

Parshas Emor
5779

May 17th,
2019

have a Nageela Shabbos

Candle Lighting:
Scottsdale 7:04
Henderson 7:22
Las Vegas 7:24
San Diego 7:23
Los Angeles 7:31
Tarzana 7:32
Reno/ Tahoe 7:50

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

Season 3
Episode 32

Doing Chess- ed by Rabbi Dani Locker



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
@NAGEELAWEST

“No way! Why should we give him our hard earned money?”

The school's chess club was having an intense meeting. The captain of the club, a senior named Mac, was asking that the club give a portion of their budget (it got money from the school board) to pay him. His reasons were that the time he spent planning for the club was time he spent away from his after school job, and Mac really needed the money.

This made some of the other club members pretty upset. Brian, the most vocal opponent of Mac, continued. “This is a volunteer chess club. It's a school club. Mac is a pretty good captain, but we don't need him! If we don't pay Mac, we can use that money to get new chess pieces or clocks. Maybe we can even get better snacks for our meetings. Why should we pay him?” The rest of the club was divided on the issue, but Brian had convinced enough of them. They denied Mac's request, and he ended up quitting the team, so he could work more and pay his bills.

Suddenly, the chess club was in trouble. There was no more school

board money coming in. Brian, the new captain of the club, couldn't understand why the school board's funding had suddenly stopped. He managed to get an appointment with the board and he asked them why the chess club had its grant rescinded.

“To tell you the truth, there is only one reason we ever gave funding to the club in the first place.” Explained Mrs. Green, the School board representative. “It was your old captain, Mac. He is the President of the board's nephew, and he spent hours and hours with his uncle, convincing him to fund the chess club. Now that Mac has left the team, we don't seem to have budget space for chess.”

In this week's Torah portion, we're told about the kohanim, a special group of Jews, all grandchildren of Aaron, the original high priest and brother to Moses. The Kohanim did not own land in Israel, and they generally didn't have jobs other than the temple service and teaching Torah. They were supported by the generosity of the Jewish people. 24 types of gifts were given to them



What is more rewarding
than a diamond ring?
Sponsor ring!

to sponsor an episode
of Nageela Shabbos,
please contact ygelb@nageelawest.org

to support their families, so they could continue their holy work. Some Jews might look at this in the same way Brian did. "It's hard enough to support ourselves. Why should we give our hard earned money to the Kohanim?"

The Torah therefore explains to us that the service and teaching of the Kohanim bring holiness and blessing to the Jewish people. We will be much more inclined to generously support scholars and spiritual leaders if we understand that we owe all of our success to them in the first place.

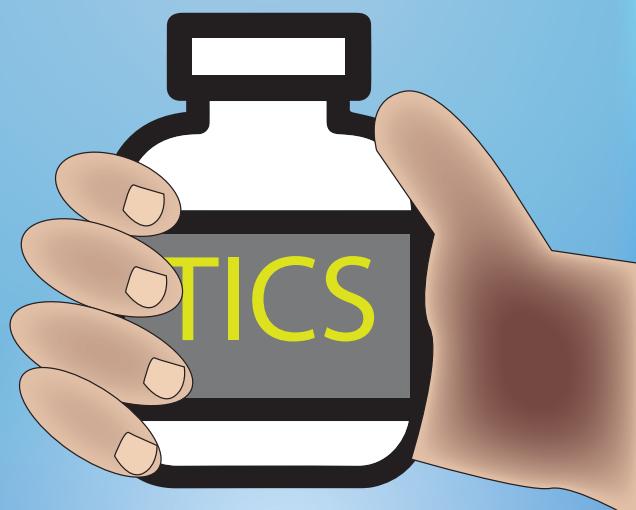
Let's learn a lesson from chess-ed and do acts of chess-ed with the spiritual leaders of our people.



PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

I see you got a medicine for tick bites. What kind of ticks are bothering you? Deer ticks?



No.
Poli tics

DL

Quick Fix

By
Rabbi Dov Ber
Smith

Here is a cool law in this Parsha: An animal must be properly slaughtered and prepared to ensure that it's kosher. You can then make your burger and fries and enjoy!

The funny part is that although we can eat a cow or eat a calf, we are not allowed to slaughter a mother and child cow on the same day. Why not? They are both kosher???? Come on!!

One of the commentaries (Sefer HaChinuch) explains: the reason is to help us feel mercy and compassion. Just because the cow and its calf are kosher doesn't mean that you should kill both in the same day. That's sad. Have mercy and realize that they are a family!!!

This idea applies to us all the time!!

(You may wonder: Huh? Cow and me??? What connection?!?!). It's rather simple: just because something may be ok to do, or ok to take, ok to speak, ok to eat, and so forth, doesn't mean that you can just do it. We have to be sensitive of our surroundings, of our friends, of the place that we are in and only then take action.



DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST
GIRLS SESSION

DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST
BOYS SESSION

Find out about our Grand Tour 2019 and see photos from GT2018 at nageelawest.org

www.nageelawest.org



Bless. Don't B Less

Hi Rabbi,

I just learned that there is a blessing to say after going to the bathroom and a blessing to say before going to sleep. Is there a blessing for EVERYTHING? It seems that way! Why do we have so many blessings?

