

nageela

Shabbos

SEASON 7, EPISODE 12

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

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH

The most important trait for a leader is:

Enter your answer here.

If you're choosing someone to be the boss, or a king or president or Supreme Mugwump, what is the one quality they absolutely need? Is it strength? Fairness, decisiveness or empathy? Is it transparency? Brilliant strategy? Smooth talking diplomacy? Speechwriting? Let's find out what the Torah says.

The story of Judah is often overlooked, as it is sandwiched between the parts of Joseph's story. As important as Joseph's story is for the future of the Jewish people's survival and birth as a nation, Judah's story is the story of our leadership, of the ancestry of King David and of Mashiach. Why was Judah chosen to be the granddaddy of the royal fam?

Forbes Magazine may not be a great Torah commentary, but they do provide an excellent answer to this question. Well, OK. It's actually the Midrash who provides the answer, but Forbes magazine helps. A bit. A 2016 study

Incorruptible

by Rabbi Dani Locker

quoted in Forbes polled more than 3,000 workers and managers to determine the most important trait for leadership. Their answer? 75% listed integrity as the number one. The Midrash tells us that Judah's selection as the future ruler of our nation was based on his willingness to admit his fault. When faced with the choice between blaming someone else (Tamar) or admitting fault, he was able (even though both his father and grandfather were in the audience) to openly admit his shortcomings.

Honesty and self-reflection. Judah had a unique quality. He was able to look at a problem and not be swayed by selfishness. He was able to admit his faults, assess the situation and make a decision with integrity. He was incorruptible.

This is the most important quality for a leader. It's also a powerful tool for ordinary people. So many times, people are well

had look by mit his a clear

dreamstime.



Would you consider sponsoring an episode? I'd tell you about all the blessings & rewards you'll get, but then you might lose out on some of the merit!

meaning, wanting to do the right thing, but find it hard to be honest with themselves about what the right thing is. Our lesson from Judah is in the value of

integrity, and the blessings we earn by acting in a way that's honest with ourselves. How

do we keep ourselves honest? One people for their out-

side opinion. Others can often see our blindspot where we can't see our own. Oh, by the way. The least important skill for leaders?

I'm gonna go with knitting.

Ask other people for their outside opinion.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

JOSEPH IS KNOWN TO HAVE HAD A COLORFUL COAT- KESONES PASSIM. WHAT OTHER PERSON IS MENTIONED IN TANACH AS ALSO HAVING A COLORFUL COAT (HINT, THIS PERSON SHARES THE NAME OF SOMEONE IN THIS WEEK'S PARSHA)

NO CHEATING
ANSWER ON PAGE 4

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

JULY

I REMOVED THE SHELL FROM MY PET SNAIL HOPING IT WOULD MAKE IT FASTER.

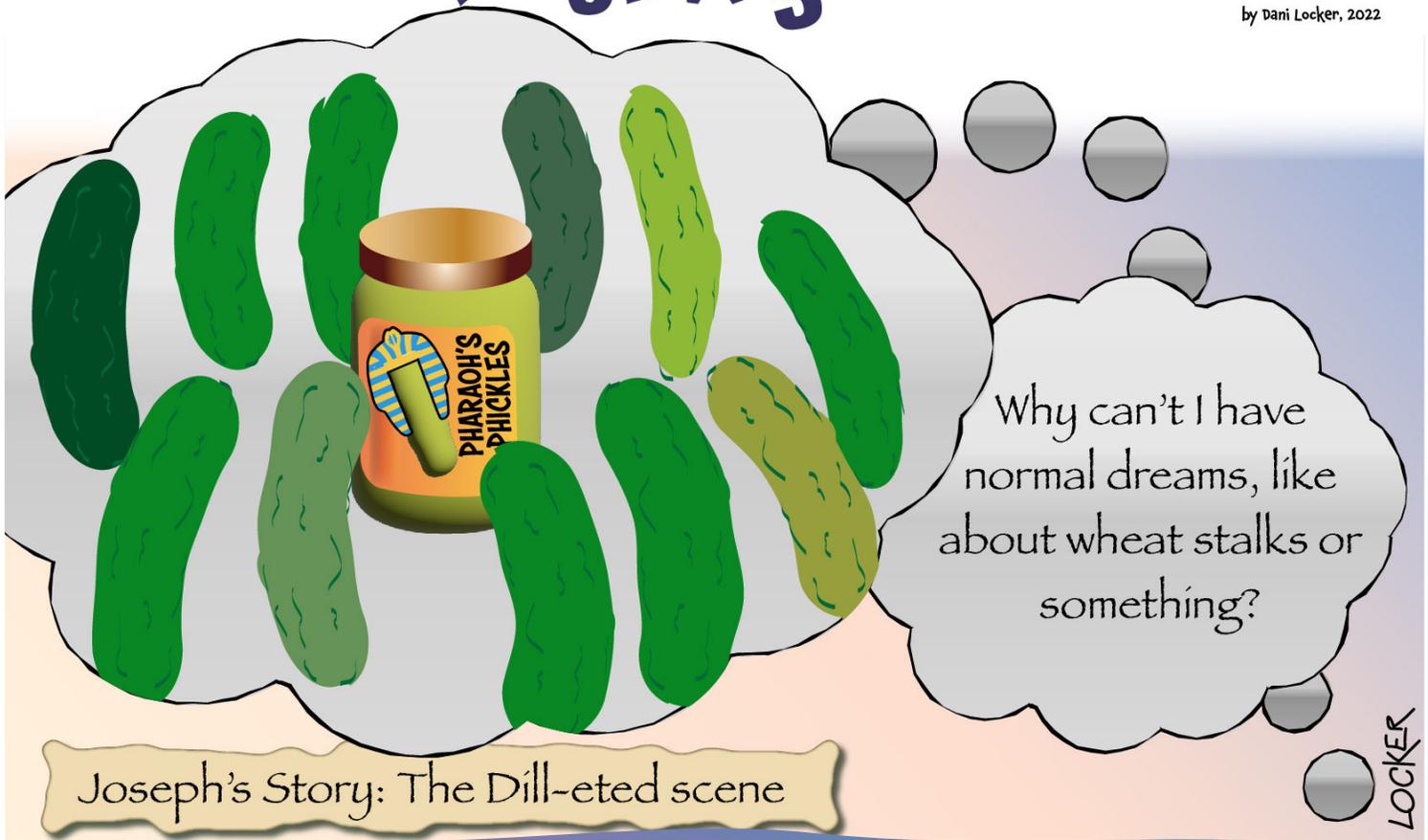
INSTEAD, IT MADE IT MORE SLUGISH.

