

Question of the Week

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SEASON 2
EPISODE 12

December 9th, 2017

Question of the Week is adapted with permission from the book "Question of the Week" by Rabbi David Zaback

Some items should not be handled on Shabbos because they have no significant use. Some items may be used if you're using them for an appropriate purpose.

In what case is an object forbidden to handle *only* if you're trying to do a mitzvah?

Candle Lighting:

Las Vegas 4:08
Lake Tahoe 4:19
San Diego 4:24
Los Angeles 4:26
Phoenix 5:02

have a

Nageela Shabbos

Parshas
Vayeishev

5778

A Kid Friendly Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Mirror on the Wall

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Ancient Egypt was a really powerful country. They were so big and strong, they could even tell other countries where their capital cities should be! There were likely a few million Egyptians, and their nation was considered unconquerable and inescapable. The members of King Pharaoh's court were also very important. In the story told in this week's Torah reading, two of these high ranking 'cabinet members' were thrown into prison for messing up Pharaoh's food (or possibly for collaborating with the Russians. I'm not sure. It's hard to read tweets in Hieroglyphics). Egypt's chief minister of beverages (who was elected on his platform of pickle juice and Mt Dew) and the head of the bakery department (of course they had pizza) were thrown in prison.

It's a little unusual then, that a young slave from a different country would have the nerve to

approach these two men and chat them up about their dreams. Yosef was still a young man, and had never held status in Egypt other than slave and prisoner. How did he get the guts to talk to these men who could order him executed as easily as sending a text message?

The commentaries notice some interesting wording. The Torah is extremely specific about every word. So if you notice unusual wording, it's for a good reason. The story starts out talking about these dudes as the 'prince of drinks' and the 'prince of bakers'. Once they'd been in prison for a while and they started having dreams, it just calls them, "the drink guy and the

baker." Even though their positions were important, being in jail had robbed them of their honor and self-confidence. Now they didn't think or act like princes. They were just guys. They dreamed like regular people, and Yosef, the immigrant, inmate slave had no problem chilling with them.

How do you feel about yourself? Take a look in the mirror. I'm serious, do it. Now tell me what you see. Do you see someone you respect? I hope so! The answer to that question can have a major impact on all the decisions you make in your life. People who think they're nothing special tend to make poor decisions because they don't see any reason to step up. Here's something I want you to know. God created every human being with the incredible potential to be 'like Him' by making positive decisions. The



Continued on back page

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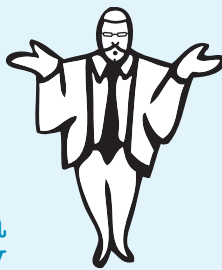
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please contact ygelb@
nageelawest.org



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Stump The Rabbi

Scroll Down



Hi Rabbi,

I've always had a mezuzah outside my front door. I know some people have them in every room in the house. What is the reason for that? Come to think of it, what's the reason for mezuzah period? One more thing. I noticed that the mezuzah scroll has some words written on the outside. What are they? I couldn't make heads or tails of them.

Thanks,

Dora Post

Dear Dora,

Have you ever gone to a party with a gift exchange? Ever give a great present and then feel like you got ripped off because you got something cheap?

The Talmud (Yerushalmi Pe'ah, if you must know) tells the story of a prince who gave a valuable jewel as a gift to a Rabbi who was his friend. In a gesture of appreciation, the Rabbi

gave the prince a present, a Mezuzah scroll. The prince was not stoked about his gift. "I gave you a flawless stone, and you returned to me something worth a penny!" The Rabbi responded, "What I gave you is priceless! Also, I have to guard the thing you gave me. What I gave you guards us!"

For thousands of years, Jews have proudly displayed Mezuzahs on our doors. Well, not actually on the door. On the doorpost next to the door, but you know what I mean. The talmud gives us one of the reasons for Mezuzah. Most mitzvahs or things we do. A couple are things we wear. When we put up a mezuzah, we're literally surrounding our home with a mitzvah. When we enter this home or this room, we recognize that this is a Jewish place, connected to God. For this reason, every place a Jew lives, works, or hangs out should have a mezuzah on the door of that room. Every doorway in the home (except the doors to bathrooms and most closets) deserves a mezuzah.

You mentioned the writing on the outside of the scroll. There are two things written. The first is three Hebrew letters, ש and ד and י which is one of the names we for God. We also have a custom to write כונו במוכסו. These are not actually words in any language that I know of. It's kind of a code. Have you ever read a spy story

please note:

Nageelatte programs will be off for the coming week, both on Monday and Thursday. JOIN US for Locker Live on Instagram, Tuesday at 6:45.

Get news and more from Nageela West

Text

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to 22828 to get started.



Answer of the Week

question on page 1

CAUTION:

Don't read this answer until you've read the question on page 1!

