

HAVE-A NAGEELA SHABBOS

Yisro 5782
January 21st 2022

SEASON 6 EPISODE 16

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



The Unforgivable

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Complete this sentence: "I will never forgive someone if they..."

Some possible answers might be:

"Steal my pickles."

"Eat my pickles."

"Spill out my pickle juice."

There aren't many other things I'd put in that category.

When I posed this question on Facebook this week, here are some of the thoughtful answers I got (some funny, some serious).

...refuse to forgive themselves.
2d Like Reply

harm a child (intentionally)
2d Like Reply

put pineapple on pizza.
2d Like Reply

Correct my grammar
2d Like Reply

Hurt my family.
2d Like Reply

Pours bleach in a color load full of my expensive clothing 🤢🤢
2d Like Reply

Well, there's one commandment about which God says, "I will not forgive [the one who breaks this rule]." Whoa. Lemme guess. Is it the commandment to eat bagels on

Sunday morning?

The rules against buying things at full price?

Nope and nope. The one commandment the Torah says "I will not forgive" is the rule against using God's name frivolously. I can certainly understand why using or swearing in God's name for no good reason can be frowned upon, but is it SOOO important that it's unforgivable?

Let's say you love flowers. You like to smell them (I hope you don't have allergies), look at them (I hope you're not colorblind) and hold them (watch out for those thorns!). If you catch someone cutting the flowers from your favorite tree, you might be quite upset. Your friend might be a wood carver who likes whittling the branches and he'll get annoyed if someone starts pruning those branches. But if someone uproots the whole tree or cuts it down at the base- well then



continued on next page



Candle lighting

- Henderson 4:37
- Las Vegas 4:38
- Reno 4:48
- San Diego 4:53
- Irvine 4:53
- Los Angeles 4:55
- Oakland 5:02
- Park City 5:12
- Scottsdale 5:30
- Honolulu 5:56

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MAZEL TOV!

to CNW counselor
Yitzchak Rambod upon
his engagement!

MAZEL TOV!

to Rhome Hirsh who celebrated his bar mitzvah this week.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!

Ari Freeman
Sofia Hafter
Hinda Gross
Jason Shapiro
Mylan Ghenassia
Elazar Kaufman



everyone gets messed over. Everyone is upset.

The world runs on 'God- energy' which means every person, animal, plant and the universe itself gets and maintains its life through God. 'Removing' God, or even pretending to remove God by disrespecting the mention of God's name, affects everyone and everything. It's uprooting the tree. It hurts us, our friends and nature.

Disrespecting God's name hurts everyone.

This is one approach to why misuse of

God's name is unforgivable. Because it undermines everything else. On the flip side, the more respect and reverence we show toward God, the more we affirm our connection to Him and bring blessing and success into the universe.

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PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED
COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022



That's a good idea. Thanks. Do you have any other suggestions?

I am Yisro, your father-in-law. You can't handle the amount of questions you're getting. Let's set up a call center in India.

Actually, you think we might be able to get a Starbucks around here?

DL

continued from page 1

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



#194 The Unquestion

Hi Rabbi,

I don't have a question. And I guess that is my question. For several years I've always had something to ask. I love to learn and understand things. But recently, I don't seem to have any questions! I don't think it's because I understand everything. I'm not quite there. So why don't I have questions? Is it bad that I don't?

Thanks,

Sheila Kushya



Dear Sheila,

Speaking of questions, I have one for you: How do you make a hot dog stand?

You take away its chair.

Now I think I may have permanently scared you away from the concept of questions. Let's discuss.

You're young and you probably haven't had many job interviews. Often, near the end of the interview, the interviewer will ask, "Do you have any questions for me?" Experts will tell you that it's a good idea to have questions to ask (I consider myself an expert on this because I spent 24 seconds searching on Google) for a few reasons: 1. It shows you're interested in the job or topic. 2. It's a chance to learn more about the job. 3. It makes a good first impression.

Does Judaism agree?

At the Passover seder, the haggadah- the telling of the story- is always done in a question and answer format. You're probably familiar with the 4 questions. Even if you're having your seder alone, you're supposed to ask yourself questions and answer them! That's because the best way to find the truth is through the question and answer method (and the second best way to find truth is to ask Siri). A wise man once said, "The only thing better than a good answer is a good question, for it will lead to many answers." OK, I might have made that up.

I heard of a great Rosh Yeshiva (head of a Rabbinical School) who would spend many hours preparing his lectures. Yet he encouraged his students to challenge him. He told them (paraphrased) "If you hear my lectures and you're not confused or bothered by something I said, that means you didn't fully understand it."

It's important to keep in mind that there are two types of questions. You can ask a question that implies respect and a desire to learn ("I believe that God is good, so why do

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THE WORD INCORRECTLY IS ALWAYS SPELLED INCORRECTLY, EXCEPT WHEN IT'S SPELLED INCORRECTLY.

...continued

bad things happen to good people?”), or a question that shows you think something is ridiculous (“Were you even thinking when you said that? Can you count?”). The first type is part of the process of learning. The second type is just rude. So yes, questions and curiosity are an extremely important aspect of the learning process. Now, you don’t feel curious and it bothers you.

CHAPTER WARS ARE BACK!

12 CITIES. 5-8 GRADERS FEBRUARY 2ND

Though I just wrote about how important questioning is in the learning process, there are different types of learners. Some people are naturally less curious, and do better with simply absorbing information. Some people are more experiential learners. The key question is, “Are you still learning? (see, I used a question) Does the learning and information interest and excite you?” If yes, then I wouldn’t worry too much. You’re going through a stage in your learning process where you’re absorbing, and eventually, you’ll likely go back to asking (which will help you understand the stuff you are learning now much better). If the answer is no, then that might mean you’ve temporarily lost your excitement. What do you do if you’ve lost interest in learning Torah? That’s a great question, and as I said, questions are better than answers, so till next time..Enjoy the hot dog stand.

QUICK FIX

“If only I would see miracles, I would change!” Have you ever thought that? Our parsha begins by telling us that Yisro ‘heard’ about what God did for the Jews and against the Egyptians. Didn’t EVERYONE hear? It must have been on the news and all over social media! If Yisro heard, probably many others heard, but THEY didn’t come join the Jews. Because miracles don’t change us. We change us. Yisro motivated himself and was able to use the miracles as a jumpstart. People who were less self motivated didn’t change when they heard about the miracles.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

ASK MORE QUESTIONS AT STUMP@NAGEELAWEST.ORG



What did the mother llama say before bringing her child to the school bus?

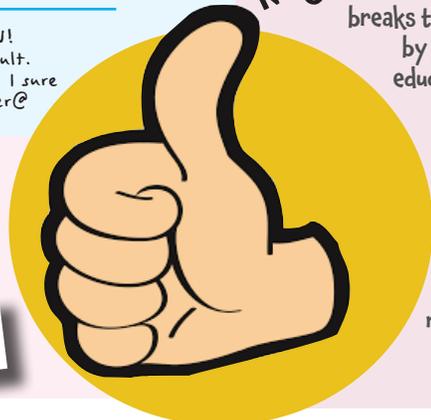
Alpaca lunch.

OUCH! GROAN!
OK, this one IS my fault.
Do you have a better joke? I sure hope so! Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

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