

HAVE A

NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH

What makes a good influencer?

Moses is known as the greatest Rabbi- most influential teacher of Torah ever. Yet Moses was far from an eloquent orator. When God recruited Moses to lead the Jewish people out of Egypt, Moses tried as hard as he could to get out of it. One of his primary arguments was that a skilled negotiator would be needed to speak with Pharaoh, and he (Moses) was challenged in the area of speech. It isn't clear exactly what Moses's malady was- according to a Midrash, he had badly burned his tongue at a young age- it's certainly clear that public speaking was not his strength. Yet, he led and taught. Rabbi Samson Refael Hirsch points out that perhaps this very defect gave him more credibility. The world is filled with would-be leaders who have the gift of gab. When someone who is an awesome speaker convinces people to go along with them, there's always doubt: Have they really gotten people to buy into their vision, or are the people just wooed by the charisma of the speaker? The same thing applies when Rab- b i s or mentors are extremely good talk- sure ers. It's important for them to make sure they're delivering the proper information, and not just exciting words and hand- mo-

A few years back, I attended a conference, and they had a very popular keynote speaker. He was awesome! Dynamic and energetic. He told jokes well, had wonderful stories and quoted interesting sources. At the end of his hour-long speech, the audience gave him a standing ovation. A few minutes later, I was chatting with a friend of mine. "That was awesome!" I told him. He asked me a simple question: "What did you learn from that speech?" I had nothing to say. It was an emotional, beautiful artistic oration, yet there wasn't really any meaningful content. He hadn't challenged my way of thinking or stretched my understanding the subject matter. Not really.

The Best Influencer
by Rabbi Dani Locker

Is it important to be able to present information clearly and interestingly? Of course! That's why Aaron was put on the team. For much of Jewish history, we've used this team model: the sage and the speaker. The pundit and the preacher. During the times of the Mishnah, the division was between the Nassi (for lack of a better word, the chief Rabbi) and the Av Beis Din (head of the court and academy of students). For a long time, it was the Rabbi and the Meturgeman (usually translated as translator, but a meturgeman was more than that). In other generations there have been other ways of organizing.

continued on two, too.

You can sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos in honor or in memory of a loved one. Also, you can sponsor an episode in honor of good speaking.

won from page one

yet we always have this Moses and Aaron balance. The Torah scholar who provides the wisdom, knowledge and spiritual guidance, and the elocutionist, who can present the subject matter well.

the super speechifier (yup, it's a word. I'm surprised, too). The scholar with the deepest, most profound and complete understanding. Want to influence? Know stuff. Want to teach? Understand stuff.

Yes, both are important. Yet it still comes down to which one is the Moses? Which one is the servant of God, unmatched in all generations? Who is the greater influencer? Not the dynamic pontificator. Not

There's some exciting Nageela news coming up soon! Pay attention so you don't miss it!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Can you think of three instances recorded in Jewish history, where a fire burned, but did not use up any fuel source?

Answer is on page 4.
DON'T CHEAT!

We have a lot of fun making the Nageela Shabbos for you each week.

We'd love to get this publication more consistently into more homes and synagogues. You can help by:

1. Volunteering to print and distribute in your synagogue or Community Center
2. Sponsoring a week so we can send it to more places!
3. Signing up to join our email list by emailing info@nageelawest.org

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2023



LOCKER

The Torah is the Jewish book of everything. For thousands of years, we've been dividing the Torah into smaller bitesized portions, each called a 'Sidra' or 'Parsha' and reading a portion or two each Shabbos. Most of our Dvar Torah articles are based on the weekly Parsha, so we're thinking about including this as a weekly segment, giving bullet points of what happens in the Parsha of the week. With some side comments thrown in. Please give us feedback!

