

have a Nageela Shabbos

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

Season 3
Episode 27

You've got some schmutz...

by Rabbi Dani Locker



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
@NAGEELAWEST

It looked like a terrible skin condition. Maybe fungus, possibly a rash, I wasn't sure. I was a Junior Counselor at a summer camp on the East Coast, and one of my campers seemed to have something wrong with his face. He was a really nice kid, good athlete, always smiling, very tan skin, and I was concerned about the white splotches all over his face. He was a fun guy, with fungi. So I decided to go to the camp nurse and ask her what to do.

On my way to the infirmary, I bumped in to the 'camp mother; a loving, nurturing presence in camp whose job it was to ensure the emotional health and happiness of the campers. I told her my problem. "You don't need the nurse." She told me. "You just need a washcloth, warm water, and soap." I returned to our bunk and did as Mommy had suggested. It turns out he did not have a rash or a fungal infection. It turned out he wasn't actually a tanned boy. He just hadn't showered in three weeks. **True story.**

Our Torah portion introduces us to a skin condition called tzara'as. Unlike most skin diseases that are caused by bacteria, virus or fungus, this condition is caused by dirt. Not dirt like my unwashed camper, but spiritual dirt. When someone speaks improperly, they

are coating themselves in a layer of spiritual grime and mud. That dirt causes the tzara'as affliction. Feeling dirty like that can make a person really get down on themselves. How would you feel if you found out your soul was muddy?

This might help.

The Torah says something unusual about the tzara'as. The exact words are, "A person who has 'on the skin of their flesh'..." Why does it say "on the skin?" It is very obvious from the context that this is a skin condition.

The great Or Hachaim explains that we are all children of God and we're intrinsically holy and good. Any 'dirt' or 'fungus' that we develop is **only on the skin**. It's external to us, and can be removed. His message is clear. If you made a mistake and polluted yourself, don't give up on yourself. With a little bit of work, you can wash yourself off. With some effort to improve the way we treat people, and improve the way we think about others, that 'schmutz' will come right off.

All it takes is a washcloth, warm water, and some soap.

Sponsored in memory of
Natalie Fruchter, Nechama
bas Mordechai a"h

to sponsor an episode
of Nageela Shabbos,
please contact ygelb@
nageelawest.org





What do you call fake macaroni?

Impasta!

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org



Photo of the Week

Reaching Higher

Camp Nageela West staff help children rise themselves to become more mature, independent and responsible people.

April 11th, save the date for an ice cream get together for all middle school students in the Scottsdale and Phoenix area to find out about Nageela and Jr. NCSY! See flyer on back page.

Get ready for 7pm on Thursdays for a 20 minute Instagram Live broadcast featuring Stump the Rabbi, games and jokes! Points will be given!

May 1st, Bowling at Lake Tahoe, plus a meeting for parents addressing Anti-Semitism in School.

If you know anyone looking for the greatest Jewish summer experience of their lives, please contact us for details.

Locker Live is coming back!



DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

Find out about our Grand Tour 2019 and see photos from GT2018 at nageelawest.org

April 11
Junior NCSY Event Taster
Grades 6th-8th

MEET AND GREET

WITH

CHELSEA ROSENBERG
ARIZONA DIRECTOR OF NCSY AND JSU
RABBI DANI LOCKER
DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR PROGRAMMING
WEST COAST

COME MEET NEW FRIENDS, LEARN ABOUT EXCITING PROGRAMMING, AND HAVE AN ICE CREAM ON US

BASKIN ROBBINS
4547 E CACTUS RD
6:45 PM - 7:45 PM



instagram @lockerroom
youtube: selfietorah

THURSDAYS @7

Question of the Week

This one is completely hypothetical. I've been asking it for the past week, and I've gotten a few correct answers. If there was an NFL team in Israel during the second temple,...

What Torah prohibition would be violated if any games were played on the day before Passover?

