

Ki Seitzei 5782
September 9th 2022

NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

SEASON 6 EPISODE 42

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Mildly Interesting

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Poll question:

Is it humanly possible to write a dvar torah about interest without making a joke about it being interesting?

- A. No way
- B. Not a Chance
- C. Negative
- D. That's an interesting question.

Normally, if I want to give up my money of my own free will, there's no problem. Why am I not allowed to pay you interest because I'm grateful for your loan? The Torah never makes rules preventing people from spending their money willingly. Here, the commentaries explain, it's so common and widespread, that if we would allow voluntary interest, it would happen often and people would use it as a loophole.

"Oh, no. He's not charging me interest. I'm voluntarily donating the amount that he wants." That's pretty fake, but it would happen. Have you heard about the bank that gives out major loans and mortgages with 0% interest?

Yeah, that's because it doesn't exist.

Here's the third interesting thing about interest. According to many readings of



continued on next page

Here are a couple of interesting things about interest. Firstly, though it's a mitzvah to lend money to someone in need, it's totally against Torah rules to charge them any extra when they pay it back. This is called interest. Got that straight? Lending someone money and charging a fee or a late payment is forbidden. Why? Because a kindness should be a kindness and not a money-making venture. But here's the really interesting thing. It's not just a problem to CHARGE someone interest. It's even forbidden to volunteer to pay interest. In fact, the Torah refers to it as a snake bite (I guess you'd call that an 'interest sting').



Candle lighting

- Honolulu 6:21
- Scottsdale 6:23
- Henderson 6:38
- Las Vegas 6:39
- San Diego 6:44
- Irvine 6:47
- Los Angeles 6:50
- Reno 6:59
- Oakland 7:07
- Park City 7:26

Who loves sponsors?
We love sponsors!
Contact dlocker@nageelawest.org for details

deep thoughts

WHY DO PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY 'NO OFFENSE' RIGHT WHEN THEY'RE ABOUT TO OFFEND YOU?



SKY ZONE PHOENIX

Arizona Kickoff Event
Tuesday, Sept. 13th 5:00pm
5-8 graders



Is it all coming together for you yet? Here's what it looks like.

It is fair, honest, moral and [should be] legal to charge a reasonable amount of interest, and also to pay interest. This is NOT a morality issue. It's business. In fact, if people would not be allowed to charge interest, loans wouldn't happen as often and it would be harder for people build businesses, buy houses and other important things. However, God wants the Jewish people to become a loving, caring family. When it comes to family, business is not just business. This explains the Torah's rules. If you're borrowing from someone who's not Jewish, or lending to him, it's business and should be treated like a smart business deal. If interest isn't charged, that moves it out of the 'business' box and moves it into the 'family' box. For fellow Jews, we want to do everything possible to prevent a business- like relationship.

Because we all know what happens when families get too interesting.

the Torah, it is a mitzvah to pay interest if you borrow money from someone who isn't Jewish. Wait a sec. If interest is immoral, then we shouldn't deal with interest even with someone who isn't Jewish. If interest is perfectly moral, then why can't we charge it, or even pay it for a Jew?

continued from page 1

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022

Dispatcher. I'd like to report robbery at the local synagogue.

Please report. How much was stolen?

About twelve dollars... and a hundred thousand in pledges.



DL

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.

Note: 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.



#212 All the Right Reasons

Hi Rabbi,

What should our attitude be towards commandments? I'm assuming that we should do them happily, but is it important to know the reasons? Should we try to force ourselves to change the things we like and dislike to what the Torah says? Like, what if I hate Shabbat and love eating shrimp. Is that against the Torah?

Thanks
Albert Truistic

Dear Altruistic,

Yes, and no, and yes. Hope that's cleared things up. Have a great week!

OK, here we go for realz. Maimonides famously says (and I'm paraphrasing a bit) that a Jew should not necessarily say, "Bacon is gross." The proper attitude can appreciate unkosher food as yummy, yummy in [someone else's] tummy. We don't have to dislike something just because the Torah tells us not to have it or do it. On the flip side, one should ideally not just keep Shabbat because "it's good for my social development to put my phone away once a week." It may be true, but it's not necessary for mitzvah observance. So it's not against the Torah to love shrimp (of course, if that love causes you to eat shrimp, you might want to reevaluate).

