

nageela

SEASON 7, EPISODE 32

Shavuos

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

Hava

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH

Dotan was excited! It was the 49th day since the Jews had left Egypt, and they were camped at Mount Sinai waiting for the special moment. Moses had announced that on the following morning they would officially receive the Torah. That sounded amazing! He had one problem, though. Dotan really didn't like crowds. He remembered how it was, waiting to get into the tunnels at the sea (not wading to get in, because it was dry- just waiting), with so many people crowded together. Now with all the Jewish people camped at the foot of the mountain, and everyone all friendly and getting along, he was starting to get a bit uncomfortable. He cringed just thinking about it.

"I know how it's going to be." He told his friend. "Moses is going to come down from the mountain, everyone is going to crowd in to learn the holy Torah, and I'll get my feet stomped on 600,000 times! Even if we crowd in, there will be so many people that it's not like we'll actually be able to spend any time learning from or speaking to our leader Moses. I really want to gain the awesomeness of the Torah, but I'd rather avoid the crush. What should I do?"

His friend Gavriel thought for a moment and then came up with a plan. "Why don't we go camping for a couple of days. We'll get some

In the Box by Rabbi Dani Locker

peace and quiet. Then, when we get back, we will be able to speak to Moses directly and get some personal Torah study time with the greatest teacher of all time! There won't be as many people, so we'll be able to get in more easily!"

You probably know how this story ends (and yes, I only make up true stories). In trying to 'avoid lines' and come up with the most 'strategic' way to learn Torah, Gavriel and Dotan missed out on the greatest and most spiritually uplifting experience any human being has ever had. Yes, there's benefit to having one-on-one time with a great teacher like Moses, yet there's a reason God revealed His glory to the entire nation. It was a moment to change a nation forever.



Sometimes we overthink things. We want to plan the perfect experience, the best birthday present, the most amazing vacation, the most inspirational Torah class, the funniest story. And in doing so, it's possible to miss opportunities for growth. If a chance for something positive comes our way, it's usually a good idea to grab onto it.

What is the most important mitzvah? The one that's in front of you now!

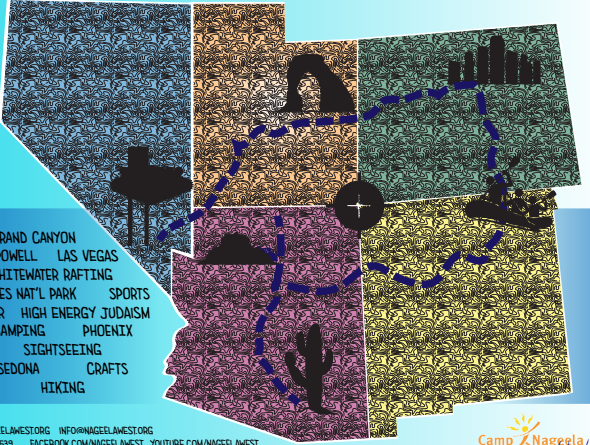
Many thanks to the Streiter family for sponsoring this week!
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CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2023



PREMIER JEWISH TRAVEL CAMP- AGES 9-15
*MAP REPRESENTS APPROXIMATE ITINERARY. SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

SESSION 1: JUNE 26- JULY 13 [GIRLS]
SESSION 2: JULY 17- AUGUST 3 [BOYS]



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TUESDAY JUNE 6TH
7PM

PRIZES!
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FOR ALL WEST COAST
JEWISH MIDDLE
SCHOOL STUDENTS!

ZOOM ID: 317 427 7225

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

HOW DOES THE NAME 'RUT' (OR RUS, DEPENDING ON YOUR PRONUNCIATION)
HINT TO SOMEONE CONVERTING TO JUDAISM?

NO CHEATING
ANSWER ON PAGE 4

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2023

Panel 1: Doctor! Doctor! I'd like to transfer to a different hospital!

Panel 2: I'm so sorry! What is wrong? Is the food bad? No. I can't complain about the food.

Panel 3: Is the bed uncomfortable? The medical care? No. I can't complain about the bed or the medical care.

Panel 4: If you have no complaints, why do you want to leave? Because I LIKE to complain!

Locker

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,

#241

Har Har Har

Shavuos is the holiday commemorating the giving of the Torah, right? So why doesn't the Torah say that! If I understand correctly, the Torah calls Shavuos the harvest festival, but doesn't mention Mount Sinai, the Torah or anything of the sort. What's up with that?

