

have a Nageela Shabbos

ISSUE 26
Parshat Emor 5777
May 13th, 2017

A weekly publication of **Nageela West** Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Cutting Corners

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Any farmers here? Didn't think so. Well in case you ever meet a farmer, you can let him know about an interesting law presented in our Torah portion. It's called Pe'ah, or "corner". Here's how it works. Let's say you've got a field of chocolate bars (I LIKE that idea). Or, on the off chance your farm doesn't produce chocolate bars, we'll have to make due with wheat. When it comes time to harvest these bars (or stalks) you're supposed to leave a bit of the field, in the corner, untouched. This way, the poor people can come get their chocolate.

Makes sense; after all, we're supposed to be generous. But why do it in this strange way. We already know we're supposed to give a certain percentage of our money to charity. Why does the Torah ask us to participate in this unusual playacting, leaving the corner for the guy to harvest? If anything, it would be much more convenient for the poor people if the farmer would harvest it all, and leave a donation!

Rabbi Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld was the leading Rabbi in Jerusalem around 100 years ago. Once some guests asked to stay at his home for Passover, excited to spend the holiday with such a great Rabbi. They offered to pay him for his hospitality, and surprisingly, he accepted! They were kind of shocked, because hosting guests is a great mitzvah, and they'd expected him to turn down the money. Still, they had an awesome holiday, and really enjoyed the seder. After Passover they went

to wish their host goodbye. Rabbi Sonnenfeld handed them the original envelope they'd given him with all the money in it.

"Why did the Rabbi accept our money if the plan was to return it in the end?" The Rabbi explained, "It was my pleasure to have you as guests, and I would never accept payment for such a great mitzvah! However, I knew that you would not be completely comfortable and feel at home as my guests unless you thought you were paying for it. So I temporarily took the money so your visit would be more enjoyable!"

The idea is similar with the corner of our chocolate field (I'm getting hungry just thinking about it. Someone should really invent a chocolate field. Instant success!). Sure, you can always give charity, but it's a bit embarrassing to be on the receiving end of charity. Harvesting the corner of the field on his own allows the recipient to feel like he's the farmer. For just a few minutes, perhaps he can imagine that instead of taking other people's generous handouts, he's harvesting his own Nestle Crunch.

We all know it's important to be generous. Yet, we don't always think about how to present our benevolence. The Torah is concerned with all aspects of a person's comfort, not only dollars and cents.

When it comes to kindness, don't cut corners.

candle lighting:

Las Vegas 7:20
Los Angeles 7:28
San Diego 7:20
Phoenix 7:01

VERY PUNNY

TWO SILK WORMS HAD A RACE.

THEY ENDED UP IN A TIE

HAVE REALLY CORNY PUN?

EMAIL IT TO

DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG

Nageela Week at a glance

SUNDAY

Beverly Hills - Jewish Individualized Learning 10am

Las Vegas - NO Hebrew School
Visit the Nageela booth at the Celebrate Israel event @ the Palazzo

MONDAY

Summerlin NageeLatte - 6:45

TUESDAY

Nageela Open house in Vancouver

THURSDAY

NaGleeda Green Valley - Uswirl 7pm

FRIDAY

NageeLunch @ the Adelson Campus

CONSIDER SPONSORING A WEEK OF
NAGEELA SHABBOS.

EMAIL YGELB@NAGEELAWEST.ORG

have a Nageela Shabbos

STUMP THE RABBI



Hi Rabbi,

I just started studying for my Bar Mitzvah and I was wondering: Does anything actually change when I have my Bar mitzvah? I mean, I think I'm supposed to keep the commandments now. So Are there new commandments to do once I hit the big one three? If there's not, what's exactly the big deal?

Thanks a ton,

Sean O. Bligae

Dear O. Bligae, Sean,

I have good news for you: Once you turn Bar mitzvah, you can get married! um, no. I don't recommend it just yet. Maybe wait a few months... or decades.

But seriously... Your bar mitzvah is the time you start taking responsibility of your actions. Yet, on the surface, almost everything you do before you become bar mitzvah remains the same after. The only real differences that come to mind are Tefillin, which are not worn until shortly before bar mitzvah, fasting on appropriate days, and praying/ leading as part of a minyan. So is there a real difference in

actions, aside from those few things?

One summer in camp, a coach discovered that his team would make the playoffs no matter what their regular season record was. So he decided to take the season as a complete joke, saving all their strategies and excitement for 'what really matters'. It was a great plan; only when the playoffs came, his team lost quickly, because they hadn't trained, practiced and polished themselves during the season.

Being bar mitzvah is the playoffs. The same stuff you did earlier really matters. But you can't just turn it on; it takes years of conditioning yourself to be a disciplined, observant, responsible, caring Jew in order to succeed in the postseason. As a kid, I remember thinking that when I became a bar mitzvah, something would "click" and I would suddenly feel and act different. The truth is that maturity is a veeeeery long and gradual process. It's kind of like growing. You don't ever see real growth from one day to the next, but give it enough time and "Whoa, you got so tall!" Except in my family; we don't get tall, ever. Working on yourself to become a better person and Jew when you're 9, 10, 11, 12; that gives you the ability to glide right into the bar mitzvah years in a position to win.

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



**Registration is
NOW OPEN FOR
the biggest
shabbaton of
the year!**

**Memorial day
weekend
las vegas
ages 7-14**

nageelaLV.org

Nageela West provides social and educational programs for Jewish children across the west coast.
801-613-1539 ~ www.nageelawest.org ~ info@nageelawest.org
155 N. Detroit St., Los Angeles, CA 90036