ANSWER ON PAGE 4



stump the rabbi

Dear Shprintzy Name,

Have you ever heard of Peter Gene Hernandez? I didn't think so. You see, Peter changed his name, because Bruno Mars sounds much cooler than his old name. Many people change their names, and the process to go through a legal name change is really no big deal. In fact, I've considered changing one of my kid's first name to "Foot." It is a little trickier to change a Jewish name.

Well, Jews HAVE been changing our names for a really long time. The very first ancestors of our people, Avraham and Sarah had their names changed from Avram and Sarai. Moshe changed the name of his disciple Hoshea to Yehoshua, and Yaakov became Yisrael. Yet, we don't usually do much name changing these days except for specific reasons. Let me explain why.

According to traditional Jewish sources, our names are connected to our souls. Names are special and meaningful. The talmud says that parents have divine prophecy when they name their children. This is why changing names can make a difference in a person's life. According to Jewish tradition, changing the name of a sick person can avoid whatever heavenly verdict decreed the illness. Since he's got a different name, he's actually a different person. The same thing works the other way, too. Any good decrees he has going for him could be lost. That's why we don't just change names for no reason.

Think of a doctor performing delicate brain surgery. If she's successful, she may save the patient's life! But without being a truly expert surgeon, cutting into brain tissue

Got some change?

Hi Rabbi,

I don't really like my Jewish name. My parents gave it to me when I was a baby, of course, and I respect that, but I was wondering if it's possible to change my name. I've heard of people changing their legal names. Can it be done in Judaism? If so, how?

Thanks,

Shprintzah Yentah Naiman

is a really, really bad idea. So when do you operate? Usually only when there's a serious risk, and not just for fun! Since names are linked to our personality and our soul, only really holy and knowledgeable people should get involved.

When someone is very ill, it is common to add a name. For example, if the patient's name is Avraham, they might add the name Refael (which means God heals) so his name would be Refael Avraham. Usually names that hint at health, long life and blessing are the ones added. Some other examples are: Bracha, Yosef, Chaim and Chaya. If a person is sick, or has many troubles in their life, then changing a name completely can also be done. The way to make a name change is either by calling a person to the Torah with the new name, or by saying a special prayer in public (often the case when it comes to someone who is serious;y ill and can't make it to a synagogue) using the new name.

There is one other time it's acceptable to change names. If someone was given the name of a wicked person, then it would be appropriate to change it. So, if your name happens to be Haman or Pharaoh...

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

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*

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

PICKLE JEWS GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

Hey, Dad!
Why don't we eat
pasta on Passover?

That's because of the 11th plague!

Weird. I thought there
were only ten plagues.
What was the 11th?

Makka
Roni

Did Jew Know?

Though all of Israel is special, there are specific places that are considered to be even more elevated.

The **FOUR HOLY CITIES** are:

Jerusalem- because of the two temples that stood there.

Chevron (not the gas station)- because of the Cave of the Patriarchs, the place where most of our forefathers and mothers are buried.

Tzefas (also called Safed) - because of thousands of great people buried in its ancient cemetery, and the great history of kabbalah and spiritual greatness.

Tiveria (also called Tiberias)- because of the many great scholars who lived there and are buried there. The Ancient Jewish Supreme court, the Sanhedrin, also did some time there.

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

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

In Parshas Shemini, the Torah tells us that touching the flesh of a non-kosher animal makes one spiritually impure. That's usually not a problem, unless you need to be pure for a temple visit, or bringing an offering. On the day before Passover, we were required (during temple times) to bring the korban Pesach. Touching pig skin that day would have been a direct Torah violation!

Answer of the Week



Subscribe to the "Rabbi Locker" YouTube channel for weekly Selfie Torah videos, educational, entertaining and informational videos.
tinyurl.com/selfietorah

Subscribe to the Camp Nageela West YouTube channel for up to date Nageela content.
www.youtube.com/nageelawest



Awesometastic birthday wishes to our friends celebrating their birthdays:

Sara Sfadia
Ian Wise
Ezra Arovas
Alex Sefia
Anne Musser

Rabbi Derek Gormin
Avromi Richman
Logan Kraft

HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY TO

EVERYONE ELSE!



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. 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.

844-NAGEELA
www.nageelawest.org info@nageelawest.org