

# HAVE-A NAGEELA SHABBOS

Bo 5782  
January 7th 2022

SEASON 6 EPISODE 14

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



## Rapid Recharge

by Rabbi Dani Locker

“The two most important words in the world are honesty and sincerity. If you can fake these you’ve got it made.”

~Groucho Marx.

For the past few weeks we’ve been reading about the terrible treatment our ancestors suffered at the hands of Pharaoh and the Egyptians (which is coincidentally the name of an early rock n’ roll band). The whole time, we had the moral high ground. The Egyptians asked for volunteers, we jumped. The Egyptians forced us to do labor, and threatened to beat Jewish officers if they didn’t beat fellow Jews. These officers refused to lay a hand on other Jews and took the whippings themselves. When Pharaoh attempted to coerce the midwives into serving his goals, they bravely refused. At every turn, the Jewish people seem to have been doing the right

thing. Moses always gave Pharaoh fair warning before each plague, and time to recuperate afterwards. Every aspect of our ‘escape’ was done with clarity, honesty and respect (or as much respect as you can possibly give while you’re trashing a country). This was not a sneaky, underhanded ambush. Which makes one thing a little confusing.

Moses asks Pharaoh originally for a three day trip into the desert. That’s it. 3 days. Let us serve God. That means Moses was telling Pharaoh, “We’ll be back in three days. Don’t worry!” Was he just flat out lying? The truth is, if you want to answer “yes!” I’m OK with that. If lying was the only way to save a nation of millions from a maniacal tyrant and brutal slavery, then it is certainly justified (and many traditional commentaries do indeed maintain that is exactly what happened). Yet it doesn’t seem to fit with the pattern of how God and Moses conducted the rest of Operation Exodus.



Candle lighting

- Henderson 4:24
- Las Vegas 4:24
- Reno 4:33
- San Diego 4:40
- Irvine 4:40
- Los Angeles 4:41
- Oakland 4:48
- Park City 4:57
- Scottsdale 5:17
- Honolulu 5:47



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](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org) for details

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Rabbi Yaakov Kaminetsky suggests an eye-opening possibility that I'd love to throw at you for discussion. There was a prophecy dating back to Abraham. A prophecy that said the Jews would be in Egypt for 400 years. In reality they didn't get past the 210 year mark, yet 400 is what the prophecy said. When Moses was originally appointed by God to speak for the Jews (or rather to stand up for the Jews; Aaron did all the

speaking), the plan was not for the Jews to leave Egypt early. God saw how the Jews were suffering, not just physically. He knew they were in a very bad spiritual place, and had they stayed much longer, they might have lost their Jewish identity- their Godly connection forever. What's the solution? A three day retreat! A spring regional Shabbaton at Mount Sinai! 3 days of connecting to God, rekindling their divine spark, and they could have returned to Egypt and survived another 190 years. If Pharaoh had let them

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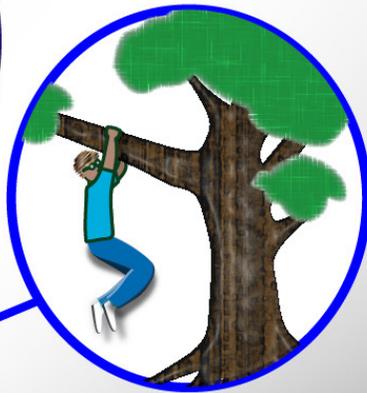
# PICKLE JEWS

by Dani Locker, 2022

## A Meaningful Parsha



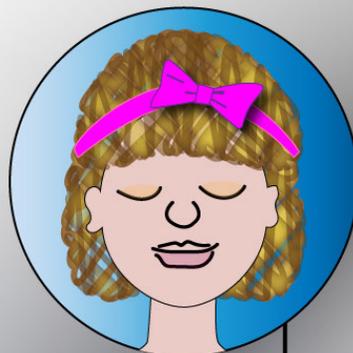
**"I'm pretty good at shooting a bow."**



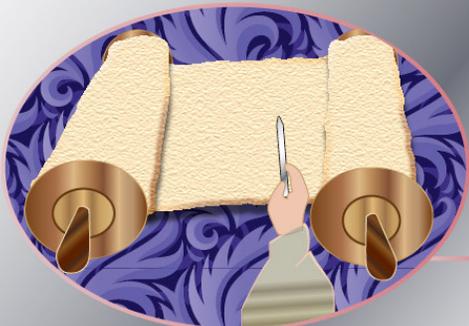
**"I love swinging from a bough."**



**"I'm just texting with my beau."**



**"Do you like my pink bow?"**



**"Getting ready to read Bo."**

## The power of an immersive Torah experience is pretty amazing!

go for those three days, they would have returned. Since Pharaoh refused to allow the Jews their short recharge, God did some creative math, allowing the Jews' 210 years to count for 400 (the exact details are a topic for a different week).

