

Bereishis 5782
October 1st, 2021

HAVE-A NAGEELA SHABBOS

SEASON 6 EPISODE 1

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Open the Box by Rabbi Dani Locker

OUR 200TH
EPISODE!

The contest was on. Tech billionaire Leon Tusk had been in the news many times, but nothing he'd done before had been quite this. Twitter was buzzing, facebook was frantic, Instagram was inflamed. Tusk had announced an invention and a contest. He had created a small, indestructible metal box with incredible technology inside. Tusk claimed this box could not be opened by any means known to mankind. The metal was incredibly tough and engineered to perfection, and the locking mechanism was controlled by his patented state-of-the-art tech security. His challenge was that he would place the box in front of his company's headquarters for one week, and if anyone could get it

open, they would receive a \$100 million prize! Immediately after the challenge started (with dozens of news cameras looking on, of course) men rushed in with hammers, crowbars, winches, chisels, mallets, awls, axes, soldering irons, and for some reason a sewing machine. For hours on end they hammered, picked, soldered and sewed. When the dust settled there wasn't a dent on the incredible box. The next day, the hackers came. They set up computers, servers and routers. Wires of many colors crisscrossed the room, digital signals were boosted



Candle lighting

Scottsdale	5:53
Honolulu	6:00
Henderson	6:05
Las Vegas	6:06
San Diego	6:14
Irvine	6:17
Los Angeles	6:19
Reno/ Tahoe	6:23
Oakland	6:33
Park City	6:44

Did you know you can sponsor a week of Nageela Shabbos for a birthday, anniversary, or just because you like Jews? Contact dlocker@nageelawest.org for details

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to the max, and there was even communication with a satellite or two. For two whole days, they programmed, hacked and got potato chip crumbs stuck in their unkempt beards, to no avail. They could not penetrate the world class tech security. Next, codebreakers tried moving the box into different configurations,

spectators doubted it, but they watched anyway, holding their breath.

The truth is, this girl had no special skills. Yet she knew her parents struggled to pay the bills, and she had a brother who was very ill. She knew she just had to get this box open to help her family. She walked up to the box, bent down, and in a soft voice said, "Would you please open for me?"

Sometimes all you need to do is ask.

playing music for it, submerging it under water, using UV lights, covering it with baby food (they were desperate) and even placing it on top of a bible. The box remained unopened and actually seemed rather bored (I made that part up). On the fifth day, heavy construction equipment was brought in. Jackhammers, piledrivers and even a bulldozer tried to smash, crash, bash and mash the box. Yet nothing at all happened. For the next couple of days, as the cameras kept their live stream going, watched by the world, nothing at all happened. Everyone had given up. It looked like Leon Tusk would be keeping his cash. As the deadline approached, thousands of people showed up in person, anxious to see what would happen as the time expired. With only a few minutes left, a small girl timidly separated from the crowd and approached the curious cube. Did she have some secret skill that had a chance? The assembled

There was a hissing sound and a thin click and the box popped open! All anyone had needed to do was ask!

This week we read the very beginning of the Torah. During the description of the creation, the Torah mentions that no rain had fallen (which explains why the plants hadn't sprouted yet even though they'd been created earlier) because there were no people yet to work the Earth. The great commentator, Rashi explains that God had everything ready to go, but He held back the blessing until people prayed for it. When Adam was ready to begin farming, he prayed for rain, and everything sprouted. I think this is amazing!

Our world is filled with blessings that are waiting for us. Sometimes we try everything we know how to do, attempting with all our might to accomplish great things and receive all the goodness that we can. Yet we forget that sometimes all we need to do is ask.

**PICKLE
JEWS**

GALACTICALLY
SYNDICATED COMIC
STRIP



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

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

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

Note: 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.

Stump the Rabbi



#181 The Chosen One



Hi Rabbi,

In the early parts of the Torah, we learn about Adam and Eve, about Noah and Shem, and other great people. If they were so great, why is it that Abraham was chosen as the father of the Jewish people? Why not Noah or someone else? Is it that Abraham is holier than they?

Thanks,

Anne Cestor

Dear Anne,

You are absolutely right! There were some fantastically great people who lived during the twenty generations before he did. For example, there was a man named Chanoch (Enoch). The Torah says Chanoch walked with God (which basically means he was a super good person) and 'was no longer'. Some commentaries say that means Chanoch was just soooo holy that his soul couldn't stay in his body. Well, that didn't happen to Abraham. Why not? If that means Chanoch was holier than Abraham, why was the latter chosen as our forefather (that's latter, not ladder-ed)? For that matter (that's matter, not madder-ed), what about Shem or Eber who ran a Yeshiva for generations? How about Noah or his grandfather, Mesushelach who were awesomely good?

I heard a beautiful answer years ago in the name of Rabbi Abraham Pam (convenient first name for this answer, I know). Abraham may not have been any more righteous than some of the other giants on the aforementioned list. Yet

Abraham did something none of them did. He spent his life trying to teach others what he knew, attempting to improve their lives through understanding that there's only one God and that he expects moral greatness from us. This trait is foremost among the reasons Abraham merited to be the father of our nation.

Because being holy is wonderful, but what separates a holy person from an inspirational visionary leader is their dedication to helping others. To help others not ONLY with general kindness (which Abraham was THE GOAT at), but helping people live a meaningful life. Abraham is our founder because it's critical that we learn this lesson, too. We certainly should do our best to become holy people with a relationship with God. Yet what marks the Jewish people is that we are a light unto the nations- we provide moral and value driven guidance to the world.

We can be proud of our ancestor, but it's even more important to be LIKE him.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi



MORAL DILEMMAS

MORAL DILEMMAS is a new feature for season 6. In it we'll bring up a real word question. It's our hope that you will discuss it with your family and friends and send your ideas to stump@nageelawest.org. We hope to publish great answers in next week's episode.

You're about to board your flight, and the intercom crackles to life. The gate agent announces that the flight is too full and a number of passengers will get bumped to a later flight; your name is on the list. They are giving a free flight voucher to make up for the inconvenience. You're annoyed that you're bumped, but it's not a huge deal to you; you're not in a crazy rush. When you text your friends about it, one of them has an idea that you should pretend to be angrier than you are. If you make a big enough fuss, they'll offer you more freebies!

Is it morally wrong to pretend you are really upset to get more compensation? What if the new flight is actually more convenient for you?

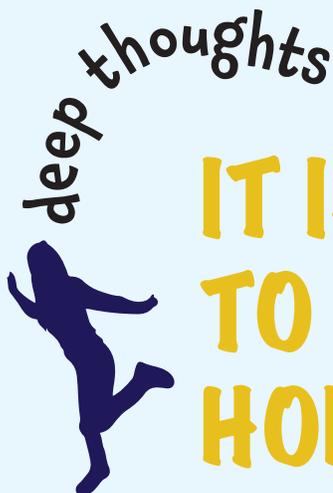


The young calf didn't want to go to sleep but her mother cow explained...

"It's pasture bedtime."

OUCH! GROAN!

Do you have a better joke? I sure hope so!
Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org



IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DIG HALF A HOLE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Ayden Arya
David Elmaleh
Shaye Jaget
Jon Lee
Gabby Ohel



Want to stay in the loop? Text the word
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Nageela West Coast

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.