

# Question of the Week

answer on page 2

SEASON 2  
EPISODE 9

November 18th, 2017

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

*We normally recite a blessing before performing a mitzvah (example: lighting Chanukah candles). These pre-mitzvah blessings include the words "Asher Kidshanu B'mitzvotav", mentioning that God has commanded this.*

*When and how is it possible to make two blessings on the same mitzvah?*

Candle Lighting:

Las Vegas 4:13

San Diego 4:28

Los Angeles 4:30

Phoenix 5:06

have a

# Nageela Shabbos

Parshas  
Toldos

5778

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

## The Apple Falls Where it Wants

by Rabbi Dani Locker

**Good** parents make good kids. Right?

Clearly that's not always the case (as my parents keep reminding me). Of course acting as a great role model is one of the most important factors in children making good choices, but children are people, too (gasp!) and have their own free choice.

Take our ancestor Yitzchak (Isaac) for example. Yitzchak and Rivka were the greatest people of their generation. Rivka, (Rebecca), was super kind. In fact she was originally chosen to join the family because of her kindness. Yitzchok was as holy and special as could be, and had even offered himself as a sacrifice (kids, don't try this at home). Yet their children could not have been more different from one another. Yaakov was a studious, model child; and Esav, a violent criminal. They received the same education, identical upbringing and both enjoyed having world class parents. At a young age, they both even seemed to be taking similar

routes, until Esav reached his teens and exploded into a terror.

In the past few weeks portions, we've read about Eliezer, the faithful servant of Avraham. Not only was Eliezer Avraham's right hand man, he was also Avraham's star pupil. He studied, learned and even taught along side of his great master. Where did Eliezer come from? What was his parentage?

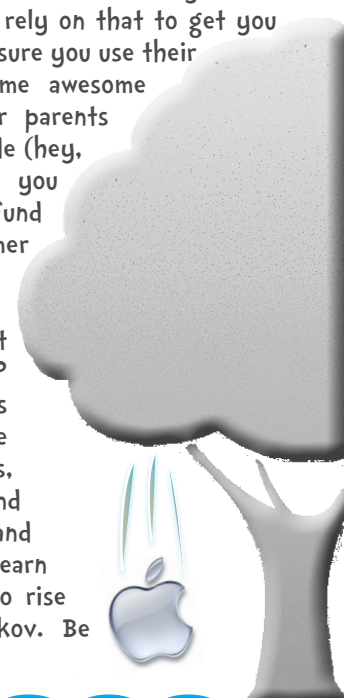
According to one Midrashic text, Eliezer was actually the son of the wicked Nimrod. Nimrod wasn't just an evil guy, he was also Avraham's arch nemesis (every good hero needs a good villain. Nimrod was Avraham's Lex Luthor). He was the king who ordered Avraham thrown into a bon re to be made into S'mores at a very tender age (Yum I love s'mores - stop distracting me, please!). Nimrod was a tyrant who was diametrically opposed to everything Avraham taught. How could his own son become Avraham's trusted advisor and servant?

Follow us Tuesday @ 6:45 for Live  
StumptheRabbi on YouTube & Instagram!

Parents only have so much influence. Lots of kids blame their parents for their lives. Lots of adults blame their parents for their "deprived childhood" or lack of proper role models. Having good role models is **HUGELY** important! It's the second most important factor in a child's success. As a kid, you need to know that your own choices are **THE MOST** important factor.

If your parents rock, consider yourself lucky, but don't rely on that to get you through life. Make sure you use their examples to become awesome yourself. If your parents could use an upgrade (hey, nobody's perfect), you can try to get a refund from the customer service counter.

What, is that a bad idea? Ok, if someone has parents that are poor role models, that child can find the strength and intelligence to learn what's right and to rise above. Be like Yaakov. Be like Eliezer.



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# Stump The Rabbi

## Prayer Blues



Hi Rabbi,

I don't understand how prayer works. Yes, I get that you say words that have all the things you've explained the previous weeks, but how does saying some words to God actually do anything? First of all, why would God even want our prayers? I mean it seems kind of, I don't know, petty; to ask people to say how great you are. Also, assuming that God knows what's going on and knows what's good for us... if He didn't give me something in the first place, why should asking for make any difference? If he wants me to have it, wouldn't He just give it to me?

