

NAGEELA

Shabbos

SEASON 1, EPISODE 35

You can help NAGEELA stay alive and vibrant during our campaign next week! Please support us. See back page for details.

HAVE A

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH

What would you do?

You're minding your own business, sweeping up from the afternoon's visitors at the inn you own, when a couple of strangers waltz in (which is even stranger- why would they waltz when then could tango?) and tell you they are part of a group who is about to conquer your country. Then they need your help to escape because, as enemy spies, they probably have at least a couple of speeding tickets and they could get arrested.

Step back for a moment and think about what you would do. Perhaps some people would run screaming from the room. Maybe others would climb into bed and pull the covers over their quivering heads. Rachav did none of those things. Rachav was an innkeeper in the city of Jericho, just before the Jewish people entered the land of Israel. Joshua sent two scouts, Caleb and Pinchas, to get

Just One Decision? by Rabbi Dani Locker

some information. She could have reported them to the authorities, but she did not. Instead, she helped these spies hide, planted a false lead with the JAIL agents (Jericho Area Information League) and became a true ally of the Jewish people. True, there may have been some self-interest involved. She did make a deal that would spare her family from any harm in the coming battle. Yet that doesn't diminish the great act of sacrifice and goodness she performed.



What happened to Rachav? Did she disappear down the drainpipe of history? Was she lost in the donuts of time (I think the expression is sands of time, but frankly, donuts taste better than sand, usually)? Nope. She hit the big time. Rachav married Joshua, the leader of the Jewish people and successor to Moses. Her descendants numbered among the greatest of Jews, including several prophets. Have you heard of Jeremiah, Ezekiel or Chulda? All descendants of Rachav.



THEIR FUTURE YOUR HANDS

June 18-19



Camp Nageela West



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What would Rachav's life have looked like had she made a different decision? Perhaps she and her family would have survived the invasion. Perhaps not. She certainly would not have become the matriarch of one of the most important families in world history. She most certainly would not have married a truly great man, or mothered giants of moral and academic achievements.

One decision.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHAT STATEMENT IN THIS WEEK'S PARSHA IS RELEVANT TO THE HOLIDAY OF PURIM?
NO CHEATING
 ANSWER ON PAGE 4

Do you know a Jewish kid or teen who still doesn't have summer plans or year-round Jewish engagement?
 CONTACT US. WE CAN HELP!

One decision to shelter two men changed the trajectory of her life forever. Changed her children and descendants, not to mention her eternal after-life. It was one decision, but decisions don't happen accidentally. They are usually a reflection of years of smaller personal choices. When we make our daily decisions, whether they're about how we treat other people, how we relate to God or how we care for ourselves and our personal responsibilities, one important question to ask ourselves is, "Is this small decision moving me closer or farther from becoming the kind of person I want to become?" Then who knows, maybe your kids will become prophets!