PARSHAS SHEMOS

1ST PORTION OF THE SECOND OF THE TORAH'S 5 BOOKS

- Shemos means 'names' and so it begins with... you guess it... potatoes! No, you were right. It begins with the names of the sons of Jacob who came to Egypt. The next few weeks will describe what happens to the nation during our 210 year visit to the land of the pyramids.
- It actually doesn't call them the 'Sons of Jacob.' They're the "Sons of Israel." You may remember from way back in Vayishlach that Jacob's name was officially changed to Israel. This term, 'Sons of Israel' has become one of the primary names of our nation ever since.
- The names are: Reuben, Simon, Levi and Judah. Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin. Dan, Naftali, Gad and Asher. Along with the rest of their family it's a total of 70 people, and Joseph was already in Egypt.
- Now the bad stuff starts.
- Egypt gets a new king (either literally a new king, or according to some, it was the same king but his PR department gave him a new image). This dude doesn't recognize the awesomeness Joseph had brought to the country and, nervous about Jews 'taking over the country' (wow, things don't really change much, do they?) decides to enslave them.
- The entire Jewish nation is put to work building cities for Egypt. It's backbreaking and demeaning labor.
- If this isn't enough, Pharaoh is scared of Jewish baby boys. I know we're terrifying. He commands the Jewish midwives to kill all the boys as they're being born. Of course they ignore this command at great risk to themselves. Go midwives! I nominate them for promotion from mid-level to top-level. So let's call them topwives from now on.
 - As brutally as the Egyptians treat their Jewish slaves, the Jews continue to thrive and their birth rate steadily goes up.
- When the topwife plan fails, Pharaoh has soldiers kidnap Jewish baby boys and throw them in the river. One particular baby is born to the daughter of Levi, and when she can no longer hide him from the soldiers, she makes the difficult decision to send him down the river in a waterproof basket (fully insulated, and yours for 6 monthly installments of \$9.99, as seen on TV), with his older sister watching to track his destination.
- As it turns out, he is rescued by the daughter of the king himself, who then raises the boy as her own son. She names him Moses, which means he was drawn from the water.
- Moses is given to a Jewish woman (who turns out to be his own mother) to be nursed, and when he is weaned, he returns to the palace and lives the life of an Egyptian Prince. Yet he is troubled by what he sees happening to the Jewish slaves, and he often visits to help them carry their loads.
- One day he sees an Egyptian beating a Jewish slave, and Moses kills the bully. When this is discovered, he is forced to take the first flight out of Egypt, ending up in Midian.
- While there, Moses heroically rescues some girls who were attempting to use the town well. They turn out to be the daughters of Jethro, the local priest. Jethro takes Moses in, and Moses marries Jethro's daughter, Zipporah.
- Moses becomes a shepherd, because the NBA hadn't been founded yet, and because, well, most of our ancestors were shepherds.
- While caring for the sheep, Moses notices a thornbush on fire. Or rather, he notices fire on a thornbush. God speaks to him through the burning bush and commands

Hey, there's a lot going on this week. Let's continue this on the next page!

DEEP DEEP THOUGHTS

Why has society decided that chocolate is the opposite of vanilla?

ANSWER OF THE WEEK QUESTION ON PAGE 2

him to return to Egypt and free his people.

- God gives Moses 3 signs to help convince people that he's legit: He turned his staff into a snake, his hand became snow white with disease, and he turned water into blood. That trick got old quickly.
- Moses protests that he isn't very good at speaking, and requests that God appoint a replacement. Instead, God appoints Aaron, Moses's older brother to be Moses's spokesperson. They meet up and head to Egypt together.
- Moses starts traveling to Egypt, but along the way, an angel attempts to kill him, because in his hurry to fulfill God's command, he failed to circumcise his son. He is saved when his wife performs the circumcision. There were probably bagels involved. There are ALWAYS bagels at a bris.
- Upon arriving in Egypt, Moses shows the three signs to the elders of the Jewish people, and they believe God sent him.
- Moses and Aaron present themselves before Pharaoh, King of Egypt and demand that he free his slaves, at least for a short vacation in the desert. Personally, I would have asked to go to Hawaii- if you've only got three days, why choose the desert?
- Not only does Pharaoh deny the request, he decides to intensify the workload. The people complain to Moses. Moses complains to God. God winks. Figuratively.

The first is in this week's Torah portion. The burning bush from which God spoke to Moses was aflame, but the actual wood did not get consumed.

The second is the pillar of fire that led the Jews in the desert.

The third would be the lights of Chanukah, which lasted without fuel for 7 days (past the the expected expiration of that fuel).

The fourth was last week, when I drove my van on empty for 200 miles.

One can also make the argument for Sarah and Rebecca's Shabbat candles, which according to Midrash lasted the entire week.

172

DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2024

194

DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2024



CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2024

PREMIER JEWISH TRAVEL CAMP- AGES 9-15
*MAP REPRESENTS APPROXIMATE ITINERARY. SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
SESSION 1: JUNE 26- JULY 16 [GIRLS]
SESSION 2: JULY 18- AUG 7 [BOYS]



OUR
15TH
SUMMER!

NEW FOR '24:
NAGEELA TASTE TEST-
6 DAY CAMP FOR 2-3 GRADERS
NAGEELA VIP OPTION

LAKE TAHOE
CALIFORNIA GOLD MINES
SAN DIEGO RENO
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
BIG BEAR LAKE

MAZAL TOV!!!

TO NAGEELA PROGRAM DIRECTOR

CHAYA LEITER

UPON HER ENGAGEMENT TO GEDALIA GREENFIELD!

HBD

Peyton Schwitters
Ilan Lieberman
Nadav Weiss
Daniella Cohen
Shmuel Jacobs

Happy Birthday wishes to
the following Nageela family
members:

Joseph Garrel
Samuel Garrel
Jenna Magid
Madi Speidel



Nageela Shabbos is a weekly
publication of Nageela West
Coast, Joyfully Jewish
Experiences.
www.nageelawest.org
801-613-1539