



Welcome to Spark, the Tribe Parasha activity sheet that will help you bring Judaism to life in a varied and exciting way. I'd like these activities to enthuse the children and show them how the Torah given almost 3500 years ago is still as relevant and as exciting in our lives today.

Thank you for offering to run a Children's Service, for all the hard work you put into it and for making a real difference to so many young people. The US is very proud of the numerous Children's Services that are run every week across the UK and this would not happen without you.

Spark gives you an overview of the weekly Parasha, songs, an activity, discussion questions or D'var Torah linked to the Parasha or important event that week. Every Children's Service will be different, in terms of how many participants there are, their age range, its length and the varying abilities of the children. Please read through the document and find the activities that will best suit the needs of your group. It is advisable to read it before Shabbat in case there is some preparation that may be needed in advance.

I am sure the children at your shul will benefit from Spark. Please be in touch if you have any queries, feedback or if we can be of any help. Thank you again for the work you do in enabling so many young Jews to access their heritage and traditions in such an exciting way.

All it takes is a small spark of interest, to ignite a flame of passion for Judaism.

With kindest regards,

Rabbi Nicky (Goldmeier)
Spark Editor and Education Consultant

Shavuot Summary:

Shavuot is one of the Shalosh Regalim (Three Foot Festivals), together with Pesach and Succot. During these Chaggim (festivals) the Jewish people would make their way up to Jerusalem from wherever in Israel they lived and gather in the Beit Hamikdash (The holy Temple), bringing festive Korbanot (Offerings) and saying special Tefillot (prayers). The festival of Shavuot is unique in that it has no specific laws compared to the detailed and intricate laws of Pesach and Succot.



- We celebrate the giving of the Torah on Har Sinai (Mount Sinai) in the Jewish year 2488, seven weeks after the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) left Egypt.
- Shavuot means 'weeks' and celebrates the culmination of the 7 weeks of the Omer which we started counting from Pesach. We were taken out of Egypt and brought to the foot of Har Sinai (Mount Sinai) where we were given the Torah.
- Other names of Shavuot include Z'man Matan Torateinu (the time of the giving of our Torah) and Chag Hakatzir (the Harvest festival).
- The Jewish people prepared themselves at the foot of Har Sinai (Mount Sinai) for 3 days, known as the Sheloshet Yemai Hagbalah (The three days of limitations) when the Jewish people were to set boundaries in preparation for the great revelation on Mount Sinai.
- There is a custom to decorate the shul (Synagogue) with plants and flowers, as Mount Sinai blossomed and bloomed on the great day of the giving of the Torah.
- There is also a custom to eat milky foods on Shavuot (for example; cheese cake, ice-cream, cheese blintzes). This is because the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) heard that some of the laws in the Torah would include Kashrut (Dietary laws) and so as not to find out they had done something wrong once the Torah was given, they abstained from eating meat and only had milky foods.
- There is yet another custom which has been adopted by many communities; that of Leil Limmud (a night of learning), when people stay up for the whole of the first night of Shavuot learning Torah. This custom originated because there is a Midrash that teaches how the Children of Israel were so nervous of receiving the Torah. They felt that they were just not worthy of receiving such a magnificent gift. So, they decided to 'sleep-in' on the day of the giving of the Torah and let their souls go and receive the Torah. Then later on, having woken up, they would continue to keep the Torah without actually having gone through such a spiritually uplifting experience of receiving it. However God said that this was wrong as the Torah is for people and not only souls. We therefore do the opposite and stay awake all night.
- We read the Asseret Hadibrot (The Ten Commandments) in Shul (Synagogue) on

the first day of Shavuot.

- We read the famous story of Ruth known as ‘Megillat Rut’ on Shavuot because Ruth was a convert to Judaism and she embraced the laws and values of the Torah.

Children’s Service: Tot’s – Year 3 - Activity

What Does Quiet Sound Like?

‘We are told by the Midrash that when God gave the Torah, no bird chirped, no birds flew, no ox made a sound, angels did not fly...the sea did not stir, no creature spoke. The world was utterly silent—and a voice was heard: “I am the Lord your God.”

Read the above midrash once through to the children. Assign each person or pairs one of the “noises” — birds chirping, fowl flying, etc. Then, read the midrash again having everyone in the group add sound effects. Repeat this until everyone is making his or her noise as loud as possible. Finally, count to three, and enjoy a full minute of silence. How does that sound? Ask the children what it means to them that the world was totally silent.

Story – ‘The Little Red Rabbi’ (based on the well-known story of ‘The Little Red Hen’...but with a difference!!).



As the festival of Shavuot was getting nearer, the Little Red Rabbi wanted to start getting things ready for this enjoyable festival. He knew that he had to bake some cheese cake, he had to buy flowers and display them in a beautiful way, he had to arrange coffee, tea and lots of yummy food for the adults who were going to come back to shul and learn Torah all night and he had to buy the ice-cream for the delicious ice-cream kiddush for the children, after the reading of the 10 Commandments.

So the Rabbi asked his very good friends Michael, Michaela and Morris if they would help him to bake the cake, buy the coffee and tea, set out the ice-cream kiddush and decorate the shul with the flowers he had bought from the florist.

