



# ACTIVITY

## YOUNGER GRADES:

- ▶ Scan or click on the QR code to listen to a song about Shavuot.
- ▶ What do you think is the most fun part of Shavuot?

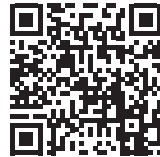


scan the code or click

## OLDER GRADES:

Scan or click on the QR code to watch a music video of Micha Gamerman's Shavuot medley.

- ▶ Which different aspects of Shavuot did you see in the video?
- ▶ Which of those different parts of Shavuot is your favorite and why?



scan the code or click



# Mi'dor L'dor מִדּוֹר לְדוֹר SHAVUOT



## HOLIDAY SUMMARY



On Shavuot, we celebrate the giving of the Torah. The holiday is one day in Israel, and two days outside of Israel. This is the day that the Jewish people gathered at Mount Sinai to receive the Torah from Hashem and heard the Ten Commandments. In honor of the holiday, many people stay up all night learning Torah. Shavuot also celebrates the beginning of the harvest season in Eretz Yisrael, and in the times of the Beit HaMikdash farmers would bring their Bikkurim (first fruits) there, beginning on Shavuot with a beautiful ceremony. We also read the Megillah of Rut on Shavuot, one reason being that the story took place at this time of year.

## THE INSIDE SCOOP

Let's discuss the custom that many people have to stay up all night on Shavuot. Look at the following source in the Midrash.

### MIDRASH, SHIR HASHIRIM RABBAH 1:57

### מִדְרַשׁ שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים רַבָּה א:נ

"Because on the third day, Hashem will come down in front of all the people." But the people slept that entire night [and did not wake up in time], since sleeping during [the time of year of] Shavuot is pleasant and the night is short. R.Yudan said: Even a mosquito did not bite them [and wake them up]; so Hashem came [in the morning] and found them asleep...

כי ביום השלישי ירד ה' לעיני כל העם, ישנו להם ישראל כל אותו הלילה - לפי ששינה של עצרת עריבה והלילה קצרה. אמר ר' יודן: אפילו פורטענא לא עקץ במ, בא הקב"ה ומצאן ישנים...

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Now take a look at this quote from the Mishnah Berurah, written by the Chafetz Chaim, and how he explains the basis for the custom of staying awake on Shavuot night in light of the Midrash.

## MISHNAH BERURAH 494:1

## משנה ברורה תצד:א

It says in the Zohar that the early "chasideim (pious ones)" used to stay awake all night and study Torah. Now, it is already the custom of many Torah students to do this. The Arizal says that you should know that anyone who does not sleep at all, and is busy learning Torah, can be assured that nothing bad will happen to him during the entire year. The reason for the custom, writes the Magen Avraham, is because Israel slept all night and Hashem needed to awaken them to receive the Torah (as the Midrash says). Therefore, we need to fix this.

איתא בזוהר שחסידים הראשונים היו נעורים כל הלילה ועוסקים בתורה וכבר נהגו רוב הלומדים לעשות כן ואיתא בשו"ע האר"י ז"ל דע שכל מי שבלילה לא ישן כלל ועיקר והיה עוסק בתורה מובטח לו שישלים שנתו ולא יארע לו שום נזק. והטעם כתב מ"א ע"פ פשוטו שישראל היו ישנים כל הלילה והוצרך הקב"ה להעיר אותם לקבל התורה [כדאיתא במדרש] לכך אנו צריכין לתקן זה.

## LET'S DISCUSS

### KIDS:

- ▶ According to the Midrash, what happened to the Jewish people the day that they were supposed to receive the Torah, and what does this have to do with staying up all night on Shavuot?
- ▶ Why do you think staying up all night is considered a good "fixing" of what went wrong at Har Sinai? Why do you think the Arizal considers it so important?
- ▶ What do you think people who stay up all night should be doing during that time? Is it ok to just play games and have fun? Why or why not?
- ▶ Have you ever stayed up later than usual on Shavuot night? If not, would you like to when you get a little older?
- ▶ Shavuot's other special mitzvot had to do with agriculture and the Beit Hamikdash, which we don't have anymore. With this in mind, what do you think about the custom of staying up all night?

### GROWNUPS:

- ▶ Do you think it is a good idea to stay awake on Shavuot night? Why or why not?
- ▶ Share a special memory of Shavuot you had with your family either growing up or as an adult.



## BONUS

Another interesting custom that has been adopted in many places is mentioned by the Rema (R.Moshe Isserles) in his comments on the Shulchan Aruch.

## REMA, ORACH CHAIM 494:3

## רמ"א, אורח חיים תצד:ג

It is customary to place greenery in the shuls and houses on Shavuot to commemorate the joy of the giving of the Torah.

ונוהגין לשטוח עשבים בשבועות בבית הכנסת והבתים, זכר לשמחת מתן תורה.

- ▶ What is the custom mentioned here by the Rema? Have you ever seen this custom practiced in your home or shul?
- ▶ What do you think the reason for it is? [Hint: There is a Midrash about Har Sinai becoming green before Shavuot; scan or click on the QR code to read more]



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## MORE ON THE PARSHA FOR GROWNUPS

Dr. Yael Ziegler has written and spoken extensively about Megillat Ruth. You can find the first in her 5-part series of shiurim on the HaTanakh.com website. In it, she describes Ruth as the paradigm of kindness and the mother of kings, because her Chesed provided a counterpoint to the danger of tyrannical monarchy. Ruth's genes would ensure that David was genetically predisposed to extreme Chesed and unselfishness.



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**Chag Sameach!**