

VERY PUNNY

How did Noah see? He used a flood light.

How did Noah and his family entertain themselves for a year on the ark?
They played Arkades.

What did Noah sleep on? A Water bed!

Ouch.

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

SEASON 2 EPISODE 5 OCT 21, 2017

Candle Lighting:

Phoenix 5:30

Las Vegas 5:39

San Diego 5:51

Los Angeles 5:54

Nageela Shabbos

Parshas Noach 5778

A Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Don't forget the Floaties

by Rabbi Dani Locker

"Hey, I've got a really important job for you."
"OK, what is it?"

"I want you to deliver a message."

"Sure thing. I can go right away."

"No. I want to wait and deliver it in thirty years."

"WHAT???"

"Why not now?"

God did something similar with Noah, but much longer. Noah is told to build an ark, which is basically a floating box (not a Police Box, just a box). He is instructed to build it really, rea

After all that time, God tells Noah. "Go into the ark. I'm going to bring the flood, now."

"Right now?"

"No, in another 7 days."

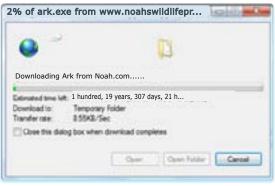
Why wait seven more days? Why not pull the plug (literally) now?

The Targum Yonatan says it was a seven day trial period to see if they'll change their ways. Now hold on a minute. The

people had not changed their ways in 120 years of Noah building an ark and warning them. Why would now be any different?

There was a great man named Mesushelach. He happened to be Noah's grandfather, and was extremely righteous. Aside from living longer than any other recorded human being, he was a tzadik, a righteous, good man. He died the day God gave Noah this seven day warning, and the seven days were his shiva, the time of sadness and mourning for him.

Everybody thinks they're going to live forever. Well, not literally, but even when we know something is dangerous, we tend to think, "That is dangerous, but not for me. I'll be fine." That explains a lot of irresponsible and



dangerous behavior that people get up to. Sure Noah warned them for many years, but they ignored him, thinking they'd be OK. Still, there was a chance that seeing the actual death of a living legend could help them realize "Oh my! Everyone has a time limit."

We all want to improve ourselves, right? I hope so. Sometimes we look at our history and say, "If I haven't changed by now, it's never gonna happen." But that's not really true. Seeing something a different way, or hearing inspiration from an unexpected source can reach dark places that had been missing all light. Maybe even deep... under... water... burble, burble

Now brush your teeth, and stop talking!

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Stump The Rabbi

Bows Without Arrows

Dear Rabbi,

Why do we bow in the prayers? If it's because it's important to bow when we mention God's name, why don't we bow every time we do? I think we only bow 3 or 4 times? Thanks

Jennifer Ursula Flechter

Dear Jen U Flechter,

Can we use the word "genuflect?" I love the word genuflect. I have no idea why, but it just rolllls off the tongue. Dontcha think? Bowing down (or genuflecting) is something that pops up a whole lot in the Torah. Subjects bowed to kings, and there are even some cultures today whose custom it is to bow slightly to a person to show respect. When I took karate, my sensei explained to us (it was a Jewish karate studio) that bowing to an opponent or a teacher is a sign of respect, not worship.

That reminds me of the guy who brought his golden retriever to the Rabbi and said, "My dog is so Jewish, he knows how to genuflect during prayers!" The Rabbi responded, "Bow wow!"

You don't see much deep bowing going on in a synagogue. In fact, the Torah forbids bowing on a stone floor, because it seems like we're worshipping the stones! The only time Jews ever fully bow (by fully, I mean face on the floor) is on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur (and at those times, we put something over the floor to show that we're not bowing to stone).

We do, however, bow slightly, curving our backs at times during a prayer service. Remember, the goal here is not to touch your toes or do other exercise routines. It's to curve your back in a sign of submission and respect. Here are the five times we bow normally:

When we say the words "and we bow" during the "aleinu" prayer, it would be a bit awkward not to bow (kind of like saying, hey kids, here's some ice cream, and then serving them pickled herring). We also bow twice during the blessing that talks about our forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It's the most important blessing, and it affirms that we really are loyal to God and have been for generations. Finally, we bow twice during the blessing of thanks, or "modim." (This is not really because we bow

out of thanks. It's because a part of thanks is recognizing that we are completely beholden to God and we're in His debt). This is the second most important blessing in the prayer service and we only bow during these blessings. It is inappropriate to bow any other times.

Even during these blessing, though, we don't bow while saying God's name. Here's a rhyme, or rap to go with the dance move:

Say the word "Baruch", and bend yo knees.

Say "Atah", feel the curve in yo spine But stand up straight before uttering a name that's divine

While doing something physical (like bowing) can help guide our emotions (like feeling deferential to God), it's our feelings and thoughts that matter most. We don't want to become bowing machines without the slightest thought of God.

By the way, airline pilots pray 7 days a week, 47 weeks a year.
At least if they fly a Bowing 747.

Have - a- Nageela Shabbat



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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