

Parshas Eikev  
5779

August 23rd,  
2019

# have a Nageela Shabbos

Candle Lighting:  
Scottsdale 6:46  
Henderson 7:02  
Las Vegas 7:03  
San Diego 7:06  
Los Angeles 7:12  
Tarzana 7:13  
Lake Tahoe 7:26

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

Season 3  
Episode 40

## Simply Complicated

by Rabbi Dani Locker



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**R**aise your hand if you like arithmetic.

**I**s anyone listening? If you like to do arithmetic, please raise your hand.

**W**here did all these crickets come from?

**O**K. I see there's not a lot of love for basic mathematics.

**H**ow about geometry or algebra? I'm seeing a few tentative hands going up. Granted, math isn't exactly on most people's bucket list. Yet, interestingly, complex math is way more interesting to people than repetitive, boring numbers.

**S**o I have an idea!

**I**'m going to create a new Kindergarten curriculum, teaching calculus and trigonometry. We'll completely cut out the boring maths and start with the exciting stuff! What do you think? Good idea? Great idea?

**O**f course, everyone understands that you can't teach complicated math without first teaching the

basics. A first grade textbook (do they have textbooks in grade 1?) cannot contain the same information as a college tome.

*Greater than Moses in 12 simple steps*

## Divine Inspiration and Prophecy

FOR  
**DUMMIES**

*The Quickest way  
to gain  
All the Knowledge  
in the Universe*

*Reach Spiritual  
Perfection in just a  
few hours!*



*Scientists have discovered a new fossil. They call it the sponsorsaurus.*

*Attempting to clone.*

to sponsor an episode  
of Nageela Shabbos,  
please contact [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

**T**he Torah tells us in this week's portion to teach the words of Torah to our children (speaking about the Passover story specifically). Is that wise? The Torah is a massively advanced prophetic treatise (in plain English, that means it's a big, hard book). Is there benefit to attempting to teach it to our children?

**O**ne of the truly amazing things about the Torah is this very point. When children in first grade begin to study Jewish literature, they study the verses of the Torah. When grown adults gather in synagogues each week, they read the verses of the Torah. Even the greatest of Rabbis, on a quest for ultimate knowledge... they study the verses of the Torah. Same textbook. What an incredible gift we have! Torah is undoubtedly the deepest, most intellectually challenging and stimulating literature that exists, yet God authored the Torah in such a way that even a child can understand it on a basic level. You try reading Nietzsche to a 5 year old and see how that goes. Yet the vastly deep and complex Torah can be read and understood (on some level) by a young child! They can and do develop understanding of some of the Torah's vital life lessons even at a tender age.

**T**ake Bereishis (Genesis) for example. When I was in first grade, we studied the book of Bereishis. When I was in 8th grade we started Bereishis again, and I was amazed at how much more there was to learn and understand. During my High School years, I began to study it each year, and without fail, each and every year, I've discovered new things; gained better understanding.

**I**'ve now been studying the same verses annually for thirtysomething years, and guess what? Not a single week goes by that I haven't discovered something new, deep and life-guiding in the same sentences of Bereishis.

**I**t's striking both how incredibly brilliant a work the Torah is... like, WOW; and also, how fortunate we are that God has given us such a versatile and useful guide.



**We're excited to announce new regionwide programs for Middle School students everywhere in the West coast!**

- 1. Points and prizes: Every Jr. NCSY event you attend will earn you points. There will be a live online drawing monthly, and a larger drawing in June including an iPad and other great prizes! Coming to a weeknight event like LNL will earn you 100 points. Shabbatons are worth 500 points, and our Jr. Regional Shabbatons are worth 1000 points!**
- 2. Jewnior Board: Board members get special events and privileges, and help plan and run local and regional events. 7th and 8th graders may apply to be part of your local Jewnior board (where available) and our newly forming Regional Council. Email [locker@ncsy.org](mailto:locker@ncsy.org) to apply.**
- 3. Mega- Weekend Regional Shabbatons! See graphic below.**



**2 mega- weekend events in 2020**

**For 6th-8th graders**

WINTER REGIONAL  
WEEKEND  
JAN. 17-20 (MLK)  
NORTHERN  
CALIFORNIA

SPRING REGIONAL  
WEEKEND  
MAY 22-25  
(MEMORIAL)  
SO. CALIFORNIA

Last week, we began to answer the following Stump The Rabbi question with an introduction to the 13 core Jewish beliefs (also known as the thirteen principles). For the next few weeks we'll be going through the 13, a few at a time. Today we address cores 1-3.