Thanks,

Bethany Rachael

Dear B. Racha...

I had a student once who was considering switching to a Jewish school. He only had one concern. "Too much brachos!" You seem to have the same doubt. There's a blessing for just about everything. Why? If you look at our archives at nageelawest.org, you can download season one, episode 14 where we discussed why we use specific blessings instead of just one big generic "thank you." Today we'll talk about why we make so many, and what we gain from them.

During the reign of the great King David, something terrible happened. A plague struck and it was bad. In the then tiny capital of Jerusalem, 100 people were dying each day. That's a lot. Well, when troubling things happen to the Jewish people, our reaction is to try to become better people and better Jews. King David decreed that to 'fight' the plague killing 100 people a day, everyone should make 100 blessings each day. Since that time, it has become a strong tradition to attempt 100 blessings daily. [How can we get this done?](#)

If you do the daily prayers 3 times a day, you've got a really great start!

Shacharis, the morning prayer has a total of 44 blessings. Mincha has 19 and

maariv has 23. That's 86 right there!

If you add in blessings before and after food, you can easily add 15-20 (washing hands, blessing on bread and birkat hamazon add up to 6 for each bread meal). If you eat pickles and drink pickle juice often, you're already over the limit.

Then of course there's Asher yatzar-the blessing we make after using the bathroom, as you mentioned. For most people that's 5-10 times a day. Then there are assorted other blessings like the one before sleep, blessings on things like thunder or lightning, and a few extra if you're putting on Tefillin or tzitzit.

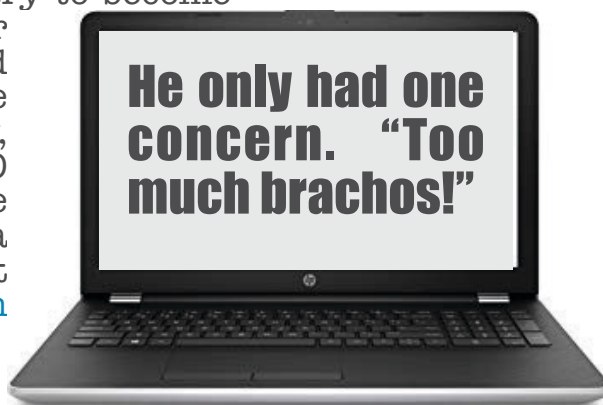
On Shabbat where the prayers are shorter...

[Wait. Did I just say Shabbat prayers are shorter?](#)

Yup. They take longer because of Torah reading and stuff, but the actual prayers service has fewer blessings.

Anyway, as I was saying before I rudely interrupted me, on Shabbat, we make a special effort to have snacks (hooray) to make sure we get all 100 blessings. If you

really can't make that many blessings on your own, then listening to other people's blessings and answering AMEN (which means, "I agree, totally!") can count



continued on page 4

toward your number.

I read something beautiful this morning. We know that all relationships work two ways. You receive as much as you give. We really, really want God to bless us with all kinds of goodness. Health, wealth, pickles, intelligence, friends, pickles, happiness, family, pickles... The Midrash says that the way we bless God, He blesses us. That means the more (and better) we praise and bless God, we will receive more and better blessings in our lives. That sounds cool. I'm in. Sign me up!

Oh, by the way; if we really want the blessings to have the right effect, we have got to make sure we really understand

what we're saying and we mean it when we make a blessing. So let's make it BLESS and not B LESS!

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.

**tree
stump**



an expansion on the Stump The Rabbi topic

There are four main categories of blessings:

1. Blessings of thanks for things we enjoy. This includes:

- Blessings before eating food
- Blessings after eating food
- Blessings for smelling nice things

2. Blessings of praise for cool things that God does to show His awesomeness. This category includes:

- Blessings on thunder, lightning, rainbows and other feats of Godly power
- Blessings on beautiful geological features like oceans, great mountains or canyons, fruit trees
- Blessings when meeting extraordinary people

such as great scholars (Torah scholars AND secular scholars. Yup there's a blessing for meeting Einstein), kings, or people of extraordinary physical appearance (extremely tall, or extremely beautiful, for example)

3. Blessings when we perform a mitzvah, thanking God for giving us guidance to live a better life. This category includes:

- Blessing for lighting Shabbat candles and Kiddush.
- Blessings for holiday mitzvot like lighting Chanukah candles, eating matzah, hearing shofar, counting the Omer, living in a sukkah, and many more
- Blessings on Tefillin, tzitzit, separating challah and many more

4. Prayers. The blessings we make during prayers are similar to category 2, because they praise God for stuff, but I'd consider them their own category, because most of them combine praise, thanks and asking.

**Awesometastic birthday
wishes to our friends
celebrating their birthdays:**



Manny Rosen
Ashley Sellen
Gabby Rivera
Gabriel Hafter
Maxim Quint
Tuvia Reback
Rina Greenberg
Shimshon Levin
Rivki Wyne
Ari Polonsky

**HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY TO
EVERYONE ELSE!**



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. 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.

844-NAGEELA

www.nageelawest.org info@nageelawest.org