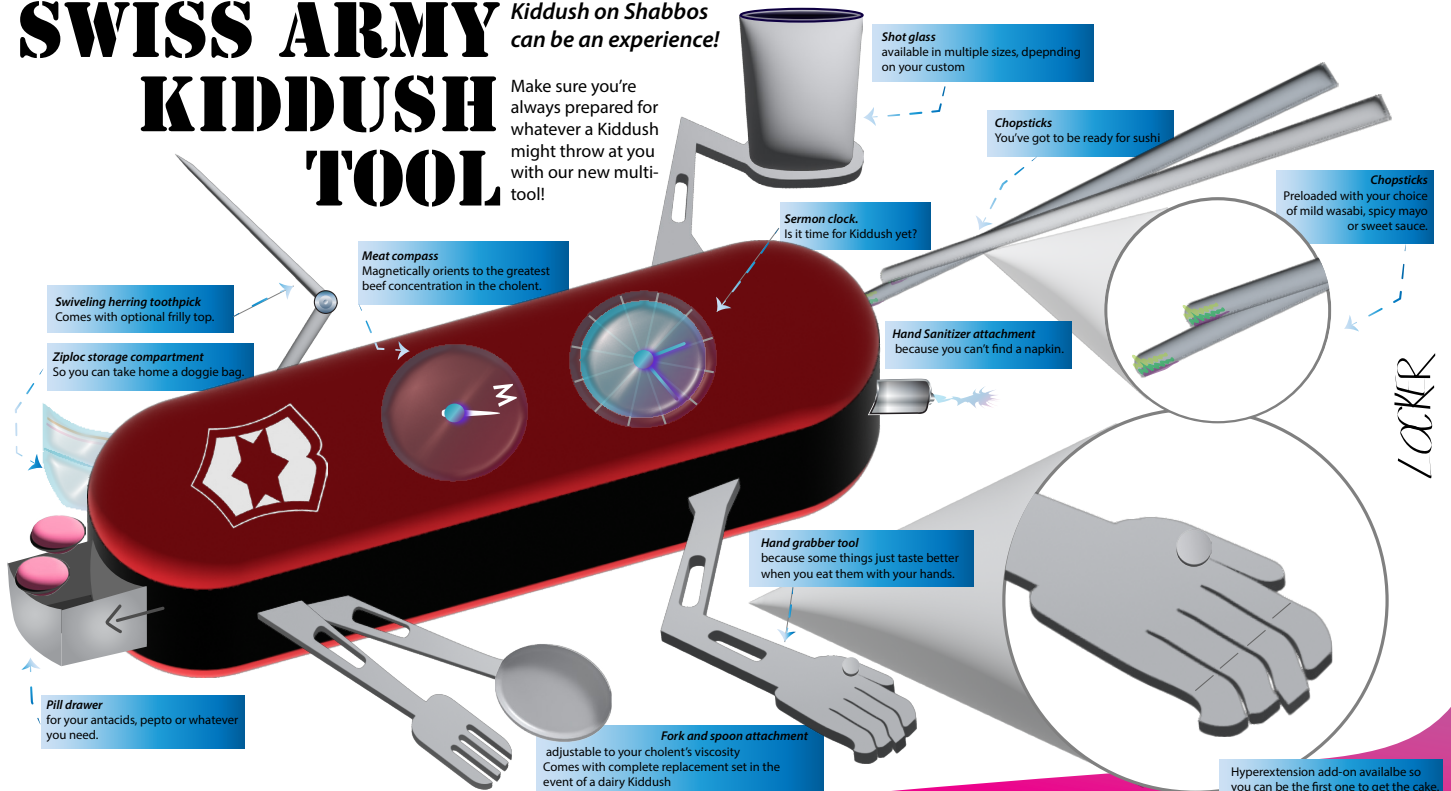
PICKLE JEWS GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2023

SWISS ARMY KIDDUSH TOOL

Kiddush on Shabbos can be an experience!

Make sure you're always prepared for whatever a Kiddush might throw at you with our new multi-tool!



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.

#243

**Bob the
Builder**

Hi Rabbi,

I see many problems in the world. Injustice, immorality, ignorance, just to name a few. I want to help, but I don't know where to start. I see people who try to make changes by protesting, lecturing, posting on social media or screaming very loudly. What is the Jewish approach to changing the world?

Thanks,

Tikvah Kunolam

Dear Tik Kunolam,

If you want to take a look, we did address this last year, in Season 6, Episode 29 on a national level. Here's a personal take.

There's a question many commentaries ask. It seems that when our great forefather Abraham was commanded by God to have a bris milah- a circumcision, he was unsure of what to do. Mamre, who was a friend of Abraham, advised him to go along with God's plan. That sounds odd. Would Abraham, who on several occasions risked everything, including his own life and that of his son, Abraham who marched into battle nearly alone; could he have had doubts whether to listen to God or not?

The authors of the Tosafos explain that Abraham had no thought of ignoring God's command. His question was one of the proper order. God had commanded him to also circumcise all the males in his household. That was a lot of people, some of whom were pretty nervous about following through. Abraham's debate was whether he should be the first one to get the bris (which at his age would make it difficult for him to do any active convincing), or whether he should wait until the end, so he could use his considerable motivational techniques to cajole, reassure, motivate, coax, convince, influence and persuade everyone else. Mamre's advice, which Abraham followed, was to go first.