Hi Rabbi,

## The core, part 2

I know Jews believe in God. I guess that means at least I know something, right? But what else do we believe? Is there a list of the things it's important for a Jew to know? 'Cuz I'd like to know what I should know!

Corey Brian Leif



Dear Core B. Leif,

Carl arrived home happy. "Guess what?" He asked his parents.

"What?" They asked, obligingly.

"I got a job! Isn't that great?"

Carl's family was thrilled. He had graduated a couple of months prior and had been looking for work ever since. Now it seemed he had finally found a job.

"What is your job?" they asked.

"Just doing stuff. You know. This and that."

That's vague. "Well, who are you working for?"

"Umm, actually, I don't know."

"What do you mean you don't know?"

"I just kind of walk around and do stuff. Try to help. You know?"

"But how can you have any clue what's helpful if you don't know who your boss is, or what he wants?"

Carl's family recognized that if you want to do any job effectively, the first thing we need to know is the identity of the boss, and only after that can you learn what they want.

The first five core beliefs deal with this. They are how we define Who God is, and how we understand him. Spoiler alert: One

God, all powerful. Now that we've gotten that out of the way, let's go through them with more detail:

### 1. G-d created everything and still runs the show. It didn't happen by itself.

The way I look at it, there are pretty much three options. Either (a) the universe is a giant accident (yeah right), or (b) God created everything and then took a vacation (really, why?), or (c) God created the universe and continues to run it (hey, that makes sense). Continuing to borrow from the Carl story, everything we do only has meaning if the boss who owns the company is still involved with the company, and cares about your success.

### 2. There's only one G-d. No partners, demigods, trinities or split personalities.

Ancient religions (and some newer ones) had trouble understanding how a complicated world could be run by a single divine entity. They believed in separate gods of war, love, thunder and pickles, among other things. We understand that there's only one power in the universe, and everything, even evil, comes from Him. If a company has multiple bosses who don't always agree on what they want, it's impossible to do your job properly, or develop a good working relationship. We

need to know there's only ONE boss.

3. G-d does not have a body. No knees, shoulders, ears or toes. For that matter, G-d has no matter.

This one matters (get it?). Things that are physical have weakness. It's important that we know that God isn't physical and has no needs. He doesn't get tired, hungry, hot or cold. Aside from knowing that his boss exists, Carl needs to know that his boss is a good, effective boss, able to help guide, support and encourage his workers. It wouldn't be very helpful to find out his boss was a criminal, made poor decisions, or had chronic illness that would prevent him from supporting his employees.

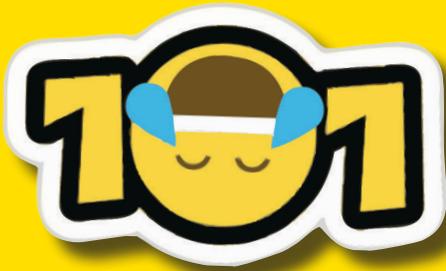
Well, I know we only got through three of them so far, but unlike God, you ARE physical, and you DO get tired, so I'll pause here and continue with numbers 4 and 5 next week.

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.



The hospital put up a huge metal sign outside their ER, with the word "EMERGENCY" in 3 foot tall letters.

As one of the doctors was walking in, the first letter fell off and hit him on the head.

He was immediately struck by the iron E of the situation.

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke?

email it to [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

**WE'RE BACK!**  
and we're gonna  
have a latte fun!

Monday night at 6:45 in Summerlin.  
4th-8th graders invited...  
announcing changes and exciting  
new programs. Don't miss week  
one!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Happy Birthday to Nageela  
family members celebrating  
this week!

Rabbi Yehuda Maryles

Chaya Leiter

Shylee Braner

Noah Elgerabli

Sasha Weiss

Julian Weiss

Yaniv Ben-Shimon

Royce Rozea

Yoni Stein

Yosef Cassell

Jesse Eng

Shai Malka

Karin Malka

Justin Kalb

**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.

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