Thanks,  
Mea N. Ingful

*Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.*

*Have a question? Please send it in to [stump@nageelawest.org](mailto:stump@nageelawest.org)*

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed

Dear Meaningful,

Are we a little prayed out? I think this is the third week in row we're talking about prayer, so I guarantee you guys I'm gonna take a little break from this after today (not a break from praying, just from writing about it). You bring up some really great questions. Let me take a crack at the first one:

Mike was about to have heart surgery. He was really, really nervous. His doctor had a great reputation, but heart surgery is nothing to sneeze at. In his final meeting with the doctor before the surgery, the doc noticed how nervous Mike seemed. His hands were shaking, he was sweating and seemed really agitated. The doctor knew that Mike's confidence and positivity would play an important role in the success of the surgery. The doctor sat that Mike down in his office and pointed to the wall. "Do you see that see that diploma? That was me graduating first to my class at Columbia Medical. See those awards? Those are from the American Medical Association, awarding me Top Heart Surgeons in the country three years in a row. Mike I am the best in the business. you have absolutely nothing to be worried about."

The doctor is not bragging to pump up his own ego, he's trying to help Mike realize that he is in good hands

God does not need our praise. He knows he's

## 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!**

1. At a brit milah- circumcision. There are 2 brachot said, one is "al hamilah" and the other is "l'hachniso". Normally the mohel says the first and the father says the second. If the father is performing the brit, he does both!

2. Tefillin mistake. If you put on your hand tefillin and had forgotten to say the bracha, you'd say two brachot, "l'haniyach" and "al mitzvat tefillin" before putting on your heard tefillin.

Need help understanding, or have a different answer? email [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

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## VERY PUNNY



### BRIDS OF PRAY

Ouch. Have a better pun?

Send it in to [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

great. That'd be like me, telling Steph Curry that he's good basketball player. It's meaningless to him... perhaps even insulting. We are the ones who need to recognize God's greatness. We need to know that we are in the hands of the best surgeon ever. We need to know that if we do what we are supposed to do, God will take care of us. He is the greatest strongest, most caring, most capable father we could possibly have. This is one of the reasons we praise God daily in our prayers, even though he certainly does not need our approbation.

Have you ever been in one of those annoying situation where you want something, your parents have it, and then they say, "What's the magic word?" And you're like, "I never got my Hogwarts letter. Seriously, can I just have the chocolate?" [in case there's a muggle reading this, the magic word your parents want is "please."] As annoying as it is for a kid, all parents do this. They have something they are ready to give their child just want the child to learn to ask properly. You're going to do the same thing when you get older. I know I'm sorry.

In this week's reading, Issac praises for his wife Rebecca because she has no children and Issac wants to help her out. However the wording the Torah is unusual. It should say Rebecca had no children, so Issac prayed. Instead it says Issac prayed because she

had no children. Reversed order. A little strange.

The Midrash explains that the reason Rebecca had no children is because God wanted them to pray. It was as if he was dangling that cookie in front of them and saying "What's the magic word?" Sometimes God is ready to give us the gift, He just wants us to ask for it. There are even times when prayer is necessary because it helps us connect to God and become worthy of blessings. Let's say someone is ill. God looks at her life and health decided that this is what she need right now for whatever reason (perhaps we'll discuss THAT a different week). Spending time talking to God and showing gratitude for the blessings she does have can change the person she is, and make her worthy of feeling better!

Yeah there are a lot of questions that come up in prayer, and it's not an easy concept to fully understand. But spending a few minutes each day praising, asking and thanking God will transform your day make it a happier and more meaningful.

Say those magic words!

Have - a- Nageela Shabbat,

*the Rabbi*

## De Fence is the Best Defense

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

### Source:

And you shall make a fence for your roof,  
and blood shall not be placed in your home  
(Book of Devraim- chapter 22, verse 8).

### Details:

- This mitzvah is to put fences around a roof or ledge high enough for a person to get hurt should they fall
- This mitzvah isn't just for roofs, but applies to balconies, stages, wells and holes in the ground
- According to the Chafetz Chaim, it also includes the warning not to keep a wild, dangerous pet in your house (I keep my rhino on a tight leash)

- The fence or wall must be high enough to ensure safety (about 3 feet) and must be strong enough to hold up a person leaning on it. So cardboard or lego might not do the trick
- Aside from the one-time mitzvah of putting up the fence when you move in or build the house, you get an additional mitzvah every day you check it to make sure it's in good shape.

- This mitzvah is referred to as 'Maakeh', the Hebrew word for fence.

### Lessons:

- We need to be concerned with people's safety, especially in our own homes.
- Even though God determines whether something dangerous will occur, we must do our best to avoid danger.
- Our guideline for safety is not necessarily the government building code. Sometimes we have additional precautions.





**Sold Out!**

THE

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Nageela West 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. Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