**Thanks,
Chase Nye**

Dear C. Nye,

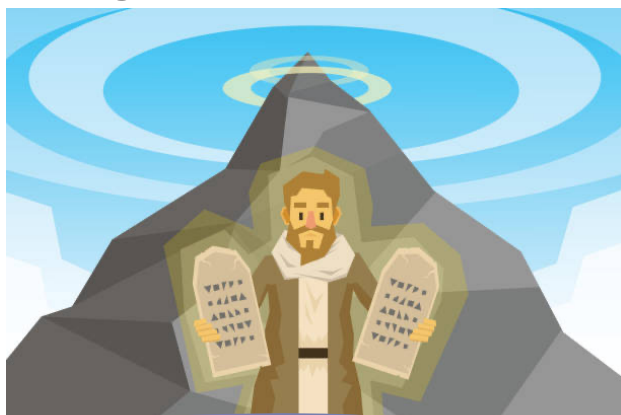
**What two mountains were involved in the holiday of Shavuos?
Har Sinai and Har Vest.**

In our prayers for Shavuos, we mention that it is the festival of the giving of the Torah. It's definitely a theme of the holiday. That said, we certainly shouldn't ignore that the Torah calls it chag hakatzir- the festival of the harvest. We should make sure to celebrate and thank God for the harvest, meaning our financial success. But the big question, one that has been addressed by many thinkers through the ages, including YOU, is this: If Mount Sinai and the Torah is a theme of Shavuos, and it IS a big deal, why doesn't the Torah mention EVEN ONCE any connection between the holiday and the Torah? Not once! There are a few ideas to help explain this mystery. The Torah, by purposely leaving out the most important part of Shavuos is sending us a message. One idea is the message that Torah has to be accepted personally. Making a large celebration

about the national acceptance of the Torah might distract us from the need to connect to Torah on a personal level.

Another idea (Maharal) is that Torah puts some intensely difficult obligations upon us. Don't get me wrong, the Torah is awesome! It guides us to a happier, more meaningful life, and helps us become better people. We certainly should celebrate having the Torah, yet God didn't want to obligate us to celebrate the Torah, because after all, he is obligating us to keep it, too! Celebrating it should be OUR choice. It's kind of like a surgery. If someone needs surgery which helps them have a healthier life, they should celebrate. But perhaps the doctor who did the cutting shouldn't be the one to throw the party.

One final idea (I don't mean that these are the only ideas- there are more, but these are the only ones I'm sharing today): A marathon is 26.2 miles. Yes, I know that's a weird length. Over a million people per year run marathons. It's a long race. Running 5 miles is also good for your health,



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**DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2023**

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**DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2023**

DEEP THOUGHTS

DID YOU EVER CONSIDER THAT THE EARLY WORM GETS EATEN FIRST?

and somewhat impressive, but obviously nowhere on the scale of 26.2 miles. So you're at the Kalamazoo marathon (I don't know if Kalamazoo has a marathon, but it is a real place), and everyone starts running (not you... just everyone else). They run a mile, 2 miles, 3, 4, 7 miles. They run 10, 15 miles. They're sooo tired. They run 20 miles. 21 miles. Then you join in and run the final 5.2 miles with them. Yes, it's cool that you ran 27,456 feet, or more impressively, 329,472 inches. Should you celebrate your accomplishment? Sure! Does it make sense for the town of Kalamazoo to make a sign commemorating your 5.2 mile run? Not so much.

We Jews accepted the Torah at Mount Sinai just about 3,335 years ago. But the truth is the Torah predates that by about, umm, infinity. The Torah predated the universe. Predated time. People long before Mount Sinai (like our forefathers) studied and followed Torah laws. Should we celebrate our relatively short, 3000ish year relationship with the Torah? Yes, of course! But for the Torah itself to mandate a celebration of Mount Sinai would be a little like celebrating the 5.2 mile runner. Nothing in comparison to the grandeur of the full product.

I suppose we're trying to make a molehill out of a mountain.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

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This June we're raising \$100,000 because our job is far from finished!

WE'RE ASKING FOR PARTNERS to join us NOW and become matchers for this campaign. Please contact dlocker@nageelawest.org to make a difference!

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

HEY! STOP! THINK FIRST. NO PEEKING!

A CONVERT!

EVERY LETTER IN HEBREW REPRESENTS A NUMBER. BUT IS SPELLED 717 WHICH EQUALS 606. SINCE NON-JEWS HAVE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO KEEP, 606 IS THE AMOUNT OF NEW MITZVOS ACCEPTED BY

H&B D

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

ISAAC WHEELER
GABRIEL HAFTER
MAXIM QUINT
TUVIA REBACK
GABBY RIVERA
ASHLEY SELLEN
DYLAN PARRY
RINA GREENBERG
SHIMSHON LEVIN
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ANDREW ADLER
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ILAN COHEN
OREN STERN
YEHOANATAN EITAN
SALOMON TIBI

WHY WERE ALL THE JEWS AT SINAI OVERWEIGHT?

THEY'D JUST SPENT SEVEN WEEKS LIVING IN THE DESSERT

WHY WAS SINAI HUMBLE?

HE NEVER THOUGHT HE'D AMOUNT TO MUCH

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



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