DON'T CHEAT!

HEY, STOP LOOKING!

There is no mitzvah of tefillin on Shabbos, and wearing tefillin could potentially pose a disrespect to Shabbos. Therefore, one may not wear tefillin with the intention of fulfilling the mitzvah. However, if your intention is not for the mitzvah, but you're just practicing, or trying them on, or rescuing them from a damaging situation, then it is permitted to handle or even wear them!

Need help understanding, or have a different answer? email dlocker@nageelawest.org

VERY PUNNY

Frank wanted to become a vegetarian.

Then he realized, it would be a huge missed steak.

Ouch. Have a better pun?
Send it in to dlocker@nageelawest.org

where someone replaces each letter in a message with a different letter? So the code might go something like this:

J XBOU QJDLMFT

Have you figured out the code? Substitute each letter I wrote for the one right below it in the English alphabet.

Wait for it...

Yeah, I know. I'm obsessed. In the code on the back of the mezuzah, each letter is one letter above "Hashem, our God, hashem". The message that the mezuzah announces to the world that our God is the only God, and that because of this, we always try to increase and improve.

To be clear, the beautiful silver, wood or stone boxes people attach to their doorposts are not mezuzahs. They're

just cases. The scroll inside is the actual mezuzah. It's made of parchment, and has a portion of the Torah (specifically the first two paragraphs of shema) handwritten inside. It's gotta be written by a trained sofer (scribe), carefully, in a specific font. In other words, you can't scrawl in the scroll. Sorry, I couldn't resist.

It's important that you buy a mezuzah from a reliable source. I can't tell you how many people have given me mezuzahs to check out and I've discovered a computer printed scroll on ordinary paper. And no, digital mezuzahs are NOT a thing.

Have - a- Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

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

Mitzvah Minute

Giving Constructive Criticism

a short weekly column introducing one of Judaism's 613 commandments

Source:

You shall surely rebuke your colleague, and you shall not bear a sin
(Book of Vayikra- chapter 19 verse 17).

Details:

- This mitzvah instructs us to correct a friend who is doing something wrong.
- This mitzvah is not to criticize out of frustration. It is to help correct someone you care about (which should be basically everybody) so they improve their life.

- Part of the mitzvah is to let the person know that you're only rebuking them because you care about them

The end of the verses, "And you shall not bear a sin" means two things. 1: Rebuke must be done gently. If you criticize harshly,

you bear a sin. 2: If you have the opportunity to help someone improve and ignore that opportunity, that is wrong.

Lessons:

- We can't just mind our own business, or turn the other cheek, because that would be doing a disservice to our colleagues. If you care for someone, you'll make sure to correct their ways.
- Even when doing something important, the way it's done matters. So helping someone improve in an unkind way, isn't acceptable.



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person you see in the mirror is unique, special and loved by God. That's pretty awesome!

Let's all remember how awesome we are and how much more awesome we will be, and make sure we do not get trapped in the prison of doubt like Pharaoh's officers. Remember, it's not about what a mirror or other people think about you. The important factor is how you feel about yourself. And that should be AWEOSMETASTIC, because you are AWESOMETASTIC!



Dec. 14th. 4-7pm
Channuah LatkeCookoff
Lake Tahoe

Dec. 14th- Green Valley NageeLatte is cancelled

Dec. 16th. 10pm-midnight
Channuah Glow party for 7-9 grade
Las Vegas

Dec. 18th. 6:45pm
World Series of Dreidel
at Summerlin NageeLatte

CAMP NAGEELA WEST REGISTRATION WEEK

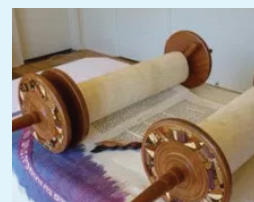
Registration Week is now over.

Congrats to the following Camp Nageela West 2018 campers who won the Registration Week raffles:

Natan Goldman, LV- \$25 Amazon Gift Card
Ahmi Montoya, LV- \$10 Nageela Canteen
Nava Freeman, PHX- Nageela Selfie Stick
Jacob Chapman, LV- Virtual Reality Headset
Ayden Arya, San Diego- Virtual Reality Headset
Ami Lipkind, Boca Raton- Nageela swag bag

Did Jew Know<

A Torah scroll contains 304,805 letters. Each one carefully hand written. If even one letter is missing, faded or deformed, the entire Torah should not be used until repairs are made.



In most Torahs, each column has 42 lines, and there are 248 columns on approximately 80 large sheets of parchment which are sewn together.

Torah's are usually written using pens made out of turkey feathers (but can be any kosher bird).

On average, it takes a year to complete the writing of a Torah.



REGISTRATION IS NOW
OPEN FOR SUMMER 2018!
SIGN UP NOW FOR THE
SUMMER OF YOUR LIFE!