

have a

Nageela Shabbos

A weekly publication of **Nageela West** Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Kindness to ALL

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Beth turned to her best friend, Allison and smiled as they held up the large posterboard they had painted the night before. In extremely glittery letters it said, "FREE HOMEWORK HELP," and somewhat smaller underneath it read, "Every Monday after school. Limited spots." The girls were really proud of their community service project, where a bunch of 8th graders were offering tutoring and homework help some of the younger students at their middle school. Allison grinned back, "I'm so happy we get to be kind, and be role models!" she gushed.

Just then, Beth noticed Jacob coming toward them, looking like he might want to take up their offer. Jacob, a sixth grader, was, well... weird. He had huge glasses and an awkward crooked smile that made Beth a little uncomfortable to look at. His clothes were soooo last year, and Beth thought he smelled a little bit like cats. "Come on," she whispered to Allison. "Let's hold up our banner down a different hallway," as they scurried off to

find someone else to help...

Let's pause this story for a moment and open a new window, to our great-great-great (etc.) grandfather Abraham. He was kind of kind. No, he was extremely kind! When it came to kindness he was... one of a kind (groan)! One day, as he sat recovering from a particularly painful surgery (known as a brit milah), three travelers came into view. To say he welcomed them would be a huge understatement. He ran around, rushing, preparing, serving, pouring... truly treating these guests as royalty. Before he served them, though, he asked them to wash their feet (I've tried that in my house, and my guests think I'm nuts). The talmud explains why he did that. The local Arabs at the time worshipped and bowed down to dust (can you imagine the Rick Riordan series about dust demigods?), and Abraham didn't want that in his tent.

OK, I get that. But why does the Torah have to go out of its

way to tell us that?

You see, Abraham had spent his life teaching people how ridiculous it is to worship multiple, pagan gods. He was known as the champion for monotheism, the understanding that only one supreme power rules the universe. It would have been easy for Abraham to say, "Hey guys, I'm pretty sure there's a pagan hotel down the road." Instead, he performed his super-duper kindness to these people whose beliefs and very lives seemed to be so very against his own.

The Torah is showing us what true chessed, kindness is all about. It's not just helping out people we like, or people who share our values. It's about being like Abraham. Actually, being like G-d Himself, who performs kindness to every being.

So if you see two girls with a glittery sign, give them a thumbs up for being kind, and remind them that kindness even extends to people who smell like cats.

VERY PUNNY

**A SHIP CARRYING RED PAINT
COLLIDED WITH A SHIP
CARRYING PURPLE PAINT.
BOTH CREWS WERE
MAROONED.**

**HAVE REALLY CORNY PUN? EMAIL IT TO
DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG**

This week's edition of NAGEELA SHABBOS is dedicated to the Las Vegas Kollel in honor of their ninth annual gala

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STUMP
THE RABBI



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Dear Rabbi,

G-d is fair, right? I think that makes sense. So why does he have a chosen people? Why is it fair that one group gets special treatment over anyone else?

Sincerely,
E. Kwall.

Dear Mr. Kwall,

Have you ever heard of the Navy Seals? They're one of the planet's most elite military units. They get a tremendous amount of respect, and earns loads of medals. They were responsible for the take down of Osama Bin Laden. As much honor as they get, I think most people realize that it's hardly unfair treatment. The toughness of their training is so intense that most who try to pass their training camp, fail. They have to swim in the cold ocean until they're hypothermic, run miles, and endure lack of sleep, physical and mental pain. When you work hard for something, and suffer for it, it's ok to be chosen.

Look at our forefather. Sure, they were promised that their kids would get 'special treatment' but if you pay attention to their lives, you'll see that

they suffered and sacrificed a ton to do what they thought was right even though the rest of the world was against them. Even now, the Jewish people endure plenty of suffering, as generation after generation, people try to wipe us out.

Yes, G-d has singled us out as his special people, but it comes with a price. A price of our responsibility to keep up our end of the bargain; to follow His rules, and to teach ourselves and others the ways of the Torah. In reality, it's not as much that G-d chose us, ans that we have chosen G-d. Have an awesometastic Shabbos,

Rabbi Locker

Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

nageela week snapshot

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
Nageela Hebrew School - Las Vegas 10-12:30	NageeLatte Summerlin 6:45-7:45		Torah Buddies- Beverly Hills 4:30-6:30
Jewish Individualized Learning - Beverly Hills 10-12			ALL NIGHT party at Gravady- Las Vegas 10pm-7am

Nageela West provides social and educational programs for Jewish children across the west coast.
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