

Terumah 5781
February 19th, 2021

NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

SEASON 5

EPISODE 18

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Divine Diversity by Rabbi Dani Locker

**OUR 175TH
EPISODE!**

How would you build the strongest wall in the world? Adamantium? Vibranium? Stale cookies? When I was young I had a game I would play in my mind (I was very bored, apparently) to try and design the strongest wall. I was probably afraid of an alien invasion. Maybe it was a ninja attack that kept me up at night. I would imagine a wall of bricks, sandwiched between thick metal sheets. Then layers of wood, ten feet thick, with stones filling the spaces in between. I'd pour reinforced concrete and line it with kevlar. Then for good measure I'd add a few hundred sheets of paper to bulk it up. Then would come the layers of cardboard, aluminum foil and a few kitchen sponges for good measure. Oh, and diamonds, Lots of diamonds.

They're super hard, right?

As I got older, I realized that this plan wasn't very practical. Adding paper doesn't add any measurable strength to a wall. I would be better served by putting all of my effort into the bricks or concrete (if I had that many diamonds, I wouldn't use them to protect me- I would use other materials to protect the diamonds). I'd just choose the one or two absolute best materials and roll with them. That's what I thought... until today.

This week's Torah reading is all about building the portable temple our ancestors used while traveling through the desert (they also used it after they arrived in Israel,



Candle lighting

Henderson	5:07
Las Vegas	5:08
San Diego	5:20
Irvine	5:21
Reno/ Tahoe	5:22
Los Angeles	5:23
Oakland	5:34
Park City	5:48
Scottsdale	5:58

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continued on next page

until King Solomon built a more permanent structure). What materials would you use to build the house of God? They used beautiful and expensive materials because it's respectful to God to build a 'nice home' for Him. They collected gold, silver, copper, blue and purple wool, red thread, marble, goat skins, ram skins, tachash skins, wood and precious stones or various types. Why? Why didn't they just use gold and gemstones? Why copper? Why wool? If I am mature enough to realize that using the best materials makes the most sense, why didn't the Torah insist on the same thing? Could you imagine if you bought an expensive pair of jeans, and you found out that they used high quality material for most of it, but they used scraps of burlap for the pockets? You'd probably be annoyed. Almost as annoyed as if the company tried to sell

There's a lesson here for us, says the great Rabbi Moshe Feinstein. To honor God, it isn't actually best to use all of the most prestigious and expensive materials. God wants us to use appreciate that everything in creation has a purpose. While gold is certainly more valuable than copper, copper may be better for certain things. Animal skins are appropriate for some uses, and wool works best for other uses. The same thing applies to people. We can not look at two people and decide one is more valuable than another. Although some people seem to have more influence, more important jobs or greater skills, that doesn't determine their worth. God's world needs everyone, great and small to contribute what they can. We can't look down our noses at someone who seems 'less'. In reality, he or she might just be the GOAT... skin.

continued from page 1

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

you jeans that were already ripped.

Chutzpah.

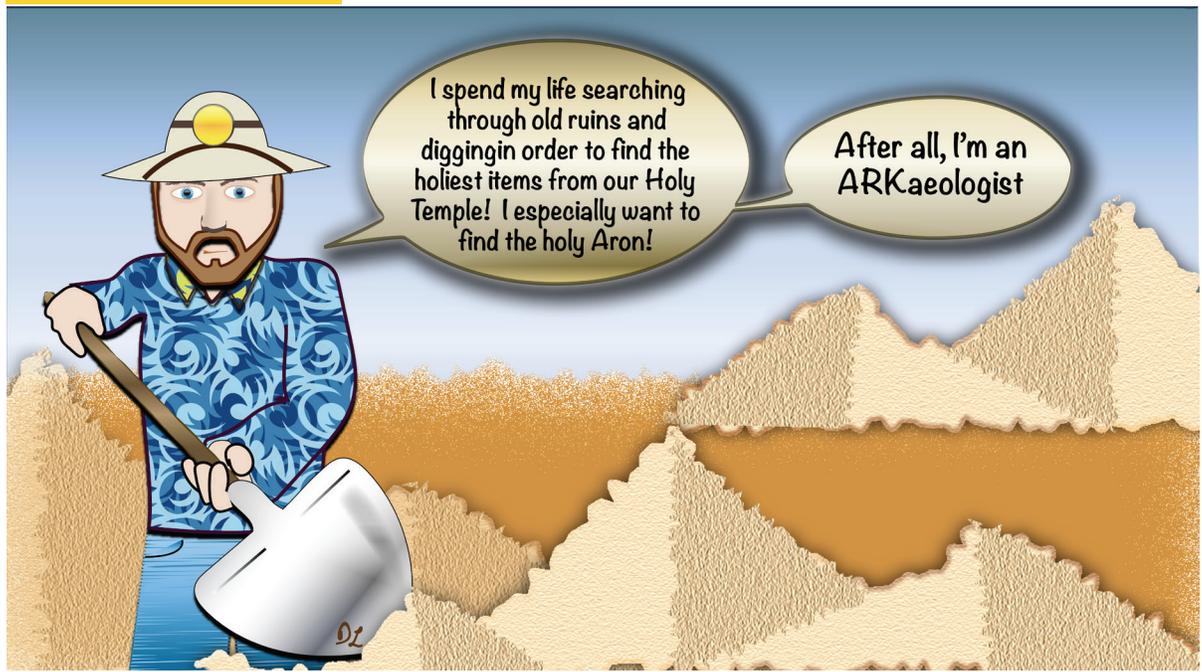
Best wishes to our friends and family members celebrating this week...

