

Yavneh Primary School



Shavuot Pack For Parents



This pack contains:



Background Information about the Festival of Shavuot



Shavuot Songs and a recipe for Cheesecake!



A list of Websites to help you support your child!

Facts about Shavuot



When is Shavuot?

Shavuot is a two-day Chag that takes place on the 6th and 7th of Sivan. On the first and second night of Shavuot, women light candles to usher in the Chag. As on other Chagim, special meals are eaten and no "work" is performed.

Why do we celebrate Shavuot?

Shavuot commemorates the single most important event in Jewish history - the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. After leaving Egypt 3,300 years ago, the Jews travelled into the Sinai desert. There, the entire Jewish nation - 3 million men, women and children - directly experienced divine revelation. The giving of the Torah was an event of awesome proportions that indelibly stamped the Jewish nation with a unique character, faith and destiny. And in the 3,300 years since this event, Torah ideals – monotheism, justice, responsibility -- have become the moral basis for Western civilization. Every year on the holiday of Shavuot, we renew our acceptance of G-d's gift and G-d "re-gives" the Torah.

What does the word "Shavuot" actually mean?

Shavuot is the culmination of the seven-week-long "counting of the Omer" that occurs following Pesach. The very name "Shavuot" means "weeks," in recognition of the weeks of anticipation leading up to the Sinai experience. (Since Shavuot occurs 50 days after the first day of Pesach, it is sometimes known as "Pentecost," a Greek word meaning "the holiday of 50 days.")

How do we celebrate Shavuot?



The holiday of Shavuot has no obvious "symbols" associated with it - i.e. no Shofar, no Sukkah, no Chanukia. On Shavuot, there are no symbols to distract us from the central focus of Jewish life: the Torah. So how do we

commemorate Shavuot? It is a widespread custom to stay up the entire night learning Torah in order to show G-d how much we value this special gift. Since learning Torah and absorbing its messages can lead to self-perfection, the Shavuot night learning is called *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, which means "an act of self-perfection on the night of Shavuot."

At Shul on Shavuot morning, we read the biblical book of Ruth. Ruth was a non-Jewish woman whose love for G-d and Torah led her to convert to Judaism. The Torah intimates that the souls of eventual converts were also present at Sinai, as it says: "I am making [the covenant] both with those here today before the Lord our G-d, **and also with those not here today.**" (Deut. 29:13) Ruth has a further connection to Shavuot in that she became the ancestor of King David, who was born on Shavuot and died on Shavuot. In addition, on the first day of Shavuot, the Ten Commandments are read in Shul. On the second day of Shavuot, the Yizkor memorial service is recited. On Shavuot, it is also customary to decorate the Shul with branches and flowers. This is because Mount Sinai blossomed with flowers on the day the Torah was given. The Torah also associates Shavuot with the harvest of wheat and fruits, and marks the bringing of the first fruits to the Beit Hamikdash (Holy Temple) as an expression of thanksgiving.

Why do we eat dairy foods on Shavuot?

There is a universal Jewish tradition of eating dairy foods on Shavuot. Below are some popular reasons for this:

1. The Biblical book Song of Songs (4:11) refers to the sweet nourishing value of Torah by saying: "It drips from your lips, like honey and **milk** under your tongue."
2. Upon receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai, the Jews immediately became obligated in the laws of *Sh'chita* -- slaughter of animals. Since they did not have time to prepare kosher meat, they ate dairy instead.



Shavuot and the Western Wall (the Kotel)

In 1967, the Six Day War ended just a few days before Shavuot. Israel had reclaimed the Western Wall and, for the first time in 19 years, Jews had access to the area surrounding the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site. On Shavuot itself, the Western Wall became open to visitors, and on that one memorable day, over 200,000 Jews journeyed by foot to the Western Wall.

In subsequent years, this "pedestrian pilgrimage" has become a recurring tradition. Early on Shavuot morning – after a full night of Torah learning – the streets of Jerusalem are filled with tens of thousands of Jews walking to the Western Wall. This tradition has biblical precedence. Shavuot is one of Judaism's three main pilgrimage festivals, where the entire nation would gather in Jerusalem for celebration and study.



Shavuot Songs

The Ten Commandments Song

Hashem gave us the Ten Commandments, the Ten Commandments

the Ten Commandments,

Hashem gave us the Ten Commandments and this is what they say:

Listen to your Mum and Dad and do what they say

Have a nice rest on the Shabbat day

Don't take anybody's toys away- it's all in the Ten Commandments!

