

# Question of the Week

SEASON 2  
EPISODE 25

March 17th, 2018

Answer on page 3

Question of the Week is adapted with permission from the book "Question of the Week" by Rabbi David Zaback

This Shabbos, in synagogues all across the world, THREE Torah scrolls are removed from the ark, and all three are read. Parshat Vayikra, then the reading for Rosh Chodesh, the new Jewish month, and finally Parshat Hachodesh, an annual reading about the month of Nissan (not to be confused with Rosh Chodesh, despite the similar sounding names).

**On what other three occasions is it possible to read from three Torah scrolls on the same morning?**

[not counting when one or more scroll is found to have a mistake].

Candle Lighting:  
Las Vegas 6:31  
Lake Tahoe 6:49  
San Diego 6:39  
Los Angeles 6:44  
Phoenix 6:18

have a

# Nageela Shabbos

Parshas  
Vayikra

5778

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

## Being Bad to Be Good

by Rabbi Dani Locker

What mitzvah should never be done?

There are 613 commandments in the Torah, which we call, mitzvot. These are God's instructions for living an awesometastic life, and all of them should be done at the appropriate times. Matzah is only a mitzvah on Passover. Fasting is a mitzvah on Yom Kippur. Studying Torah and giving charity are mitzvot always. Yet a particular mitzvah in this week's Torah

reading can only be done if you do something wrong first. What is it?

Aaron was a tough kid. As the Junior counselor in his bunk, I had a great time with all the kids, but this one really got under my skin. Finally I'd had enough, and during a long night of Aaron preventing all the other kids from going to sleep, I called the division head and vented. I rallied for every possible punishment the camp could give out. Early curfew, forced spinach consumption, opera... something bad. The DH pulled Aaron aside and had a long, serious conversation with him. When they were done, I asked Aaron about his fate.

“Ice cream!” he said with a huge grin, and went straight to bed.

I was really, really annoyed. As a 15 year old JC, I knew how to run a camp, and it was NOT by promising ice cream to a troublemaker! I wanted to (ice) scream! Yet something magical happened. Aaron did not become a model camper; far from it. But from that night on, his attitude improved dramatically. Perhaps it was the promise of ice cream for good reports, or maybe it was the realization that the respected division head didn't think of him as hopeless. Whatever it was, it worked. Instead of reacting with anger, he was given a unique opportunity that other kids didn't have. Because they

continued on back



25th - Nageela Model Seder

25th - Gravady All nighter!

26th - Lake Tahoe event - CU Latte!

Sponsorship opportunity

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# Stump The Rabbi

Yes, in-deed

Hi Rabbi,

Is recycling a mitzvah? My community is having a "mitzvah day" where they're doing all kinds of good deeds (and we're getting pizza). Recycling is one of the activities we'll be helping out with, as well as delivering food packages to poor people and cleaning litter from a park.

Are those things all mitzvas?

Thanks,

Yedidyah Gutt

Dear Gutt Didi,

Your question reminds me of a story. Karen had a problem. She had a massive school project due, and she wasn't even close to finishing it. It had actually been due the week before, but her teacher had kindly given her until Monday. Karen knew if she worked at it all Sunday afternoon, she could probably get it done, but she wanted to make sure the teacher would be happy with the project and happy with her, so she decided to get a gift. No simple apple for



the teacher, oh no. She began to investigate, asking all her friends on social media if they knew Ms. Divine's favorite colors, fragrances, clothing styles... anything that would be of assistance. She found the perfect gift on Prime Now, and while she waited, she worked on a thank you card. Karen really appreciated Ms. Divine and wanted to show her that, so she put a ton of effort into the card and the gift. When Karen finally fell into bed, exhausted on Sunday



night, she knew her wonderful teacher would be thrilled with her presentation.

On Monday morning, Karen presented Ms. Divine with her token of appreciation, and the teacher was appropriately impressed. Then Ms. Divine asked, "Karen, I love the gift... where's your school

## GREEN VALLEY NAGEELATTE



## WACKBARDS LAGEENATTE



## BAY AREA ALUMNI EVENT



assignment that I asked you to do for today?"

Karen had forgotten something important and fundamental. It's great to do kind, good, extra things. Yet our most important responsibility is to do what we're supposed to do. To fulfil our obligations, before our extra credit.

God certainly wants us to do lots of good things, but that's not what the word "mitzvah" means. Mitzvah means instruction, or commandment. It's an obligation that God gave us in His instruction book (the Torah). In your examples, delivering food packages to the poor is a mitzvah, because the Torah commands us to help the poor. Caring for the environment is a positive value, but I'm not aware of any verse in the Torah that directly instructs us to do so, so recycling is not a mitzvah. If your synagogue wants to have a good deed day, then litter removal certainly qualifies. If it's a mitzvah day (and by the way, the plural is "mitzvot" or "mitzvos"), then perhaps praying, wearing tefillin, and making sure the pizza they serve is kosher would be more appropriate, as these are actual mitzvot.

To be clear, just because something isn't a mitzvah doesn't mean you shouldn't do it. Flossing might not be a mitzvah (if your parents ask you to, then it's definitely a mitzvah). Floss anyway!

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](mailto:stump@nageelawest.org)*

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

**ALL NIGHTER**  
**@ GRAVADY**

**8 HOURS OF EXTREME FUN!**      **MARCH 25TH 10:30P - MARCH 26TH 7:30A**

**SPRING BREAK!**  
FOR AGE 12 AND UP!

**Registration for All Nighter is LIVE NOW at [nageelawest.org](http://nageelawest.org)**

## Answer of the Week

question on page 1

### CAUTION:

Don't read this answer until you've read the question on page 1!

