

# have a Nageela Shabbos

Candle Lighting:  
 Phoenix 5:49  
 Las Vegas 6:00  
 San Diego 6:09  
 Los Angeles 6:13  
 Tarzana 6:14  
 Lake Tahoe 6:17

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

Season 3  
 Episode 3

## Drumstructions by Rabbi Dani Locker

**K**yle wanted to join a band. Really badly. Kyle had always enjoyed drumming on tables, on the seat in front of him (which really annoyed his dad on road trips) and even in the air. He'd never owned a set of drums, but now some of his friends were starting a band, and they needed a drummer, so Kyle was all in. He took some of his saved allowance money, enough to buy a basic drum set, and headed to the music store. He selected the set he wanted and brought it to the front. With a few dollars left, he decided to buy some instructional DVDs, because after all, a drum set is only as good as the guy hitting it with a stick.

**T**he guy behind the counter showed him a DVD that he recommended. "This will tell you everything you need to know about drums." When he got home, Kyle set up the drums, and popped the DVD into the one computer at home that still had a disc drive. He picked up his drumsticks and got ready for the instructions. A

low voice came on and started, "The drum may be humanity's oldest instrument, and is actually called a membranophone." Kyle groaned, and thought, "Get to the instructions already!"

**T**he narrator continued with this lecture, showing images of 5000 year old mesopotamian drums. For the next four hours, Kyle, with growing frustration learned all about the history, construction and soundwave technology behind drums. Then the video ended. Kyle screamed and threw his sticks at the computer screen (kids, don't try that at home). The next day Kyle returned the DVD angrily to the store. "I need to know how to play the drums. I do not need to know their history!"

**T**he Torah is a very unusual book. It's not really a history book. We know that because of how much information it leaves out. It'll go



through a thousand years in a few sentences, and then spend a dozen chapters on a single day's events. The Torah is a book of instructions, a guide book. It gives us 613 rules to live by, and well, teaches us how to drum, in a manner of speaking. That's why, if I was a drummer looking for instructions, the beginning of the Torah might frustrate, or at least confuse me. This week's Torah portion, Bereishis, is the very first one, and it discusses the first people... actually around the first thousand years of human history. Then for the next 14 weeks or so, we'll read all about the

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What did the drummer call his baby twin daughters?

Anna one, Anna two...

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? email it to [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

*continued from front*

history of our ancestors: Noah, Abraham, Joseph and the rest. For all of these Torah readings - nearly a third of the book- there are almost no instructions. Just stories. Why is this 'instruction book' giving us so much history, so many stories, instead of getting to the instructions?

Don't get me wrong, it's fascinating to learn about our nation's history. I'd say most people enjoy those parts of the Torah more- i mean, stories! But if the purpose of the Torah is instructional, then the stories don't seem to be what's needed.

Take some time to read the stories of the Torah. Don't just read them, but STUDY them. Ask questions, discuss, think about them. You'll find that the stories about our ancestors have just as much instructional value as the instructions themselves. We learn so much from the great tzadikim- righteous people- about how to live. We learn just as much from the nasty characters about what things to avoid.

## Question of the Week

*Adapted with permission from Question of the Week by Rabbi David Zaback. Dedicated in memory of the author.*

**ANSWER ON BACK PAGE**



## Photo of the Week

*North Hollywood NageeLatte*

Nageela Los Angeles district director Rabbi Smith poses with participants at the brand new North Hollywood NageeLatte.

The programs meets weekly at the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf. For more info, please contact [dbsmith@nageelawest.org](mailto:dbsmith@nageelawest.org)

All NageeLattes and weekly programs are back up and running!



OCTOBER 16TH- Lake Tahoe Kickoff  
October 27th- Las Vegas Shabbaton  
November 13th- Phoenix Kickoff Event  
THANKSGIVING WEEKEND  
Los Angeles Shabbaton

Drumming instructions might need to be very specific and rhythmic: bang those sticks this many times, at this timing (or something like that- I don't drum). Life lessons are learned mainly from life. From things we experience in our own lives, but also from observing the lives of others. From seeing their challenges and problems, their failures and

victories.