Torah Tzivah

Torah torah torah

Torah torah torah

Torah tzivah lanu Moshe

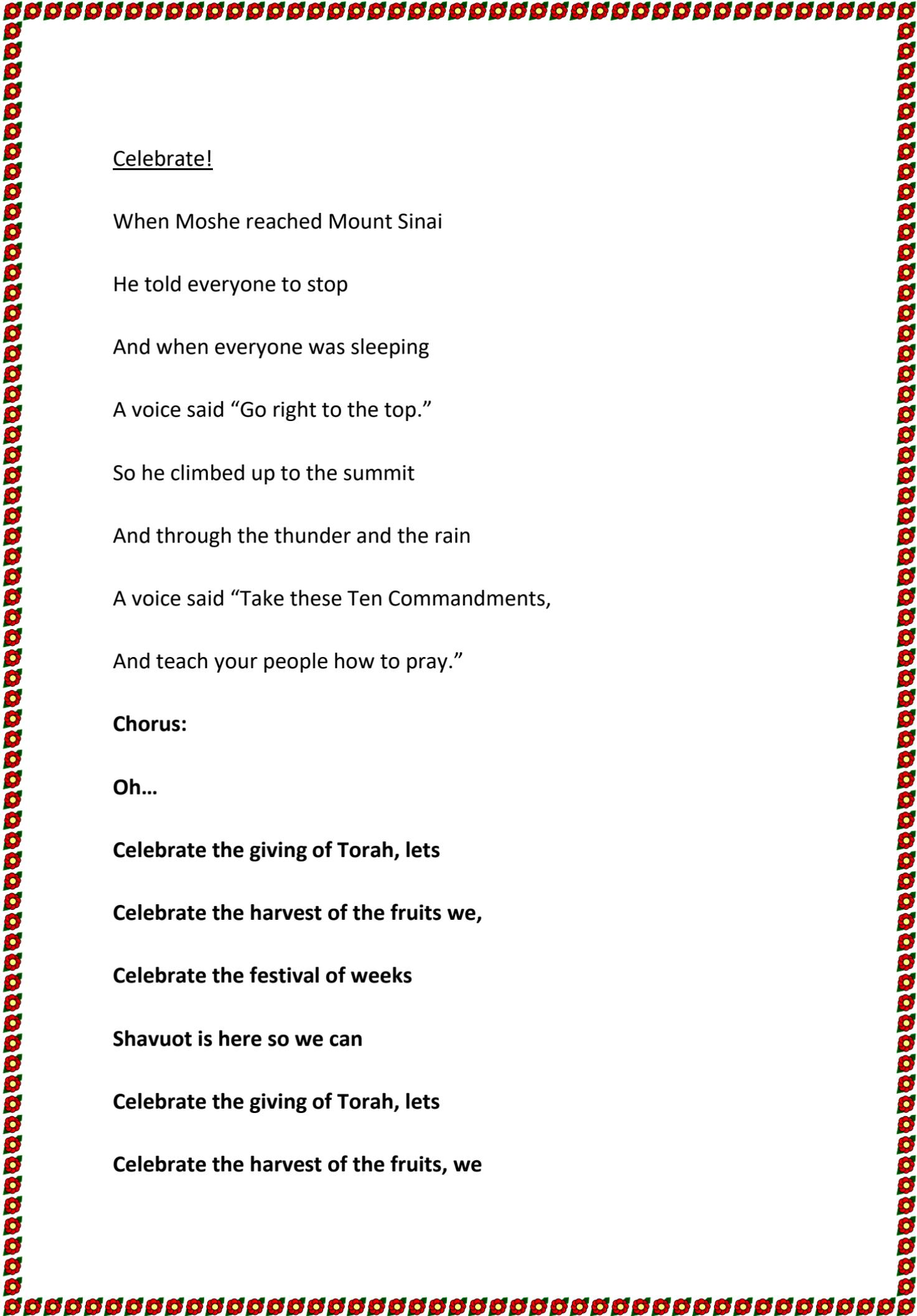
Torah torah torah

Torah torah torah

Torah tzivah lanu moshe

Morasha kehillat Yaacov x3

Torah tzivah lanu Moshe.



Celebrate!

When Moshe reached Mount Sinai

He told everyone to stop

And when everyone was sleeping

A voice said "Go right to the top."

So he climbed up to the summit

And through the thunder and the rain

A voice said "Take these Ten Commandments,

And teach your people how to pray."

Chorus:

Oh...

Celebrate the giving of Torah, lets

Celebrate the harvest of the fruits we,

Celebrate the festival of weeks

Shavuot is here so we can

Celebrate the giving of Torah, lets

Celebrate the harvest of the fruits, we



Celebrate Zeman Matan Torateinu

So Moshe climbed back down the mountain

And at the dawning of the day

He gathered everyone around him

And said "These laws you must obey"

So remember these commandments

And try to follow them each day

And if you ever lose direction

They'll be the light to guide your way.

Chorus:

Oh...

Celebrate the giving of Torah, lets

Celebrate the harvest of the fruits we,

Celebrate the festival of weeks

Shavuot is here so we can

Celebrate the giving of Torah, lets

Celebrate the harvest of the fruits, we

Celebrate Zeman Matan Torateinu

Cheesecake Recipe

Ingredients

Serves: 8

- 75g (3 oz) digestive biscuits, finely crushed
- 75g (3 oz) shortbread, finely crushed
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- 3 1/2 tablespoons caster sugar
- 1 (200g) tub cream cheese
- 5 tablespoons caster sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 120ml (4 fl oz) cream, whipped
- sliced fresh strawberries or other fruit (optional)

Preparation method

1. In a bowl, mix together digestive biscuit crumbs, shortbread crumbs, melted butter and 3 1/2 tablespoons sugar.
2. Press biscuit mixture into an 18cm loose bottomed cake tin and place in refrigerator until ready for use.
3. In another bowl, beat cream cheese, remaining sugar and lemon juice.
4. Fold whipped cream into cream cheese mixture and spread over the biscuit base.
5. Freeze cheesecake for 1 hour, covered with aluminium foil.

Place in refrigerator for 30 minutes before serving. If desired, top with sliced strawberries or any kind of fruit topping when serving

Websites



Would you like to find out more about Shavuot?

Useful Websites with information about Shavuot as well as videos, arts
and crafts ideas and songs:

www.aish.com

http://www.aish.com/h/sh/f/Shavuot_Crafts_for_the_Family.html

www.akhlah.com

<http://www.akhlah.com/holidays/Shavuot>

www.shalomsesame.org

<http://www.shalomsesame.org/parents-and-educators/Shavuot>

www.chabad.org

<http://www.chabad.org/holidays/Shavuot>

www.jewishinteractive.net

<http://jewishinteractive.net/site/families/>