

Vayeitzei 5782
November 12th 2021

HAVE-A NAGEELA SHABBOS

SEASON 6 EPISODE 6

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



The Right Tools

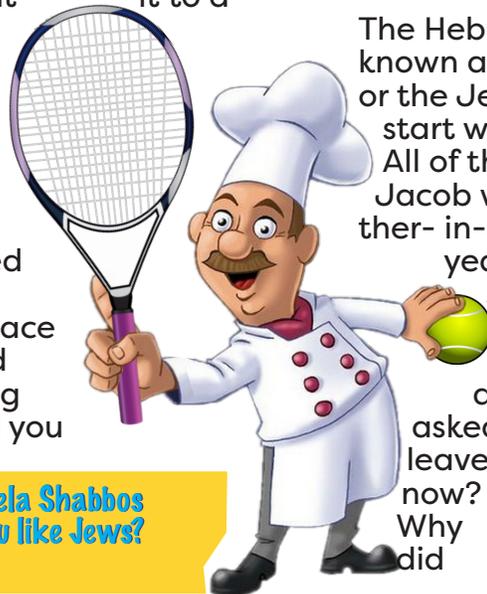
by Rabbi Dani Locker

Giles always came prepared... with the wrong supplies. When he was in the second grade, he cemented his reputation when he brought a chainsaw to show and tell. In middle school, he wrote on the whiteboard with a permanent marker, and once, in eighth grade, he brought a tuba to a poetry recital.

Things did not improve in high school. Giles proudly bought expensive goalie equipment, and brought it to a golf tournament. When he came in boxing gloves, the sporting event turned out to be a swimming race (that ended up not being so bad- did you

know that boxing gloves are excellent floaties?). He would study for his ELA test, only to find the quiz was in Physics, or execute a perfect science project, not realizing he was supposed to do a research project on comparative government. It was only later in life that Giles realized that it's not just about preparing, it's about having the right tools. The right weapons.

The Hebrew family (later known as the Children of Israel or the Jewish nation) got its start with Jacob's 13 children. All of the first 12 were born as Jacob was working for his father-in-law, Laban for seven years (actually it was the second set of seven years). When Joseph was born, Jacob approached Laban and asked permission to leave. Why now? Why did



Candle lighting

- Mesquite 4:10
- Henderson 4:16
- Las Vegas 4:16
- Reno/ Tahoe 4:28
- San Diego 4:30
- Irvine 4:31
- Los Angeles 4:33
- Oakland 4:41
- Park City 4:52
- Scottsdale 5:08
- Honolulu 5:32

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he want to leave just when Joseph was born? Most of the commentaries (based on both the Talmud and the Midrash) explain the Jacob knew what was waiting for him back in his homeland. An angry, vindictive, spiteful, rancorous, cruel and unrelenting brother who wanted him dead. He also knew that there's a prophecy that Joseph is the right weapon to fight against

Being prepared means bringing the right weapon to the right fight

Esau. Jacob didn't want to be like Giles. He knew that only when Joseph was born was he ready to face his hairy brother. Why Joseph? Because his brothers mistreated him and yet he remained merciful, forgiving and magnanimous. Esau blamed

Jacob for hurting him. No other child of Jacob could properly defend against that claim. Only Joseph, who had gone through something similar to Esau's perceived chicanery

(just worse) could properly stand up to Esau and defend our nation. Joseph who forgave his brothers. Joseph who set the example of moving on. That's being prepared.

That is bringing pickles to a Shabbat meal. Perfection.

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PICKLE JEWS

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.

Stump the Rabbi



#185 Wax On

Hi Rabbi,

I just don't get the reason! In a bunch of these Stump the Rabbits, you've explained some of the logical reasons behind the commandments. I like that. It helps me appreciate the beauty of Judaism. I just found out that there are some commandments that don't have any reason. What is the reason for a commandment with no reason? That doesn't seem reasonable! Please help. Thanks,

Rhea Sohnd



Dear Reasoned,

If you think that's frustrating, try learning Karate from Mr. Miyagi.

