

Candle Lighting:
Las Vegas 4:16
N.Lake Tahoe 4:26
San Diego 4:32
Los Angeles 4:34
Tarzana 4:34
Scottsdale 5:09

have a Nageela Shabbos

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

Season 3
Episode 14

Supply and Demand by Rabbi Dani Locker

Wishing everyone an awesometastic end to 2018 and start of 2019!

Chocolate was losing to water. Jeremy couldn't believe it. It was a scorching hot day at the stadium, and Jeremy's small food stand sold chocolate bars, and bottled water. The chocolate was delicious. Smooth belgian chocolate, made of high quality Ecuadorian beans, mmm. Yet today, hot as it was, people were lining up to pay six dollars for the ice cold bottled water. He'd sold some chocolate, too, but the water was definitely winning. Jeremy was fine with that. He made more money selling the water bottles.

The next day there was no game, and Jeremy had an idea. He took his cooler full of water bottles and decided to go house to house, selling them. His idea did not work very well. At home, people had plenty of cold water of their own, and they weren't interested in stadium priced water. The chocolate, though.... People were interested in delicious chocolate. Every time someone tasted one of his delicious Belgian bars, they always wanted more and bought multiple bars. They could never have enough of that in their homes, and so he returned home with a cooler full of water, but no more chocolate

bars.

When people don't have enough of something, then it becomes valuable. Even really precious items like gold or diamonds are only valuable because there's a small supply of it. If everyone had a truckful of gold, it would be worth very little. So it is with all things of this world. Whether it's money, physical enjoyment or thrills, it's only exciting until you get enough of it. Yet Torah and mitzvot are like chocolate

Wait, so it's a mitzvah to eat chocolate?

I didn't say that.

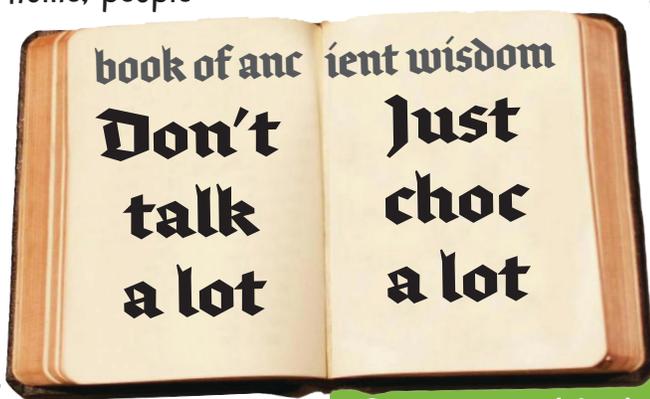
I think you said that.

Did not.

Did too.

Oh stop it.

Stop what?



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Sponsored in honor of the marriage of Akiva and Tova Portnoy to sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos, please contact ygelb@nageelawest.org

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Mitzvot are like chocolate in this story, at least. They're high quality by themselves, and when you have enough of them, they get even better! Studying more, understanding more, doing more, help each act become more beautiful, enjoyable and special. Don't spend 6 bucks on water if you've got a working sink, but invest in more bars of Torah. There's no wrong way to eat it.

Most of our regular programs like NageeLatte and Hebrew School are off this week for winter break, but we haven't been taking a break, oh no! Check out some of the things we've been working on!

You can always get more info @ nageelaLV.org



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Why did Adam skip the New Years party?

He had bad luck with Eve.

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org



**stump 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

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

All, Nothing, or Something?

Dear Rabbi,

I've heard stories about Jews giving up their lives to stay Jewish. They're inspiring, and I think I understand why that's important. I've also heard other stories where Jews have violated the rules of the Torah to save lives, like doctors breaking Shabbat or people who are sick eating food that isn't Kosher. Which is it? Are we supposed to give up everything rather than violate Jewishy stuff or not?

Thanks,

Tony Prior



Awesometastic birthday wishes to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays:

*Nadav Weiss
Ilan Lieberman
Madi Speidel
Joseph Garrel
Samuel Garrel
Shmuel Jacobs*



*to Nageela family member
Yaron Weiss who celebrated his
bar mitzvah last week!*

Dear Prior, T.,

What would you give up for something really important to you? Let's try this exercise: Think of your very favorite food. OK. Now that pizza is in your mind (What? Am I wrong?) If someone offered you a hundred bucks to give it up for the rest of your life, would you do it? Nah. I wouldn't either. Because pizza for the rest of your life is worth more than a hundred bucks to you. What if it was a thousand? You might start thinking harder, but I think most of you reading this would not give up your favorite food, forever, just for some money.

Now what if you were offered ten million dollars to give up your favorite food? I'm thinking that pretty much everyone

would take that deal. Move over pizza, sushi is coming. As much of it as I want. And steak. And pickle juice.

Man, how many pickles could I buy for 10 million dollars? Actually, at \$3.36 a jar, that would be 2,976,190 jars. Enough to last me at least a few months.



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Here's my point. We judge how important something is to us by what we're willing to give up for it. The pickle jar is worth a few bucks, because that's what people are willing to give up. Your favorite food for your whole life might be worth thousands,

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because you wouldn't give it up for anything less. Now consider something truly important, like your family, or the moral values you believe in. How much is that worth to you? **It's worth as much as you're willing to sacrifice for it.** If you're willing to keep God's commandments only as long as they don't cost you any money or inconvenience, then, those commandments (and perhaps God Himself) is only worth as much to you as that money or convenience.

If you think about God and what we 'owe' Him... I mean, we did nothing to earn our lives here. Everything we have is from Him. So based on that logic, it would make sense to even give up our lives rather than go against any of God's commandments. I see some people starting to panic here... don't worry. God didn't ask us to do that. There's a positive commandment in the Torah "And you shall live by them." That is an instruction from God telling us NOT to give up our lives to keep His rules. God wants us to live. So if a doctor needs to break Shabbat to save a life, he's actually doing a mitzvah. If a weak or sick person needs to eat unkosher food to survive, that's exactly what he's supposed to

do. Usually, there are only three things we are supposed to be ready to give our lives rather than mess up on: Worshipping another god or converting to a different religion, murder and adultery.

Let's discuss positive mitzvot. Let's say there's only one etrog in town on Sukkot. The owner wants to charge you \$50,000 to use it. Do you have to give up all your money for that Etrog? I heard a story about Jews in concentration camps who traded away their tiny little meal portion for the chance to put on tefillin. Is that required? In short, no. **We've got to be willing to sacrifice something for a mitzvah, but we don't need to sacrifice everything.** Here are the general rules:

For a positive commandment (tefillin, etrog, kiddush, tzedaka, mezuzah) we need to be ready to give up to 20% of what we own.

To avoid violating a negative commandment (kosher, working on Shabbat, stealing) we should be ready to give up everything we own, but not suffer physical harm.



To avoid the 'big three,' (idolatry, adultery, murder), we must be ready even to give up our lives.

Most of the time, there's nobody with a guillotine threatening to make us a head shorter, or marauding mobs of crusaders attempting to loot Jewish businesses. For most kids, sacrifice means being willing to get out of bed a few minutes earlier, or stopping our video game before we really want to. It might mean giving a few dollars of our birthday money to charity and having to wait an extra month before buying that new skateboard. It might mean patiently waiting, making an uncomfortable apology or keeping quiet when we're annoyed at our parents. Remember, we judge how important something is to us by what we're willing to give up for it.

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi



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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