

Parshas Kedoshim
5779

May 10th,
2019

have a Nageela Shabbos

Candle Lighting:
Scottsdale 6:59
Henderson 7:16
Las Vegas 7:18
San Diego 7:18
Los Angeles 7:26
Tarzana 7:27
Reno/ Tahoe 7:43

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

Season 3
Episode 31

Being Godly for Dummies by Rabbi Dani Locker



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“Hey Aaron!”

“Yes, my holy brother Moshe, what can I do for you?”

“I’m on a deadline, and I need help! You see it’s time for a new Torah portion, and I don’t have anything to write. What am I supposed to put in the Torah for this week?”

“Easy. Just do the ten commandments again. That episode was a huge hit! The angels gave it 2 enthusiastic wings up!”

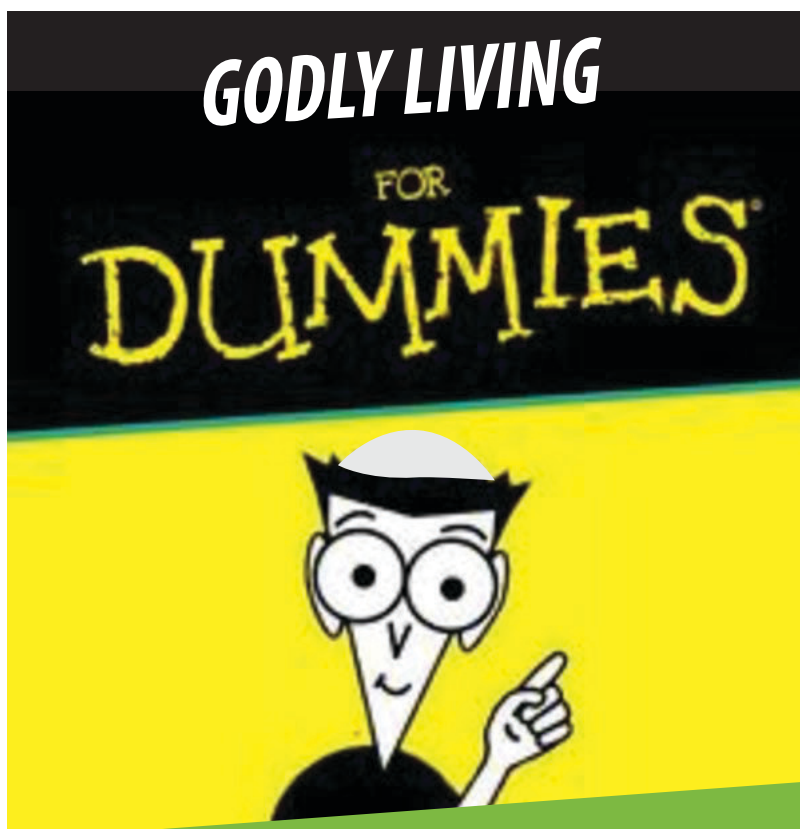
“No. I can’t do a rerun. How can I keep my ratings up if I don’t have original content?”

“Hey, don’t sweat it little bro. Just take the ten commandments, reword them, make them sound a little different, and all will be copacetic.”

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, the above is NOT how Parshat Kedoshim came to be. Let’s just be clear about that for a moment.

If you take a look at the beginning of this week’s Torah portion, you’ll find a remarkable resemblance to the ten commandments. Take a look at the graphic on the next page where we’ve lined up each of

the commandments with its Kedoshim counterpart, and it could pass as a stunt double. But since we’ve safely established that Kedoshim is not a cleverly disguised rerun, we should probably try to understand WHY the Torah would repeat these rules, with their differences.



What kind of ship
gets the most mileage?
A sponsorship!

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Take a look at each. Really, take a moment, stop reading this, look at that graphic and find the differences. →

Ok. You back yet? What do you see? I'll tell you what I see. In the ten commandments, I see generalities. I see big grand rules of life. In Kedoshim, I see strategies and ideas of HOW to successfully achieve them. They are the everyday actions that will help us become Godly. Let me give you a few examples:

Don't murder. Well, most people don't start out their lives planning on murder. The mitzvah in Kedoshim is to not stand by while someone is being hurt. Training ourselves in that sensitivity to others will result in an increased appreciation for life and for people.

Don't bear false witness. The Kedoshim version is not to be a gossiping storyteller. Don't talk about

10 Commandments

1. Believe in God
2. No other gods
3. Don't use god's name lightly
4. Keep shabbat
5. Honor your parents
6. Don't murder
7. Don't commit adultery
8. Don't steal
9. Don't be a false witness
10. Don't be jealous

Kedoshim

1. Be like god
2. Don't make godly statues
3. Don't swear falsely in god's name
4. Keep shabbat
5. Revere your parents
6. Don't allow someone to be hurt
7. Keep your children away from inappropriate activities
8. Don't steal
9. Don't tell tales about people
10. Love everyone like you love yourself

people, and you'll avoid hurting people with your words.

Finally, the last mitzvah in the top 10 is not to be jealous. How do we achieve that? V'ahavta L'rayacha Kamocha. Love your friend like you love yourself. Really think deeply about how special other people are. Train yourself to love them, and you'll be thrilled with what they have, rather than wanting it for yourself.

