

Ki Seitzei 5781
August 20th, 2021



Have-a

SEASON 5

EPISODE 3^b

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Slicing and Dicing

by Rabbi Dani Locker



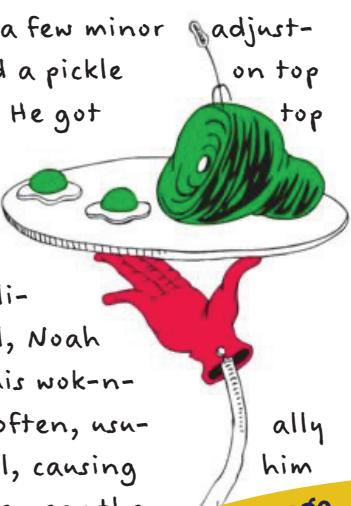
Honolulu	6:39
Scottsdale	6:49
Henderson	7:05
Las Vegas	7:06
San Diego	7:09
Irvine	7:13
Los Angeles	7:16
Reno	7:29
Oakland	7:36
Park City	7:58

Sizzle! Pop! Hiss! The sounds from the skillet were amazing, and Noah couldn't wait to taste his stir fried creation. It was the first week of culinary school, and this was a chance to prove his skill in the kitchen. The teacher, a 7 star chef (does that even exist? I think it should) would be personally tasting their cuisine, and Noah really wanted to impress. He had sliced and he had diced, dashed, pinched and filleted. With excitement, he dipped a wooden spoon into the dish and slurped a bit. The sound was amazing. The taste... not so much. Noah nearly wretched; his dish was horrid! Unsure what to do, and noticing Chef Alfredo coming closer, he glanced around the room. The closest student to him was Rochelle,

Thanks to our Jr. Writers
Over the course of the summer, we featured a number of Jr. Writers. We'd like to thank them here for contributing and we hope to feature more over the year!

who was known to be a top prospect. He decided on the wok-n-roll (he'd coined the phrase himself). Noah quickly dumped the contents of his wok, and rolled some food from Rochelle's pan into his own. By the time the chef got to him, Noah was able to pretend the dish was his own (with a few minor adjustments, and a pickle on top for style). He got marks.

For the next 3 years of culinary school, Noah employed his wok-n-roll tactic often, usually scoring well, causing him to graduate near the top of his class. Things were



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continued on next page

going great! Noah was hired as the sous chef (which at the time he believed meant the guy who cooked green eggs and ham) in an exclusive restaurant that specialized in granola bars (they added cilantro to make it fancy- don't ask). Things were going great- erm, I already said that. Great... until... the executive chef of the restaurant told him to cook something. Rochelle was nowhere to be found (she had gotten a job cooking books at a local accounting firm). Without Rochelle's master skills to cheat with, Noah was left to his own devices. He stirred. He seasoned. He even sang to his food, yet his cooking was still just as horrid as it had always been.

Noah could have used his years at culinary school to improve his skills, to master his chefing, to become a true gourmet artist. Instead of focusing on his own abilities, he had spent all of his time worrying about someone else's.

This week's Torah reading challenges us to deal honestly in business, and never to use dishonest

numbers to try and get what is rightfully someone else's. It's not just business though. It is true about test taking, friendship, and snack-sharing, too. This true story (which I just made up) helps us understand one of the reasons why. Each person is given a slice in life, and a chance to make themselves great with that portion. When people spend their time learning how to use their portion properly, they will eventually thrive. However, people who spend their time and energy thinking about other people's portions, or worse- slicing and dicing from other people's portions- will eventually fail, because one day those portions won't be around and they'll find their own portions uncared for and underdeveloped.

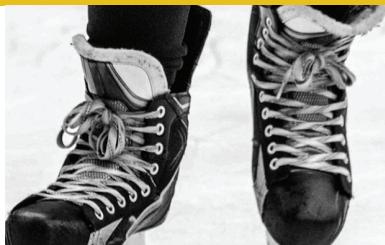
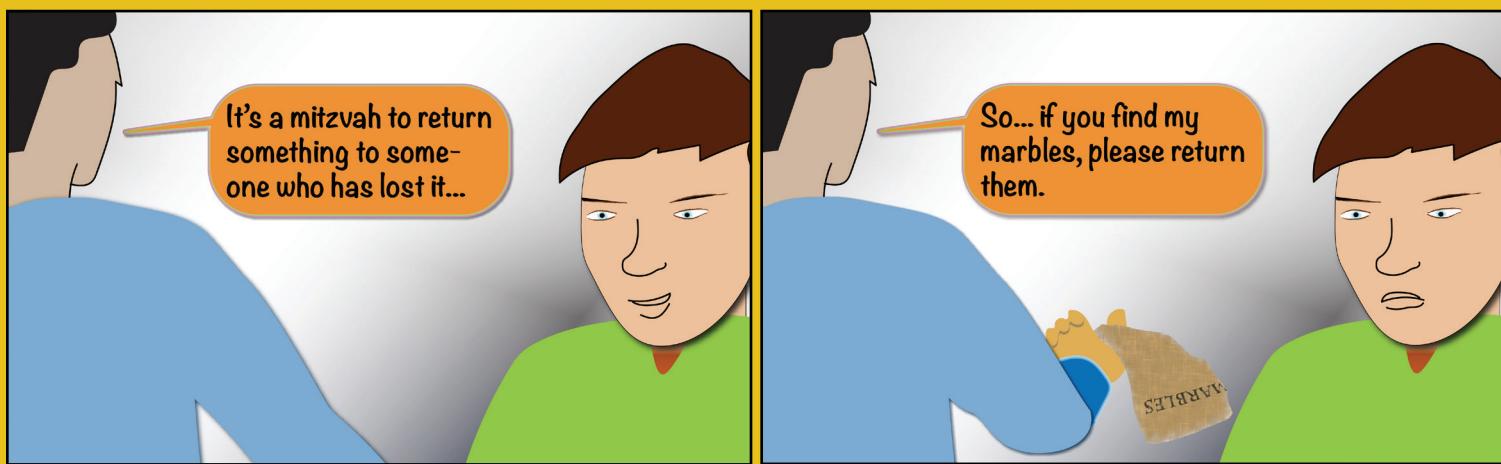
Bottom line: Don't try to get by using what's not yours. Enjoy the blessings God has given you and work to grow them and make them the best you can.

continued from page 1

PICKLE

JEWS

GALACTICALLY
SYNDICATED COMIC
STRIP



THIS SUNDAY!