Abraham was a master lecturer. He had successfully converted many people to Judaism (or whatever the correct name for it was at the time, considering that Judah hadn't been born yet). Surely, had Abraham decided to give speeches and held discussions, it would have worked. Certainly, he could have posted convincing tweets, constructed influential reels, or written a passionate op-ed. Yet, his decision was to minimize his efforts in those areas, and focus on the one thing that truly influences people. HIS ACTIONS. Abraham decided that whatever he would gain by giving speeches, his cause would gain more by him simply doing it himself. Our actions always speak louder than anything we say.

There's this concept people talk about all the time called 'Tikun Olam' which is misused to claim some global responsibility to fix the world. The Torah speaks a lot about personal responsibility. About helping other individuals. The Torah doesn't command us (to the best of my knowledge) to try and fix the world's problems. We let God worry about those, and we do the best we can to live the best life we can, by following the Torah's in-



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**DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2023**

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**DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2023**

DEEP THOUGHTS

TAXES ARE LIKE A SUBSCRIPTION YOU CAN'T CANCEL, NO MATTER HOW BAD THE SERVICE IS!

structions. This is why, with very few exceptions (IE the prophet Jonah) Jews are not instructed to try and actively teach the world anything, and why we don't try to convert people. [Note: This is not to say that a person should never take a public stand or make an inspirational speech. But that's not THE answer.]

You see problems in the world. If you see dishonesty, do your best to be incredibly trustworthy. If you see people making poor moral choices, strengthen yourself so that you are a pillar of moral decisions. If you see people in need, become a more generous person and do what you can to help. Unfortunately, there are many people who are well meaning, but spend most of their efforts on lecturing others. Think about how amazing the world would be if everyone focused on becoming a better version of themselves.

Next week, stay tuned for the other side of the coin- our moral obligations not to ignore injustice.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi



ANNOUNCING THIS YEAR'S LOGO WINNER, WITH MORE THAN 30% OF THE VOTE!

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO VOTED AND WHO GAVE SUGGESTIONS!

Sponsored by the Streiter family, may their children merit to grow up as Torah learning Jews!

HBD

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

- Zachary Sefia
- Liana Shamoil
- Eitan Bitton
- David Saul
- Isaac Chapman
- Ian Boyd
- Elisabeth Kac
- Joelle Shlasinger

READ OVER 250 EPISODES IN OUR ARCHIVES BY SCANNING THE CODE BELOW



WILL THERE BE ANOTHER GENERATION?



CAMP IS AN INCREDIBLY EFFECTIVE TOOL IN BUILDING CONNECTED, COMMITTED JEWS

June 18-19

Camp Nageela West has helped **hundreds** of WEST COAST Jewish kids and teens connect to meaningful Judaism.

This June we're raising \$100,000 because our job is far from finished!

The campaign site is now open (you don't even have to wait for the 18th). Please visit causematch.com/cnw23

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

HEY! STOP! THINK FIRST. NO PEEKING!

PURIM IS OBSERVED!

WHEN THE 12 SCOUTS WERE DISPATCHED TO ISRAEL, ONE OF THEIR MISSIONS WAS TO DETERMINE IF THE PEOPLE LIVED IN OPEN CITIES OR WALLED CITIES. JOSHUA WAS ONE OF THOSE SCOUTS. THE DATE PURIM OCCURS IN A CITY IS DETERMINED BY WHETHER THE CITY HAS BEEN WALLED FROM THE DAYS OF JOSHUA. THEREFORE, THIS REPORT SHOULD BE RELEVANT TO WHAT DAY

DO YOU ENJOY READING THIS WEEK'S PARSHA?

PERSONALLY, I DISLIKE THE WAY THE PEOPLE ACTED. NO. MORE THAN THAT. I DE SPIES THEM.

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO [DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)



www.nageelawest.org

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