

Toldos 5782
November 5th 2021

HAVE-A NAGEELA SHABBOS

SEASON 6 EPISODE 5

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



X-Ray Excellence

by Rabbi Dani Locker

“Please send regards to your dad!”
“How do you know my father?”
“He saved my life in Vietnam.”
“What are you talking about? My dad wasn’t in Nam.”
“Well, he probably would have saved my life if he would have been there.”

ment to circumcise himself and his son, but that’s it. So how could he have kept “guidance, commandments, statutes and teachings?”

The midrash tells us that Abraham learned Torah from himself. I always assumed that simply meant that he figured it out on his own. But if you look more carefully at the words, it says he learned it FROM HIMSELF. His own internal compass guided him toward understanding God’s teachings.

God tells Isaac that He will bless him in the merit of Abraham. “Because Abraham listened to my voice, and he kept my guidance, commandments, my statutes and my teachings.” Wait a second. Abraham kept the commandment? How? What commandments? The commandments weren’t given until like, 400 years after Abraham. He did have the command-

You might notice that our forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob each represent a different perspective on Judaism. Abraham is the beacon of kindness (calm down. I said beacon, not bacon... remember, Abraham

kept the com-



Candle lighting

- Scottsdale 5:13
- Henderson 5:22
- Las Vegas 5:29
- Reno/ Tahoe 5:34
- Honolulu 5:35
- San Diego 5:35
- Irvine 5:37
- Los Angeles 5:38
- Oakland 5:55
- Park City 5:59

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 for details

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mandments). Isaac models strength of character and a dedication to prayer. Jacob is the Torah scholar, representing the study focus for the people of the book. Hey, if they all followed the same God, why don't they all represent the same values?

Exactly!

Our forefathers didn't just study what someone else taught them. They discovered it internally. They used their own strengths to find the aspect of God's teachings that they were able to thrive in.

Disclaimer: That doesn't mean they only kept the commandments that fit their personality... They kept the whole Torah. But they rose to next level achievement in the parts of the Torah that they came to internally.

People often ask, "What's the most import-

ant mitzvah?" or "I want to commit myself to growing in one area of Judaism; which should I choose?"

The easy answer to both is pickles. Also, a really good answer is, "The one that vibrates the most within you." We should endeavor to commit our-

Our forefathers didn't just study what someone else taught them. They discovered it internally.

selves to all of God's teachings, as our ancestors did. Yet on the path to get there, we should find the mitzvahs that we can learn from within ourselves. And pickles.

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PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

Is this the FBI?
I'd like to report
identity theft...



MAZEL TOV!

to the Facher family on the marriage of Lior and Avigayil this week!

MAZEL TOV!

to long time Nageela legend [farmer] Leah (formerly Friedler) Rauch upon her wedding!

QUICK FIX

A ninja, a rabbi and a priest walk into a bar. A bartender says, "I'm glad to see you two."

Nobody wants to be invisible. Except a ninja. A ninja always wants to be invisible. And a 7th grader who hasn't done her homework. She doesn't want to be seen either. Yet our great forefather Isaac is mostly invisible in the great annals of Jewish history. Very little information about him is shared in the Torah. Because you don't have to be famous and splashy to make an impact. Ninjas are important, too.

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



#184 Down the Rabbi Hole

Hi Rabbi,

What's a Rabbi? I mean I KNOW what a Rabbi is, but what does it mean? What kind of training is required to become a Rabbi? Are all Rabbis the same? Is there a college course or something?

Thanks,
Simi Cha



Dear SimiCha,

Here's a grammar question for you: The plural of mouse is mice, the plural of fish is fish, and the plural of cactus is cacti. So what is the plural of rabbit?

Rabbi.

If you'd asked me this question when I was a kid I might have told you a Rabbi is someone with a big beard. Now that I've learned more, I know that some great Rabbis have medium beards. So a Rabbi is someone with a truly painful sense of humor. Alright, I'll answer your question now.

The word Rabbi comes from the term "great" and no, it's not just referring to beard size. The original Rabbis were certainly people who earned that term- great

scholars, leaders and moral giants. The process of what it takes to become a Rabbi has changed several times over the generations. Way, way, way back when Moses was ready to pass the torch to the next generation, he leaned his hands on his student, Joshua. This leaning symbolized the greatest Rabbi of all time passing on his leadership to a worthy successor. This process continued for many generations, with each leader performing "semicha- leaning" on the most worthy students. People who achieved this were usually called "Rabi," hence the modern word. This went on, teacher to student until around the destruction of the second temple, when the last group of official Rabbis were killed before they could pass it on. After this, for quite some time, there was no official semicha or rabbinical training program. In later talmudic times, the greatest scholars and leaders were given the respectful title "Rav" which indicated that they didn't have the semicha chain from Moses, yet they were worthy.

Here is something cool to note. Most job certifications, like if you become a CPA, an RN, MD or PhD don't say anything about the type

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2. TRAVEL CAMP OPTION, OR
3. FULL NAGEELA HYBRID EXPERIENCE!

2

3

3

2

4

7

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

Find out about our summer 2022 and see photos from 2021 at nageelawest.org

of person you are, or whether you're actually good at your job. Traditionally the title of Rabbi was granted by experience. It was a kind of a communal recognition that this person deserved it. That kind of respect doesn't come from passing a test or writing a thesis, but from sincerity, compassion, leadership and honesty. There's something nice about how informal it all was.



That has largely changed. Although there are some scholars who identify as Rabbis without 'official' ordination, most 21st century Rabbis have gone to a Rabbinical school where they have studied and tested on a variety of important subjects. Generally to become a Rabbi you have to have a pretty good handle on halacha (Jewish law), gemara (talmudic study), chumash (biblical study) and mussar (personal lessons from the Torah). Often, expertise in Kosher laws, customs and rules of marriage and legal disagreements is included in a modern semicha program. Although there are many different specific types of programs for semicha, the original concept still applies- Rabbinical



ordination means that the person receiving it is worthy of a leadership position within the Jewish people.

Of course, some people just become Rabbis because they're great pickle experts. I won't



I asked a Frenchman if he played video games.

He said, "Wii."

OUCH! GROAN!

Do you have a better joke? I sure hope so! Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

name names.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi



WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF PINNOCHIO WOULD SAY, "MY NOSE WILL GROW NOW?"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Myles Marks
Elie Benzaquen
Jack Unitan
Aaron Leiter
Matan Stockman



Nageela West Coast

Want to stay in the loop? Text the word **NAGEELAWEST** to **22828**



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***I'm a Jew,
I'm a Jew,
and I'm
proud to be
one, too!***



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.