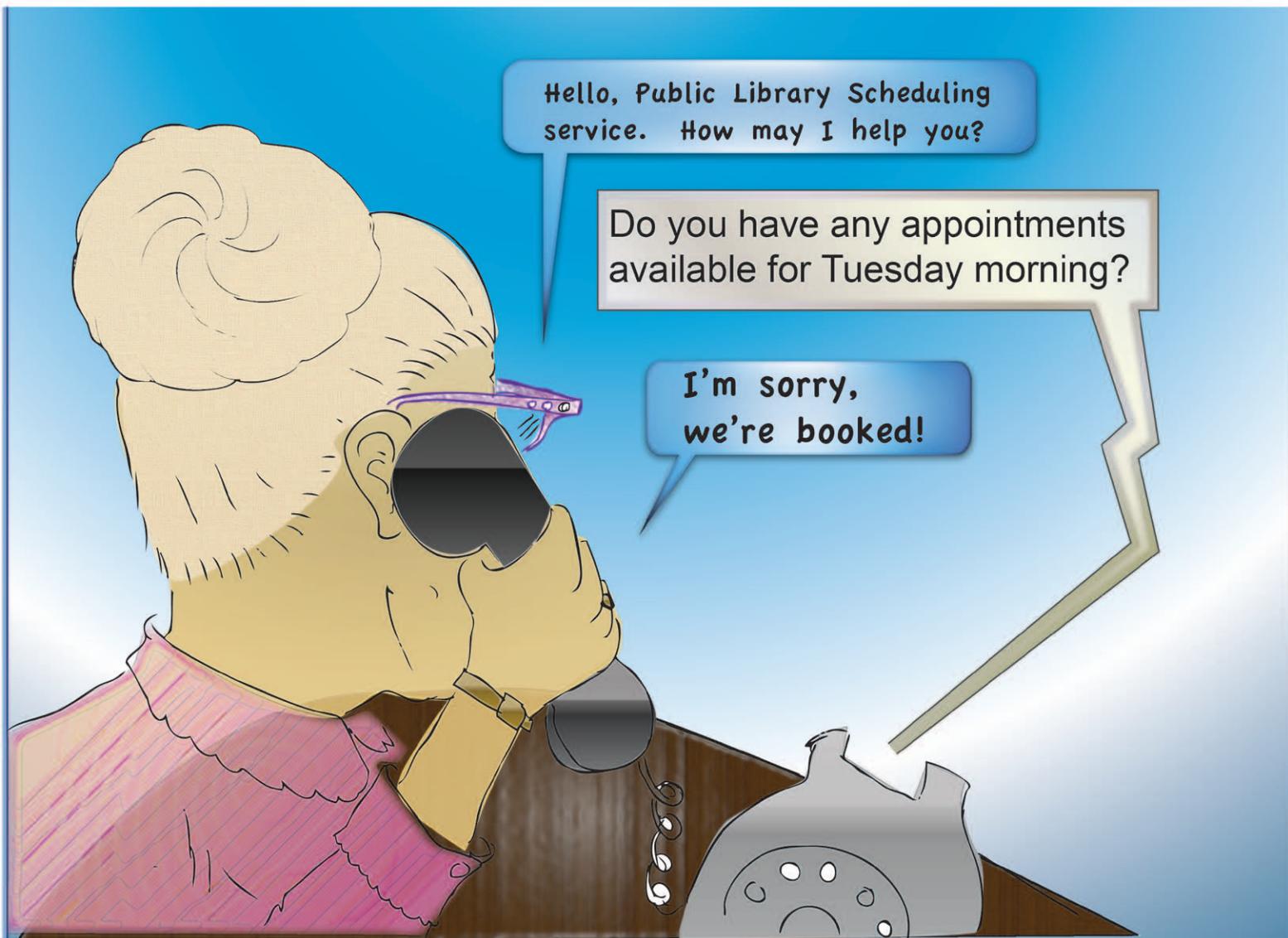
**DON'T CHEAT!**

**HEY, STOP LOOKING!**



Need help understanding, or have a different answer? email [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

1. On the holiday of Simchat Torah, we use three scrolls for the ending of the Torah, the beginning of the Torah, and Maftri.  
2. When Shabbos of Chanukah falls out on Rosh Chodesh, we have readings for Shabbos, Chanukah, and Rosh Chodesh.  
3. When Rosh Chodesh of the month of Adar (that's one month ago, shortly before Purim) is on a Shabbos, we read for Shabbos, Rosh Chodesh, and a special reading called Shekalim.



continued from front didn't need it.

The Torah talks about fixing problems that we've caused. There's actually a mitzvah, "You shall return the stolen item that you stole." Obviously we should never steal. In fact, it's one of the BIG 10 (hey, it's March madness season, right?). Still, the Torah gives a special mitzvah to the thief. A mitzvah that a better behaved person will not get.

God's care and concern for every person is mind blowing. His Torah is a perfect system, yet He provides special opportunities for people who disobey His rules and violate

His system.

I see two really cool lessons here. The first is to realize how absolutely, incredibly, awesomely, fantastically, unparalelagry (just made that word up. yup) God loves us. How can that not brighten your day? When we do mess up (and I mean when, not if), realizing that God loves us, understands and has a system for us to do better is sweet!

My second amazing lesson is to think like God does (a little) next time someone else messes with our own perfect little worlds. How angry do we get if our plans are ruined by a little brother, a parent or a

friend. Take deep breath. Now another. If God can deal with people breaking His stuff, so can we.

## Happy Birthday!

to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays this week!

Elad Cohen  
Oreya Gazala  
Leedon Gabay  
Jacob Hayes  
Aaron Kleiman