

have a Nageela Shabbos

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

Season 3
Episode 5

Love My New Shoes by Rabbi Dani Locker

“I’m angry at you.” That is not something we want to hear from anyone. Especially not someone we’re married to (kids, you’ll have to trust me on this one).

Abraham and Sarah had been married for a long time and had no children. Knowing how important it was to continue the Jewish nation, Sarah convinced Abraham to marry a second wife, Hagar (that was pretty normal back then). Hagar immediately became pregnant. Our great matriarch Sarah was angry with husband, Abraham. Why? It was her idea? Why was she angry? Let me tell you a story.

Justin was so excited, his team was going to the State Championships! He’d worked really hard- the whole team had, and finally they’d come out on top. His play as running back was definitely one of the biggest reasons for their success, and he was really proud.

The championships were a big deal, and Justin and his teammates had spent a whole week celebrating, before it was time to prepare for the trip. Two days before they were scheduled to travel to the capital, the coach pulled him over and said, “Hey Justin, I want the team to succeed. If there’s anything you need to help the team play at their very best, just let me know. Anything that helps the team win, I’ll pay for.” Justin looked at his worn out sneakers, thought about his uncomfortable padding, and realized that he could probably play better ball with upgraded equipment.

He went shopping. Oh boy did he go shopping. At the sports store he bought shiny, top of the line sneakers, extra cushioning pads, and several cases of vitamins and supplements.

At the championship game, Justin ran onto the field to the cheers

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What do you call it when someone tantrums about their sneakers?

Shoe fits...

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org



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of the fans, but Ray, one of the offensive lineman just gave him a sour look. "What's wrong, Ray?" Justin asked.

"What's with all the fancy equipment? You look like a real big shot."

"Oh, it's not really for me. I just want the team to win."

"Oh really? If it's just for the team to win, how come YOU have all the new equipment, and not me?"

Sarah realized that if Abraham finally had a child, it must be because he prayed really hard for it. Her complaint was clear. Why did you pray for a child? If it was genuinely selfless, then why did you only pray for yourself to have an child, and not for US to have a child?

Sometimes, we truly care about people, and sometimes we just act like we care about everyone else. How can we tell the difference? We have to ask ourselves one question: Would we be just as happy with someone else's success instead of our own?



Photo of the Week

Totally Tahoe

North Tahoe Jewish Youth is back. This past week we held our first meeting of the season, making paracord bracelets and discussing how Torah values impact our lives. We can't wait for our Lake Tahoe Chanukah event!

*We've had three new Nageela weekly events start this past week in Sherman Oaks and Tarzana.
Way to go Rabbi Smith and the Valley community!*

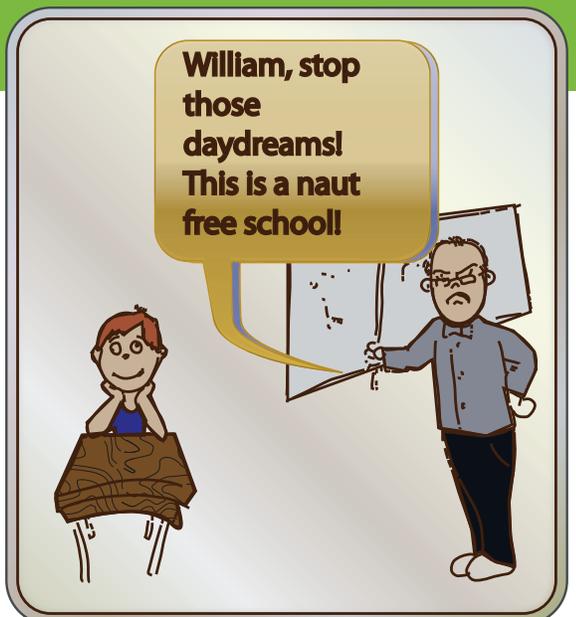
UPCOMING EVENTS:

- OCTOBER 27th- Descendants Shabbat event
- November 13th- Phoenix Kickoff Event
- THANKSGIVING WEEKEND
- Los Angeles Shabbaton

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The Modern Classroom



Awesometastic birthday wishes to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays:

Jesse Katz

Jordan Katz

Jacob Chapman

Benny Cohen

Halle Hirshman

Revital Kashari



**stump 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

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Threat-teen

Hi Rabbi,

I just turned thirteen, and I'm working on my Bar Mitzvah which is going to be in a few months. Is that OK, having it late? Why is it at thirteen anyway? It seems like such a random number, and kind of an unlucky number, too. Why do I become an adult at thirteen? What gives?