You might not have heard of Mr. Miyagi if you're a kid, but let's just say he's Dumbledore, Gordon Bombay, Gandalf, Splinter and Morpheus all rolled into one short dude. A perfect mentor.

In the 1984 movie "The Karate Kid" (not the remake which is named Karate Kid even though they're using Kung Fu- oy vey), Daniel wants to learn to defend himself. Instead of teaching him moves, Mr. Miyagi has Daniel paint the house, paint the fence and wax the car. "I say, you do. No questions." Daniel is frustrated that these menial tasks don't seem to be helping him develop martial arts skills. Eventually, he is ready to quit, and Miyagi tells him "Not everything is as seems." He yells "Wax on!" and throws a punch. Daniel, after days of developing the muscle memory of waxing the car is able to easily block the punch. Now,

in the realistic world of movies, Danielsan is an accomplished martial artist, ready to win tournaments. Because that's how it works.

I always wondered why Miyagi didn't just tell him at the start, "Hey Danielsan, I'm going to have you train doing jobs that will build muscle and reflexes needed for blocking any attacks. They may seem unnecessary, but I'm a wise, Yoda-like character and my training WILL work." Why be so cryptic?

When teaching, coaching or parenting, one of the most important concepts that must be absorbed is trust. The student has to trust the knowledge, experience and instruction of the mentor. In order to gain that trust, some mentors will explain exactly WHY they're using their peculiar methods. But if the mentor explains too much, then the student has no need to rely on the mentor's advice. "I'll listen to what you say because it makes sense to me. But the minute it stops making sense, I'm done." This is why Mr. Miyagi does not explain his reasons to Daniel. He needs his student to understand, "I say, you do," Because Miyagi knows that he's an overpowered Karate master,

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he knows that Daniel won't understand everything, but he needs Daniel to listen anyway. So he instills a sense of obedience.

Like most good ideas, the Torah invented this tactic. God could make sure that every mitzvah was understandable. Most of them do have logical reasons that even we simple humans can understand. But let's get real for a minute- we could never claim to understand the full deep meanings of even one of the commandments. If we only followed the commandments because they make sense to us, then the minute we didn't understand one, we'd ditch the whole

thing. By creating a few mitzvahs that seem to have no humanly understandable reasons, you know what God is actually doing? He is making sure we are following because we trust His wisdom. The two or three commandments that seem to defy logic reinforce in our minds, "We're doing ALL of these because God said so."

So when I insist my students drink pickle juice..

Have a Nageela Shabbat,
the Rabbi



Jacob decides he wants the blessings meant for his brother Esau. His mother tells him to dress up and pretend to be Esau.

Instead, Jacob simply walks into his father's room and sneezes.

"Bless you, Jacob!"

Oops.

OUCH! GROAN!

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

deep thoughts **IN LIMBO, SETTING THE BAR VERY LOW MEANS YOU'RE SETTING THE BAR VERY HIGH**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Renee Kenwood
Cai Kraft
David Aguila
Ariel Luke

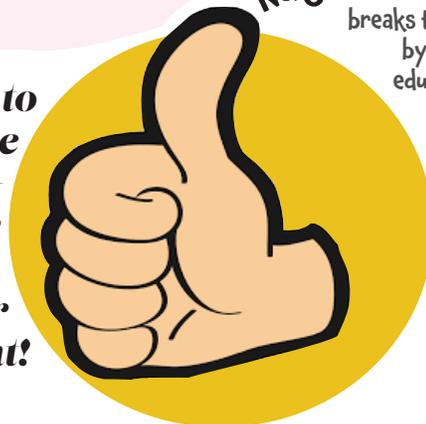


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Mazel Tov to long time Nageela family member Sara Bernheim upon her engagement!



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.