- Alex Davidson
- Eenbal Bromley
- Jasper Goldlang
- Asher Leventhal
- Eliyahu Lugasi
- Oreya Gazala
- Shlomo Zachai

deep thoughts **WHY DOESN'T GLUE STICK TO THE BOTTLE?**

DID JEW KNOW?

This week is a double header; we read from two Torah scrolls. The second reading is 'Zachor' the command to remember when the evil nation of Amalek attacked our ancestors. Haman belonged to this nation.



PICKLE JEW S

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.



#160 Choices, Choices...

Dear Rabbi,

I'm wondering what you feel is the most important mitzvah. I know all mitzvot are important, of course. But what if there are mitzvot that conflict with each other? Which one gets priority?

Thanks,

Toni P. Trumps

Tear ToP Trumps,

This is a really thoughtful question. Many people think that making decisions in life is all about knowing the difference between right and wrong. Sure, that's a part of it, but more often it's about the difference between right and right. Or maybe more accurate is the difference between right and right now. Charity is obviously important. So is eating matzah on Passover. What if you only have enough money to give charity or to buy matzah? Praying is a good thing, right? But what if someone needs your help during prayer times, is kindness more important? These are great questions, and because many details vary, you'll have to ask advice for specific questions as they come up. Your question was a general one, so I'll give you a general answer.

The Mishna tells us (Avos) that we should be just as careful in a small mitzvah as a big one. This means that as a rule, we should consider each mitzvah of great importance,

and not ignore or give less attention to the ones that seem less important. Yet here are a few rules that will help to know which mitzvot to prioritize. The following list is not in order of priority- it's just some things to think about.

- A personal passing mitzvah- if a mitzvah can only be done by you and its time will pass by, then it takes precedence over most other activities. Examples are praying, wearing tefillin.
- An impersonal passing mitzvah- if a kindness, charity or some other kind of mitzvah can only be done by you (your friend has no other ride to the airport- someone needs charity desperately).
- Torah study- in some ways, studying Torah is the greatest mitzvah, because it is the 'gateway mitzvah.' Torah study gives us the tools to do all the other mitzvot better. Yet, if there's a passing mitzvah, we stop Torah study to do that mitzvah, because otherwise the study is hypocritical.
- Teaching Torah- is even greater than



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1

2

3

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST
GIRLS SESSION

1

4

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DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST
BOYS SESSION

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Stump the Rabbi

continued

studying Torah, because it enables many other people to keep many more mitzvot. It's a super- power- up- multiplier. CHA-CHING!

- Saving a life- Saving someone's life comes before virtually all other commandments or values. This, too, is at least partially because it will enable the savee (is that a word? It sure sounds better than 'individual whose life hath been spared) to do more mitzvot in the future.
- As a general rule, we do not use one mitzvah as an excuse to violate another one. So for example, if you really want to do the mitzvah of shaking the lulav on Sukkot, ya can't steal someone's palm branch to do it. God is not interested in that kind of mitzvah

(there are some exceptions to this rule, like performing a bris on Shabbat).

- Shabbat is often considered one of the fundamental and foundational points within Judaism. It certainly is a biggie. Here's something else to think about. A question was posed to the Radvaz (which is either the name for a Rabbi or a Russian sports league) about 500 years ago. A man was lock-ed up in jail and had been offered a one day furlough. This one day he could leave prison, and do whatever mitzvot were available that day (presumably at that time it was impossible for him to do many mitzvot in prison). Which day should he choose? First the Radvaz thought of telling him to request Yom Kippur. Such an important day. Then, believe it or not, he considered Purim! Purim is a great day of recognizing God's miraculous interaction with us. It's a day of joyous service of God and has many mitzvah opportunities. Buuuut, he decided against that one, too.

The answer the Radvaz gave will blow your mind. He told the prisoner to get his furlough immediately. Not to wait till Yom Kippur, Purim, or even to Shabbat! Right away! You see, the Radvaz was telling us the most important mitzvah there is... The most important, most valuable, holiest mitzvah is ALWAYS the one in front of you right now. If there's a chance to do a mitzvah now, or do a mitzvah later. Do the one now (you should try to do the one later, too, if you can- just sayin)! So ultimately the answer to you question is this: If there's a mitzvah you can do now, do it now. And this mitzvah... this is the most important mitzvah in the world.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi



to Camp Nageela West Head Counselor Rachel (Nahum) Advar upon her wedding this week!

to the Maryles family on Simi's Bar Mitzvah this week!

PURIM THEMED CAFE
 NAGEELATTE
WIN GIFT CARDS
 JEWNIOR NCSY LATTE & LEARN. MONDAY AT CAFE EXPRESS- 2521 S FORT APACHE.
 5 PM - 6 PM FOR GRADES 4-7
 6 PM - 7 PM FOR GRADES 7-8



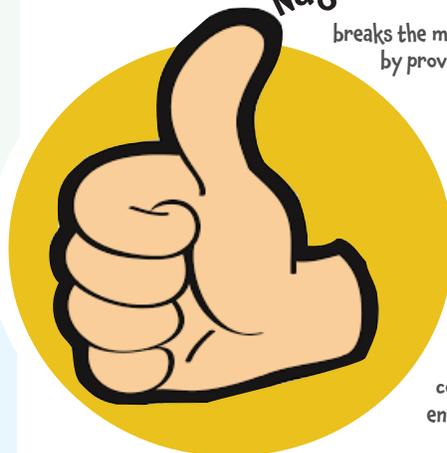
What is a general's favorite type of shrub?

An ambush!

Hey, don't blame me for this one... It's all Dzev Naiman's fault. Have a better joke and want a shoutout in Nageela Shabbos? Just email it to 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



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