Thanks,

Matthew Shure

Dear Mat Shure,

Siman tov, umazal tov, umazal tov, usiman tov... you can picture me right now singing and dancing in front of my laptop, at Coffee Bean right now. People are looking at me funny. I wonder why...

This is an exciting time for you, and I'm glad you're asking. To answer your first question; there's no deadline. You BECOME bar mitzvah when you turn thirteen, even if you don't celebrate it. You can celebrate it ontime, or late, or when you're 75 years old. It's usually a good idea to do it as soon as possible after turning thirteen, because life happens, and sometimes it just...

Where was I? Oh yeah. We get distracted.

Why thirteen, you ask? It's about maturity and choices. Look at it this way. It's pretty obvious that you can't

expect a three-year-old to understand life and make mature choices. If this kid colors with permanent marker on the carpet, you might be upset, but you'd never say something like, "You should know to make better choices than that."

If a teenager would use permanent marker to color the carpet, his parents would probably make him pay for the replacement, because he SHOULD be mature enough to make better choices.

You used the words "become an adult" and I want to clarify that point. Ya don't become an adult at thirteen. Sorry Matt. Ya can't set your own bedtime, choose to skip school or have ice cream for breakfast just because you're bar mitzvah. You parents are still in charge, and you've got many years to go until you're ready to take full responsibility for your life. What DOES happen at thirteen is that you SHOULD be mature enough to

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not do stupid, irresponsible things. A thirteen-year-old, according to Jewish tradition, has reached a plateau (if you don't know what a plateau is, either google it, or move to New Mexico) in four important areas:

1. Mental development- means your brain is smart enough to understand stuff.
2. Emotional maturity- means you have the discipline and responsibility to choose the right thing even if it's difficult.
3. Empathy- means you don't only care about yourself. You think of others.
4. Physical maturity- around this age, you're technically old enough to be a dad (ummm... you should probably wait a while though).

A tradition dating wayyyy back to Moses (according to Rashi) tells us that thirteen is the age. In the Talmudic section of Avot, we're told, "Thirteen years old for commandments." That pretty much tells us what we needed to know.

There are a few hints in the Torah to that age as well. Some opinions believe that Abraham was thirteen

when he rejected his family's pagan beliefs and discovered ONE GOD. Some opinions say this is the age Abraham made a feast for Isaac, when he 'finished' his maturing process. Some opinions believe this is the age when the twins, Esau and Jacob started taking their own paths, and Esau began turning to evil and violence. Either way, it's an age where people start making their own choices.

It's interesting that the age thirteen is mentioned in this week's Torah portion as an important moment. Ishmael, who was the oldest son of Abraham, got his circumcision at age thirteen.

According to any explanation relating to maturity or development, girls mature at a younger age, both physically and emotionally. That's why traditionally, girls reach Bat Mitzvah at a younger age.

I hope your experience preparing for and celebrating your bar mitzvah is a meaningful one, and that you use those lessons to help guide you in a fantastic, Jewish adulthood!

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

Mitzvah Minute

A quick intro to one of the Torah's 613 commandments

Don't stand idly by

Source:
You should not stand by the blood of your fellow (Book of Vayikra, chapter 19, verse 16).

Details:
This is a commandment to help rescue a person whose life is in danger.
This includes: Rescuing a drowning victim.
Providing medical help or calling an ambulance if someone is sick or injured.
Warning someone of a plot against them.
Testifying in court if it will help their case.
Ransoming someone who's been kidnapped.
This also applies to saving a person's spiritual life. We

must help a Jew who is in danger of sinning or being influenced negatively (Minchas Chinuch).

We are allowed to break the Torah's rules and violate nearly any mitzvah in order to save a life.

Lessons:

- One who saves a life is as if he's saved an entire world
- Ignoring a problem is nearly as bad as causing a problem
- A person's life is more important than keeping just about any other mitzvah



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

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