

Candle Lighting:  
Las Vegas 4:21  
N.Lake Tahoe 4:32  
San Diego 4:37  
Los Angeles 4:39  
Tarzana 4:34  
Scottsdale 5:14

# have a Nageela Shabbos

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

Season 3  
Episode 15

## It's Cold Inside by Rabbi Dani Locker

CHECK OUT THE COMPLETELY  
REDESIGNED WEBSITE AT  
**NAGEELALV.ORG**

**W**hen did God give us the commandments of the Torah?  
**A**nyone? Bueller? If you got that joke, you're too old to be reading this :)

**G**ood! Mount Sinai! That's when and where God delivered all of His commandments via UPS (Ultimate Prophet Service). Well, not all. In fact there were a bunch of commandments we'd already received earlier (He used Prime NOW for those). For example, we received the commandments specific to Passover before we left Egypt. Telling our children the story, eating matzah, you get the idea. God also gave us the commandments regarding our calendar and month so that we could calculate the holidays, including Passover.

**T**here is another commandment that we received soon before we left Egypt. According to Torah law, if one Jew buys another Jew's service as a servant, he serves for six years. At the end of these six years, the master must (unless the servant asks to stay) release him. According to the Jerusalem Talmud, this mitzvah to release the servant was given to the Jewish people before they left Egypt.

**W**hy? Mount Sinai was a pretty cool place (not literally cool- it's in middle of the desert, but it was literally awesome). Since God gave most of the commandments to us at Mount Sinai, why was it important to give us this particular commandment before we left Egypt? It's not like we were about to hire servants... we were just trying to escape with our lives and our matzah!

**W**hen you get used to something, it's really tough to give it up. Just ask anyone who has a cellphone. Thirty years ago, a hundred thirty years ago, and three thousand years ago, people seemed to get along fine without them, but ask someone whose phone breaks to live for a week without it... it's really hard. God knows that it's extremely hard to give up something you're used to, and God knows that if you get used to having a servant, letting him go after six years would be a crazy

*continued on page 2*

**BRO10**  
ATTRACTIONS

### REALISTIC escape room adventure

More like escape 'country' than 'room'.

Avoid the Egyptian taskmasters  
Unleash the plagues

Select your lamb  
Bake matzah on your backs  
Loot Egypt of treasure

You and your family get 210 years to try and escape.  
If you ask, for help, you can get 10 clues.

\*this is a joke. Not a real escape room

### Sponship Opportunity

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ygelb@nageelawest.org

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hard challenge. He had an amazing way to help us.

**W**e were slaves in Egypt. It was bad, and just before we left, all we thought about, dreamed about, waited for was freedom. When God gave us that commandment to free the servants, we really, truly understood what that meant. We could appreciate **FROM THE SERVANT'S POINT OF VIEW** exactly what freedom means, and how terrible it is to lose that freedom.

**G**reat idea to remember. When we make decisions, sometimes we don't think about how the other person feels. Even if we think about it, we don't truly feel it. Only by actually experiencing something from someone else's point of view can we possibly make a judgement.

**T**he story is told of a Rabbi who spent his life collecting money for widows and orphans who had no money to support themselves or heat their homes in the frigid Polish winter. He knocked on the door of a wealthy banker's mansion one snowy night. The butler opened the door and beckoned the Rabbi inside to await his host, but the Rabbi declined. "I won't be long, and I don't want to track snow on your fine carpet. I'll wait here for the master of the house." A moment later, the banker rushed to the door. "Rabbi, won't you please come in? It's freezing outside!"

"No." The Rabbi answered. "Let's just talk right here."

"But I've got hot tea and a cozy fire, we can talk in my sitting room just as well."

**Y**et the Rabbi refused to come inside.

The wind was howling fiercely, and the banker wasn't wearing a coat or gloves, but he didn't want to be rude to his guest, so he stood with him on the front porch for several minutes while the Rabbi explained what he was collecting for.

"These widows and orphans are hungry and cold. Please give as generously as you can."

**T**he banker gave the Rabbi a very generous donation. Then the Rabbi finally agreed to step inside and continue the conversation in the warmth of the banker's home.

"Rabbi. You know I would have given you a donation either way. Why did you insist on staying outside?"

"That's true." the Rabbi answered. "But there's no way you would have been as generous. Thinking about poor, cold orphans while seated by your fireplace, with a belly full of steaming tea... it's nice, but I needed you to really feel, if only



## Photos of the Week

### Nageela New Years Events

Above, Rabbi Smith and some of the LA crew bowling in Tarzana. Below, the Las Vegas NYE event, Night of the Glowing Werewolves.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

This week, all NageeLattes & weekly programs are back on schedule.