‘Michael, will you help me to bake a cheese cake for Shavuot?’ said the Little Red Rabbi. ‘Oh, I’m afraid I can’t’ came the reply from Michael. ‘Don’t worry. I’ll do it myself’, said The Little Red Rabbi. ‘Michaela, will you help me decorate the shul with flowers and buy the ice-cream for the delicious ice-cream kiddush?’ ‘Oh, I’m afraid I can’t’ came the reply from Michaela. ‘Don’t worry. I’ll do it myself’, said The Little Red Rabbi. ‘Morris, will you help me lay the table for the coffee and tea and yummy food for the night of Torah learning?’ Oh, I’m afraid I can’t’ came the reply from Morris. ‘Don’t worry, I’ll do it myself’, said The Little Red Rabbi. So the Little Red Rabbi baked a perfect cheese cake, decorated the shul with such beautiful flowers, picked up the coffee, tea and yummy food for the all-night Torah learning in shul and made the most wonderful milky ice-cream for the children’s kiddush.

The festival of Shavuot finally arrived and everyone in shul was so excited! Michael went up to The Little Red Rabbi and asked him if he could taste some of his delicious cheese cake. ‘Of course you can’ said The Little Red Rabbi. Then Michaela asked if she could smell those beautiful flowers which were decorating the shul and have a taste of the fabulous looking ice-cream. ‘Of course you can’ said The Little Red Rabbi. Finally, Morris asked the Little Red Rabbi if he could have some of the tasty-looking refreshments which had been laid out for the all-night Torah learning. ‘Of course you can’ said the Little Red Rabbi.

Although Michael, Michaela and Morris weren’t able to help, The Little Red Rabbi still felt so happy that his friends could use and enjoy the different things he had prepared for the festival of Shavuot.

[Children’s Service: Years 3- 6](#)

Shavuot Quiz

- 1. Starting your count from the second day of Pesach, how many days are there from Pesach to Shavuot? (49 days)**
- 2. The seven-week period between Passover and Shavuot, which we count one day at a time, is called the Counting of the...? (Omer)**
- 3. Shavuot is one of the three Foot festivals in the Jewish holiday cycle. What are the other two? (Pesach and Succot)**
- 4. True or false: It is customary to eat meat at all meals on Shavuot. (False)**
- 5. What does Shavuot commemorate? (The giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai)**
- 6. It is customary to stay up all night on the first night of Shavuot and study Torah. True or false? (True)**
- 7. Which book of the Tanach (Hebrew Scriptures) do we read on Shavuot? (Ruth)**

8. How long was Moshe (Moses) on Har Sinai (Mount Sinai)? (40 days and 40 nights)
9. We decorate the shul with flowers on Shavuot because we remember how beautiful Mount Sinai became when the Torah was given. True or false?
10. Which nation did Ruth come from before she became Jewish? (Moav)

Which one of the Asseret Hadibrot (Ten Commandments) is this?

How to play:

Organise the children in pairs and give out pieces of paper on which there is one of the 10 Commandments to each pair. Ask them to work out how they could mime or act out the commandment so that others can guess it.

Alternatively, call out each of the commandments in the correct order and ask a child to stand, holding that commandment. Do this until there are 10 children holding a commandment in the correct order. Send them to sit in different parts of the rooms and see if all the children can remember the order of the Commandments.

The 10 Commandments are;

1. I am the Lord your God
2. You shall have no other gods
3. Do not take God's name in vain
4. Remember/keep the shabbat day
5. Honour your father and mother
6. Do not murder
7. Remain loyal to your husband/wife only (if you feel this one may be too difficult, you can leave it out).
8. Do not steal
9. Do not tell a lie in court
10. Do not be jealous

Discussion Points



Shavuot does not have any specific laws relating to it, like Pesach (matzah, maror) and Succot (lulav, etrog) have.

- Why do you think that might be?
- Why did God choose to give the Torah in the wilderness?
- Why didn't He wait until the Jewish people arrived and were settled in Israel?
- Can you recall what was special about the place **in which you** received a gift? Why was the place special to you?
- Why did Mount Sinai go back to being an ordinary mountain after the giving of the Torah? Surely it had become special?
- We are taught that Ruth was the great grandmother of the famous King David. Why do you think she was given this privilege of being connected to such a great personality?

Songs – The links have been included for you to watch before Shabbat and if you so wish, to teach the children these songs. I have included the words to the second song – Have fun!!!

[Song – Torat Hashem Temimah 'The Torah of God is Perfect'](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvrg_KlvNWI

[7 Little Kids – A fun song](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zIY7c8Vitw>

Seven little kids
Sittin' in the back seat
Makin' me meshuga in the head,
I said, can't you kids

Behave until we get there
And this is what my biggest kid said,

CHORUS:

(You better hurry dad 1-2-3)
Moshe Chaim lost his kippah
Asher Zelig spilled his drink
And Malky says you better find a restroom quick,
Yitz dropped his ice cream
And Rifky needs a tissue
And Shaindy thinks she's gonna be sick.

Di-diddlyum dum, Di-diddlyum dum, Di-diddlyum dum, dum.

Up the Palisades
Right onto the quickway
Monticello forty miles ahead
I said, "if you don't behave
We're not going to the country"
And this is what my biggest kid said,

CHORUS:

(You better hurry dad 1-2-3)
Moshe Chaim lost his kippah
Asher Zelig spilled his drink
And Malky says you better find a restroom quick,
Yitz dropped his ice-cream
And Rifky needs a tissue
And Shaindy thinks she's gonna be sick.

Di-diddlyum dum, Di-diddlyum dum, Di-diddlyum dum, dum.

Finally arrived
Pulled up to the bungalow
I was shaking like a nervous wreck
Then my wife came out

And asked, "How was the trip, dear?"

I told her, "Bayla s'iz geven ah shreck"

CHORUS 2:

(She asked what happened, I said 1-2-3)

Moshe Chaim lost his kippah

Asher Zelig spilled his drink

And Malky didn't make it to the restroom quick

Yitz dropped his ice-cream

And Rifky used her shirt sleeves

And Shaindy's in the back seat sick.