The power of an immersive Torah experience is pretty amazing. Egypt was such a hard place for Jewish spiritual survival. They were almost lost. Yet, a few days out of Egypt, a few days with God, a few days plugging in and recharging our batteries could have given the strength to withstand generations of challenge. Everyone needs to have immersive Torah experiences to recharge. If you are a kid and you can make it happen, go to a Jewish camp with a true focus on Jewish growth. If you're graduating high school, consider spending a year studying in Israel. If you're all grown up, use Shabbos as your spiritual retreat. You might be tired after a hard week, but try to take advantage of classes, study sessions, prayer services and Shabbos meals to take the most energy into the week ahead.

**DO YOU KNOW A JEWISH MIDDLE SCHOOLER ANYWHERE ON THE WEST COAST WHO WANTS TO BE INVOLVED IN JEWISH LEADERSHIP? WE HAVE MANY OPORTUNITIES. PLEASE CONTACT US!**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Shmuel Jacobs  
Joseph Garrel  
Samuel Garrel  
Madi Speidel  
Dylan Speidel  
Tanner Eckmann



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.

**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.



## #192 Oh, Brother

Hi Rabbi,

I am the youngest in my family. My older siblings (older and wiser, as they like to remind me) told me they think younger children have to respect and honor older children. I don't see how that makes any sense. What do you think? Also, is there something specifically special about the oldest child in a family?

Thanks

Ted Relay



Dear Related,

The connection between one sibling and another is usually apparent...

Our forefather Jacob was the younger twin, and Esau was the elder. Take a look at the discussion they had in Parshas Vayishlach and you'll see that Jacob spoke to Esau with great respect, even though there was great personal drama between them (and Esau wasn't the best big-brother role model). Some authorities take this as proof that there's a mitzvah to give honor and respect to an older sibling. Others learn it from different sources (for example, an extra letter 'vav' in the commandment to honor our parents).

It seems pretty clear from the sources that honoring older siblings is definitely a rule. The only questions are exactly how to apply the rule. Some say it applies only to the OLDEST sibling, and some say any OLDER sibling. Some opinions say

it's only brothers, while most seem to apply it to older sisters as well. It's not perfectly clear what TYPE of honor we're required to give them (do I need to give up my last cup of pickle juice if my big bro asks for it?). There is also some debate as to whether it's an absolute Torah rule or if it was developed rabbinically.

I am NOT going to give you a play by play talmudic discussion to get to the answers. The short version is that we should be giving respect to all of our older siblings. Not just because they're older, but because they are a closer link in your family's chain going back to the beginning of our nation. Another idea discussed is that older siblings are somewhat responsible for their younger siblings' safety and upbringing (that's why I make my older kids change ALL the diapers). What this means for the older siblings is, this ain't no free ride. When you have a younger kid in the family, you have to help care for them, and in return they should try to be slightly less annoying (I say this on behalf of all the youngest children out there, just like me). You do not have to call them

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**1 7 0 1 8 4**

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**DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA  
WEST BOYS SESSION**

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from 2021 at [nageelawest.org](http://nageelawest.org)**

JOIN SHOSHANA, NAOMY AND THE LOCKERS FOR AN AWESOME GIRLS WEEKEND!

...continued

**LOCKER FAMILY SHABBOS DINNER**

FRIDAY, JAN 7  
CANDLE LIGHTING 4:24  
SHABBOS MEAL 5:30



**OUTDOOR ICE SKATING & HOT COCOA**

SATURDAY, JAN 8  
ROCK RINK @ DOWNTOWN SUMMERLIN  
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**BRUNCH & DISNEY ON ICE**

SUNDAY, JAN 9  
11:30 BRUNCH @ ARIELLAS  
1:00 SHOW AT UNLV



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INDOOR PORTIONS REQUIRE MASKS WHEN NOT EATING.

'sir' or 'madam' or 'my liege'. You're allowed to disagree with them and sit in their seats. They are NOT your parents. However, they do get an extra layer of honor. Of course, if an older sibling is extremely kind and helpful, then there's an even greater obligation of gratitude that goes beyond this mitzvah. It's also important to respect your siblings' personal space. My older brother thinks I don't give him enough privacy. At least, that's

what he wrote in his diary...

In the world, you'll see a lot of sibling rivalry, jealousy, and sometimes even hatred. Unfortunately, I have met people who won't speak to their siblings, and haven't in decades! What a waste of a wonderful opportunity. Hopefully today's discussion will help you get a different perspective. A family is part of your link in the chain. It's a tool we are given to help shape us into the people we are meant to become. Far from hating or competing with our siblings, the Torah expects us to cooperate and love on a high level.

Just to be clear, you should be respectful to everyone. As we've seen there's an extra dose of respect you should give to an older sibling. This doesn't mean they can boss you around (well, maybe a little), but if this is hinted at in the ten commandments, that probably means it's pretty important. As far as special rights of the oldest child specifically, stay tuned for next week and we'll discuss!

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

*the Rabbi*

**MAZEL TOV!**

to Nageela West campers Jet, Max and Sky Zohar upon celebrating their bar mitzvahs last week!



deep thoughts **IF A CAT THROWS GARBAGE ON THE STREET, IS IT KITTY LITTER?**



I tried working as a magician but I kept messing up the trick!

Then I got so mad, I pulled my hare out!

OUCH! GROAN!  
Do you have a better joke? I sure hope so! Send it to [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

**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.



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