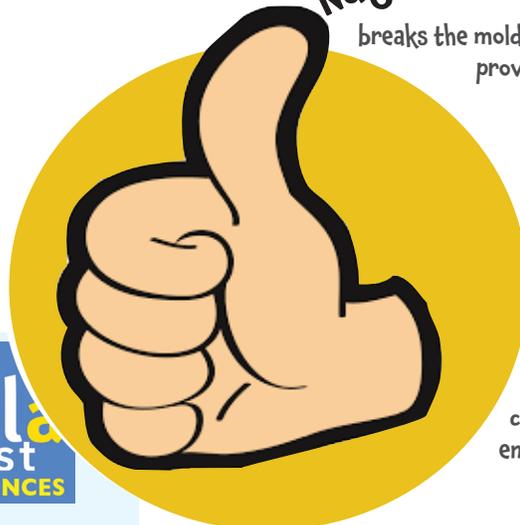
They make up everything!

OUCH! GROAN!

Do you have a better joke? I sure hope so! Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

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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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