Tarzana Senior NageeLette this week will take place at the Simanian residence, featuring ice cream & game night!

January 15th- CNW open house, LA

Januair 18-20th - LIT WEEKEND

January 22nd- Phoenix Event

February 3rd- Super Bowl Party



Awesometastic birthday wishes to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays:

Tanner Eckmann  
Mordechai Shirit  
Yaron Weiss

Mathan Ben-Yehuda  
Ariella Bernheim

for a few minutes, just how they felt."

**N**ow, I personally have not tried this particular fundraising tactic. Would it work? Should I give it a shot? Maybe if I was raising money in Nevada for people who need air conditioning.

**T**he point is that in order to really understand people and help people, we need to put ourselves in their situation. If only for a few minutes. I've been writing this outside in the cold and my hands hurt. But I understand. Now I understand.



**stump the  
rabbi**

**LOT**  
**WEEKEND**  
JANUARY 18-20

**INCLUDING  
ALL NIGHT @  
GRAVADY  
PARTY BUS  
INSANE GAMES  
SHABBAT**

## Listen Up!

Hi Rabbi,

I try hard not to talk about my friends behind their backs. I think it's rude and hurtful. But some of my friends like to gossip. They think it's harmless, but I don't feel right about hanging out with them while they're talking about people. What does Judaism say about this? Also, how can I tell my good friends not to talk to me? Won't that hurt them?

Thanks,

Tammy B. Lloyd

Dear Ta B Lloyd,

Your gut feeling is right! The first thing we need to understand is that speaking negatively about people hurts them. In Hebrew, it's called "Lashon Hara- the Evil Speech." A different week we'll discuss the problem of speaking LH. Your question is about listening to LH. What's the big deal? People talk. You don't have to believe them... why do we care if you listen?

Gossip hurts people. What do gossipers NEED to succeed in their damage? AN AUDIENCE. If they've got nobody to speak their poison to, they'll stop spreading it.

Have you noticed that the online news and print magazines are jammed with nasty reports of every mean and petty thing that celebrities have done to one another? Why is it normal in our society for a headline to scream about someone's drug problem, crime or family fighting? I'll tell you why. It's because people listen. People buy it. Every time someone clicks that link "Basketball player punches his pet pony," that clicker is encouraging the proliferation of hurtful gossip. Each time someone buys a copy of a tabloid or bends his head to listen to a whispered tale, he is saying, "Go ahead and continue spreading negativity. I'm cool with that."

The Torah forbids us to listen to Lashon Hara even if we don't plan on trusting or acting on it. And it's even worse if you accept that LH and hurt people based on that information. A good example might be, "Thanks for telling me what David said about me! I am NOT going to invite him to my party now."

So what do you do about your friends?

Let's say Marissa is about to whisper something juicy about Lucy. Here's what I'd say to her. "Hey Marissa. We're good friends. Right? As your friend, I would never want someone to speak to me about YOU. That would hurt you. So, my dear friend, I'm also not comfortable listening to anyone speak about Lucy. I want to be that kind of

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friend to all of my peeps.” You don’t have to use the word peeps, but you get the basic idea.

To be fair, there are some times when it is appropriate to listen to a negative report. If it might protect you from future damage, it’s certainly a good idea to listen. For example, if Sean says, “You’re in danger from Martin the bully’s pranks,” you should listen to that, and take the proper steps to protect yourself (you still shouldn’t believe for certain that Martin is trying to hurt you, but you should be careful). Besides that, sometimes listening to Lashon Hara could help prevent more LH or worse things.

“I’m so angry!!!!” Kayla yells, as she pulls out a large pair of scissors. “I’m going to cut off Shayna’s hair while she’s sleeping, and I’ll make sure everyone knows what a horrible person she is!”

In the above situation, a good response might be, “Please tell me exactly what Shayna did to get you so angry.” It’s OK to listen to Lashon Hara in this situation if you think you might be able to calm down Kayla Scissorhands, and possibly stop her from dissing Shayna further. As with most things, always try to use your brain, think things through, and

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when possible, ask someone older and wiser than you for advice.

And put away those scissors. Please.

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*



**What kind of tea always comes with sugar?**

**A cavity**

**OUCH! GROAN!**

got a better joke? email it to [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

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more info at [www.nageelawest.org](http://www.nageelawest.org)

**Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>  
6:00-8:00pm  
The Blinder home  
18612 Linnet Street, Tarzana**



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**  
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