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO DLOCKER@NAGEELANEST.ORG

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022



Joseph's Story: The Dill-eted scene

LOCKER

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DAYS UNTIL CNW GIRLS 2023

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DAYS UNTIL CNW BOYS 2023

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,

#224

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW? Part 2 of 'where to pray'

Is it considered idol worship to pray to the Kotel? Lots of people do it, why is that OK? While we're at it, if God is everywhere, what's the point of going to a particular place to pray?c

Wally P. Ray

Yes, I know, this is the same question as last week. It's a big topic, so this is part 2 of the answer.

Last week we discussed why we don't pray to specific items, people or places. But your other question is great, too. Why do we seem to make a big deal about where to pray? People come from all over the world for a few minutes at the KOTEL- the Western wall. We intuitively understand that there's something great about praying in a synagogue. The city of Chevron, known for being the burial site of some of our greatest ancestors, is an extremely popular site for prayers as are the tombs and gravesites of many, many other great people. God can hear us anywhere, so why are these spots special? Taking it one step farther, there are certain spots even within a synagogue that are better for prayers. Why?

"Can you hear me now? How about now? Can you hear me now? Can you here me? Hold up, let me move to a better spot. OK good. Hello? Can you hear me? CAN YOU HEAR ME?

What? Oh, too much noise? Yes, I'm in the airport. No, I can't turn the planes off. WHAT? I can't even hear myself think. No, you're not boarding; why? Oh never mind, I'll just text."

Does that conversation sound familiar to you? I think I've had that same exchange dozens of times. With all the wonderful technology that has been developed, and as useful as phones are for all sorts of convenient services, you'd think they would have actually made the phone calls work better. But this just proves the point I'm about to

make. No matter how omniscient God is, and that He can hear you wherever you are, it's important that we speak with Him in a place where there's 'good reception' for a few different reasons.

- **Focus and distraction:** We carefully choose places to pray based on our ability to concentrate. It is, for example, a supremely rotten idea to pray while watching a basketball game. Similarly, even if at home or in the synagogue, we should be certain to remove any distractions like smartphones or dancing armadillos, and make sure people aren't having interesting conversations nearby (one reason why it's so important not to chat in a synagogue is because it will likely distract someone). Many people prefer to pray in front of a wall or pillar in order to minimize distractions. If you're in a place where distractions are unavoidable, like an airport or amusement park, and the time comes to pray, just do your best to find a side area where it's slightly less noisy, colorful or crowded.
- **Inspiration:** Way back when there was



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TEENS IN PARK CITY, UTAH, PARTICIPATING IN A LATKE COOKOFF

DEEP THOUGHTS

WHEN YOU FASTEN THE SEATBELT, YOU'RE ACTUALLY WEARING THE CAR.

a Holy Temple in Jerusalem, it was a beautiful, grand complex. There was lots of gold and marble, and even the priests who worked there wore impressive robes. There were musicians playing music to accompany the service. Why? Not because God values gold in His home. These things were meant to inspire the visitors. If you visited the Holy Temple, they made the setting, mood and ambience such that it was more likely to connect well to God. Certain spots, like the graves of holy people, beautiful synagogues, and of course, the remaining wall of the Holy Temple can be very inspirational places to pray. Many synagogues have high windows, intended for people to look up to the sky and gain a boost of inspiration during prayers.

- **Local call:** There are certain places on Earth that are 'closer' to God. As we know, there's no such thing as being physically closer to God, but there are certain places that because of their innate holiness have a better connection. The Kotel is one such place, where it is said our prayers go 'straight up' without any barriers.

At the graves of special people as well, there's a certain divine aid we can tap into in the merit of those special people. Quick disclaimer, as we mentioned last week, we never pray TO the people buried there. We pray to God, and get a boost in the merit of visiting the holy site.

- **Consistency:** There's a concept that a person should try to pray in the same place every day. Whether you pray at a synagogue, where you can have an assigned seat, or at home, there should be a spot- the same spot for prayers. One reason for this is to minimize distractions, as we mentioned earlier. Another benefit of a consistent spot is to train us to be consistent in our approach to God. Our relationship with God and our spiritual growth should not just be something we do in random bursts. It should be planned, it should be consistent and it should be focused.

It's super- duper uber important to know that despite everything I wrote today, you can pray anywhere. Sure there are some places that are preferred, but if you do find yourself in a location that isn't ideal, you should pray anyway. After all, God can still hear you. But I can't. Hello? Helloooooo?

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 3

TAMAR, WHO WAS A DAUGHTER OF KING DAVID IS MENTIONED IN 2 SAMUEL, CHAPTER 13 AS HAVING A COLORFUL COAT - KESONES PASSIM.

HBD

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

**TAL HIRSH
SHLOMO BERK
JOSEPH BORNA
AGAM COHEN
BEN BERNSTEIN
CHAYA'LA' BRENNER**

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