In a way, Parshat Kedoshim is Godly living for Dummies. Follow these rules, and you'll find yourself living life in the best possible way.



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BOYS SESSION

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ONLY
12
SPOTS
LEFT



Which dangerous creatures rob travelers on the Nile river?

Crocodiles

Who chases and catches them?

Investigators

OUCH! GROAN!

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



End Game

Dear Rabbi,

I know I'm being emotional and irrational. I know this might not be a normal question. But why can't we live forever? God can do that, right? He has the power to make us live forever so why does He make life end?

Thanks,

Eli Etern

Dear Etern, Eli,

Your question is extremely normal. It's been asked over and over throughout history, by every person who has suffered a loss. Even though the question is coming from a place of pain and confusion, it's still a really powerful and thoughtful question. You're right that God does have the power to keep us alive forever, and the fact is that He did not set up the world that way. So, why not? Why is death built in to our existence here in the world.

Today I will give you just one answer, although there's a lot we can discuss. Please feel free to contact me this week if you'd like to discuss it more thoroughly.

~

Tom Bullet had his offense set. As the quarterback, Tom had brought his team, in an incredibly challenging year, to this moment. It was week 16, the last game of the season, and now, with the game tied late in the 4th quarter, he had the chance to send his team to the playoffs. Just a few seconds ago, during a huddle, Tom had given his teammates the most emotional speech of his career. He had spoken about their dreams, and about how it was all on the line. If they played their hardest for the next few minutes, they could make history.

Now Tom was about to start the play, when the coach called time out. The team hurried to the sidelines, where the coach gave his team the

news. "I've just received a message from the commissioners office. Instead of 16 games, they're expanding the season to 40 games. So don't worry too much about the next couple of minutes. Go out and try to win, but... well, honestly, it doesn't matter as much."

Tom was crushed. Sure, he loved the game, and 40 games a year meant more playing time, and perhaps more money, but he knew himself and he knew his team. He knew they would not be able to focus on excellence when the season was so long.

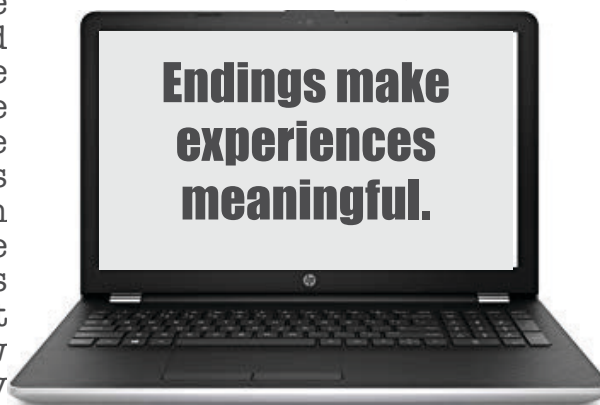
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Endings make experiences meaningful. Amusement parks are fun because you know you'll have to leave in a few hours. Vacations are fabulous because they're 'for a limited time' and we're proud of our academic accomplishments because there's a finite quality to them. We eventually graduate.

All sports leagues have ends to seasons (even the seemingly eternal baseball season ends eventually). If life went on forever, people would not feel that life was meaningful, and people certainly wouldn't feel the pressure or focus of making every moment count.

There's a talmudic phrase (Avos) that says, "Return to God one day before you die." The understood meaning is that since we don't know when that will be, we've got to

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live each day as focused as if it was our last. This is perhaps one reason why God made life on this world short and gave it an end. So that we can make the most of the time we have.

In order to spend more time on this vital question, we will discuss this topic "Why don't we live forever?" at a Locker Live this Thursday at 7:00pm. Join us on Instagram @lockerroom or on YouTube at the Rabbi Locker channel. All are welcome, and you'll be able

SPECIAL
THIS
THURS
@7



HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

IN HONOR OF ALL THE NAGEELA MOMMIES WHO SELFLESSLY DRIVE THEIR CHILDREN TO EVENTS, ENCOURAGE THEIR INVOLVEMENT & GIVE THEM UP FOR 3 WEEKS!

Quick Fix

By

by Rabbi Dov Ber Smith

In this week Parsha, God commands all farmers that when they reap their wheat, they must leave a corner of their field for people in need. One of the main commentaries explains the reason: to infuse in us a trait of kindness and helping others. Think about it: you can have a huge property of land; a huge field of wheat that adds up to 100 acres of land! So much! And yet, when you leave over a small piece of corner for the poor you get an awesome mitzva AND you become a better and kind person. Such a simple act. And yet it REAPS great stuff!

Although you may not be a farmer, nevertheless you can also leave over a "corner of your field" for the "poor". Give someone something. Maybe you have a friend who needs a hug? A smile? Maybe he or she needs help with homework? Give some of your time, some of your energy, SOMETHING of yours to someone else and oh boy, you'll become someone bigger and more special than even the Avengers!

to comment, ask and answer on the app.

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.



Awesometastic birthday wishes to our friends celebrating their birthdays:

Aden Nordheim
Jaden Bernal
Shany Elmaleh
Shayna Roberts
Allie 'Yesti' Weeks
Eliran Gazala
Moriah Dubowsky

Rosie Polonsky
Hannah 'Fluffy' Bernstein
Shoshana Schwartz
Zeidy Locker
Shlomo Leiser

HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY TO

EVERYONE ELSE!



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