The Torah is not a storybook, and it's not a history textbook. It's a book of living instruction, and instruction for living. Every story and every word can give us something valuable to improve our own lives, and march to the beat of God's drum.

Jewish life is full of blessings. We use blessings when we pray, when we eat and when we perform certain mitzvot. As a general rule, when we hear someone else recite a blessing, it is appropriate to say "amen" which means, "I agree. Totally."

**Where and when was 'amen' never recited, even when a blessing was said?**



Awesometastic birthday wishes to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays:

Avital Desmond  
Ahmi Montoya  
Lian Bega  
Ayden Arya  
Shaye Jagete  
Aaron Deutch

FIND TONS OF INFO ON  
EVENTS & PROGRAMS  
+ NAGEELA SHABBOS AR-  
CHIVES AND PHOTOS ALL  
AT  
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**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](mailto:stump@nageelawest.org)*

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed

## Poly got a diety

Hi Rabbi,

I'm confused about something, so maybe you can help. My Hebrew School teacher told me that all people come from Adam and Eve, and they believed in the same God as we do. But aren't there like a lot of religions? If we all came from the same people, why there be more than one religion?

Thanks

Percey Jackson

Dear Percey,

Hey, is your name copyrighted? Am I gonna get sued for this? My editor is making me misspell your name. Wait, you go to Hebrew School? Nevermind. Where was I? Oh yeah, your question.

According to most counts, there are more than four thousand religions in the world today. How did they all get started? It's a great question, with a fascinating answer. As you correctly mentioned, Adam and Eve all knew about God. They even spoke with Him. It was their grandchildren and great grandchildren who got confused.

They didn't suddenly forget God. Oh no. They loved God and wanted to serve Him. So what happened? Let me tell you about something that happened

to me last year:

I was invited to a school in the Las Vegas area to lecture about Judaism. This is not a Jewish school, and there are very few Jews in the school, but a Jewish teacher invited me to speak to the kids and give them a basic understanding of what Judaism is about. I agreed, and for about 45 minutes gave them the Snapchat version (meaning they'll forget it in a day). After I was done, I asked the kids if they had any questions. There was one boy whose family came from India, raising his hand.

"I don't understand," He began. "What do you pray to?"

"We pray to God." I answered.

"No, but WHAT do you pray to? What THING do you look at, bow to when you pray?"

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“Um, nothing. We just think about God and pray to Him. We direct our thought toward God.” “How can you pray to God without a statue or something?”

Singh just could not understand how we could connect to God without seeing or feeling Him. It's a fair point. It can be difficult to express ourselves to a God who we can't see. The descendants of Adam and Eve felt the same way. So they started praying to God's 'assistants,' like the sun and stars. Eventually, they kept praying to those things and more, forgetting about the reason they'd started in the first place (God). And thus was born polytheism (which is not the word for worshipping a parrot, BTW).

Later generations took the idea further, seeing powerful forces in nature like

thunder, the sea and even war, and creating gods of their own to worship. I guess you'd know about that. Huh, Perce? For nearly four thousand years, our nation has taught the world that there is only one God, and it's caught on pretty well. At least couple of billion people in the world believe in one God. Thing is, we STILL can't see God, so people come up with different ideas of what God is like, what He wants and how to pray to Him. That's pretty much a very, very short version of why different religions exist.

What? Ya wanna know WHY God doesn't let us see Him? Aw shucks, kid. That'll have to wait for a different week.

Have-A Nageela Year,

*the Rabbi*

## PERCEY JACKSON & THE BAGEL THIEF



**HEY, DON'T PEEK!  
THINK FIRST!**

At the Beit Hamikdash - the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, while it stood. "Baruch Shem Kevod Malchuto 'lo am v'aled" was the response to blessings made in the temple, not "amen."

**Answer of the Week**



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.

Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

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