LAS VEGAS FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FROM 2:30-4:30 FOR A PRIVATE RENTAL OF CITY NATIONAL ARENA!
\$10 PER PERSON. CONTACT RABBI LOCKER FOR RSVP INFO

NCSY ON ICE

@ CITY NATIONAL ARENA

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.



#177 Sincere Sweet-Talk

Hi Rabbi,

I just started paying attention to the translation of the prayers. Most of them are really beautiful and inspiring. There is one thing that bothers me, though. In the silent prayer, there are lots of things we ask God for, like money, health and wisdom. Every time we're about to ask for something, we first talk about how great God is. "You grant everyone understanding, so please give us brains." Something like that. Is it just me or does that seem insincere? You're about to ask for a favor, so butter them up first with some praise that you're only saying to get on their good side. Could you please explain why this is an appropriate and effective way to pray?

Thanks,
Francis Lattery

Dear F. Lattery,

First of all, wow! I don't know how old you are, but at any age, paying attention to the explanations of the prayers is awesome! Let me try to answer your question with a story.

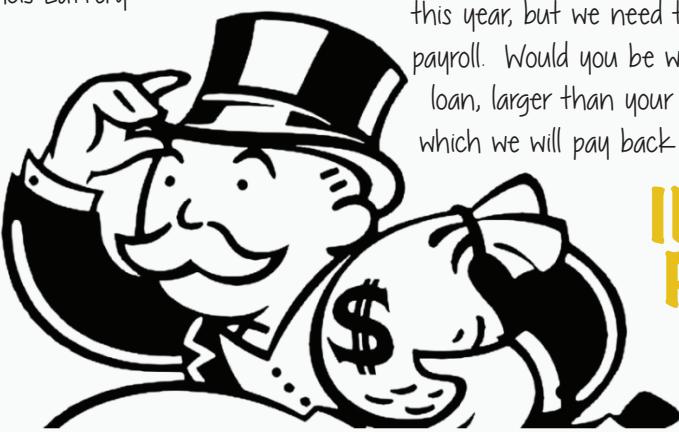
Rabbi Schechter's main job was paying the bills for the Yeshiva he helped run. In order to do that, he would collect tuition, run the annual raffle campaign, and occasionally visit donors to ask for direct donations. One year, however, the Yeshiva looked like they would not be able to meet their budget. Unsure what to do, he visited Mr. Hadar, who made a generous yearly donation to the Yeshiva. "Mr. Hadar. Thank you for always being a supporter of the Yeshiva. This year we have a cash flow challenge. We're expecting more money to come in later this year, but we need to take care of payroll. Would you be willing to give us a loan, larger than your annual donation, which we will pay back within a year?"

Mr. Hadar agreed and lent a large sum of money for the Yeshiva to cover their expenses. Everyone was very grateful. About six months later, Rabbi Schechter had a dilemma. It was time for their big campaign, and Mr. Haddar usually gave a generous donation. Rabbi Schechter decided not to ask Mr. Hadar to take part in this year's campaign. He explained to his assistant: "How can I ask him for a gift when I owe him so much? In a few months, I'll finish paying him back, and then I can ask for next year's campaign."

How much do we owe God? Everything! Like, literally everything. When we praise God it's not empty flattery meant to get on his good side. It's praise we actually already owe Him because of all the good He does for us. It would be inappropriate for us to ask for favors while we owe God so much. Therefore, when the prayers were established, it was decided that praise for His generosity would be added before each request, to somewhat minimize our 'debt' before we ask

for stuff.
deep thoughts

**IF YOU BUY
POWDERED WATER,
WHAT DO YOU
ADD?**





What do you call an animal you keep in your car?

A carpet

OUCH! GRRRROAAAN!

Have a better joke and want a shoutout in Nageela Shabbat? Just email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

DID JEW KNOW?

This week's portion, Ki Seitzei has 74 commandments. That's more than any other, and well over 10% of all the mitzvos in the Torah!

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While that's true of the way the prayers are set up, it's also really important for each individual to understand and concentrate on that. So the next time you are about to pray, think to yourself, "How can I ask God for more blessings when I haven't repaid Him for all the blessings he's already given me?" Then praise and thank Him with sincerity for what you have before asking for more.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

Jewnior NCSY weekly meetings:

In OC, begins August 26.
In Las Vegas begins August 30th.
LA City and Valley
will begin first week of September

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Best wishes to our friends and family members celebrating this week...

Geula David
Josh Small
Sophie Guenniche
Chloe Huttner
Ezra Oksemberg
Heshy Robinson
Leah Mizrahi
Zahava Locker
Talia Sharaby
Michael Torres

Nadav Boskovitz
Joney Shlasinger
Nathan Malis
Ellie Piriyeva
Chaya Leiter
Shylee Braner
Gaylie Kaplowitz
Rabbi Yehuda Maryles

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.