Less famously, Maimonides continues to say that this rule only

applies to vertical commandments (that's my term for commandments that are between us and the One above). However, when it comes to horizontal commandments (rules about how we behave toward others), the goals of these commandments include changing our attitude. Here is an example:

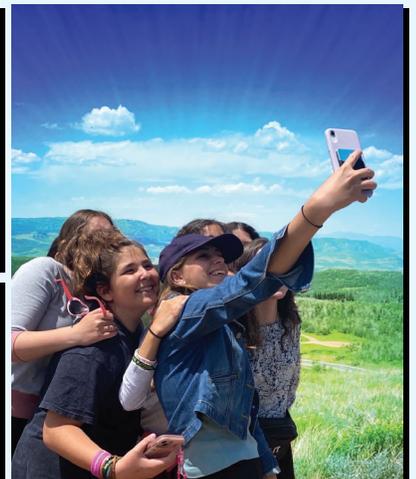
There's a mitzvah to lend money to a person in need. Let's say someone asks for a loan, but I can't stand the guy (he doesn't like pickles- who could like a guy who is contemptuous of the grandeur that is the pickle?). But I say, "Well, Jason is gross, but what can I do? God wants me to lend money to this lousy excuse for a human, so that's what I'll do." Have I done the mitzvah properly? Not really. When it comes to mitzvos that guide how we act toward others, a goal is to work on changing our feelings. So when we perform an act of kindness, it should be done with love and feelings of goodwill. Not with resentment. When the Torah forbids us to gossip about others, part of the mitzvah is to develop respect for other people, their privacy and boundaries.



WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2022!

BOTH MAIN CAMP AND TRAVEL CAMP SESSIONS

1. FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, CNW 22 CONSISTED OF 4 SEPARATE SESSIONS: 2 ON OUR CAMPUS IN NORTHERN UTAH, AND 2 TRAVEL SESSIONS SPANNING YELLOWSTONE, MOUNT RUSHMORE AND PARTS OF SIX STATES!



So far so good, right? Vertical commandments don't fully need us to be emotionally invested, while horizontal commandments do. But as usual, it's not so simple. Ideally, all mitzvos are meant to affect us and change us. Here's another example.

There is an unusual commandment called 'shiluach hakan' where a person who wants to take an egg from a bird's nest must first send the mother bird away. The talmud and the midrash seem to contradict each other. The Midrash says that this shows God's great mercy upon all creatures (even though we're allowed to take that egg, we don't

want to cause the mother the pain of seeing it directly). Yet the talmud says that if a person says that the purpose of the mitzvah is God's mercy, we

shushhhhhhhh him (everyone loves a good shhhhshhhhhh, am I right?). What's the deal?

Yes, all of the commandments of the Torah are representative of God's awesome and perfect traits. Yes AND we are supposed to learn from those and try to become more like God by utilizing those traits. Yes AND that still shouldn't be the reason we follow God's commandments. They're wonderful, and that's not why we do them. Sure, on the highest levels of growth we can gain value by truly understanding and feeling why bacon is bad for us, or why keeping Shabbos will help our overall happiness in life. But that shouldn't be our primary motivation. Step one is doing what we are told to do. Step two is trying to get some additional wisdom or value out of it.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

the Rabbi

ASK MORE QUESTIONS AT STUMP@NAGEELAWEST.ORG

**HEBREW SCHOOL
ROCKS!**
REALLY. IT DOES!
SUNDAYS ONLY. NO MEMBERSHIP.
RELAXED LEARNING.
CONTACT LOCKERD@NCSY.ORG

OUR NEW HEBREW SCHOOL SEASON BEGINS THIS SUNDAY! PLEASE CONTACT US FOR DETAILS!



SO EXCITED TO BE BACK! WE'VE RESTARTED JEWNIOR NCSY PROGRAMS ALL ACROSS THE WEST COAST. **VEGAS SKATING**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Leah Kantrowitz
Tamar Orgel
Noam Goldman
Jordan Darrison
Ben Malka
Tehila Seleh



The shepherd got pulled over while driving his sheep through town.

It seems he made an illegal ewe turn.

OUCH! GROAN!
Why do bad jokes happen to good people? Find a better joke. Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

Nageela West Coast

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.



www.nageelawest.org
info@nageelawest.org
801-613-1539

Want to stay in the loop? Text the word NAGEELAWEST to 22828

