



Learn About Shavuot



Have you ever heard about the holiday of Shavuot? It is celebrated 50 days after the first day of Passover. Like many holidays in the Jewish calendar, Shavuot is important for many different reasons! In the Torah, Shavuot marks the time of year when wheat was harvested in the Land of Israel. Many Jewish holidays, like Shavuot, originate in farming and agricultural practices. Think about it, back then people didn't have supermarkets and fast food! It was really important to mark on your calendar when your crops were ready to harvest so that you and your family could eat! The holiday of Shavuot also celebrates the moment when the Israelites receive the Torah at Mount Sinai. In this BimBam video, you will learn a little more about the holiday, and how Jews around the world celebrate.

Note: In this video, the speaker uses Yiddish words like "Shavuos" and "schlep." While some Jews with Eastern European and Ashkenazi background use this language, this is not a universal language for all Jews.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SHAVUOT

When have you been really excited about something?

If you could stay up all night to learn about your favorite topic, what would it be?

What are some of the traditions that Jewish people around the world practice on Shavuot?



It is tradition to read from the Book of Ruth on Shavuot. It tells the story of Ruth, a young woman who married an Israelite man a long, long time ago. Ruth was not an Israelite, but rather came from a different country (Moab). Sadly, her husband passed away, but she decided to remain with his family, particularly her mother-in-law Naomi. Ruth says to Naomi (Ruth 1:16), "For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God." This line is the inspiration for the song below.

Ruth is an important Biblical figure for many Jewish people. She is often referred to as the first Jew-by-choice, or convert. Today, there are many people who choose to be part of the Jewish community, either by converting or by joining a Jewish Interfaith family! The Jewish people are diverse and spread all over the world, and our story is only made more vibrant and beautiful with the addition of the traditions and cultures of our loved ones. To learn more about Jewish interfaith experiences, [click here](#).

Do you have family members that celebrate different holidays than you?

What is special about sharing our differences with each other?

Where You Go sung by Shoshana Jedwab

Where you go, I will go, beloved (refugee, Mother Earth, children, ancestors)

Where you go, I will go

Where you go, I will go, beloved

Where you go, I will go

Where you lie, I will lie, beloved

Where you lie, I will lie

Where you lie, I will lie, beloved

Where you lie, I will lie

Your people are my people

Your people are mine

Your people are my people

Your divine, my divine

LISTEN TO THE SONG



Like you heard in the BimBam video above, many Jews celebrate Shavuot by eating lots and lots of dairy! People make cheesecakes, blintzes, eat ice cream, and go crazy with desserts! Food historian Michael Twitty gives us a lighter, healthier Shavuot meal in his Kosher/Soul recipe for Watermelon Feta salad.

Ingredients:

- 6 cups of cubed watermelon
- 6 ounces of crumbled feta cheese
- 1 tablespoon of minced chives
- 2 tablespoons of thinly sliced mint
- 2-3 tablespoons lemon preserves
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup champagne/white wine/chive vinegar
- 1/3 cup minced red onion
- 2 tablespoons of parsley
- Salt, black pepper, and red pepper to taste

Simply toss all the ingredients together and dig in!

MORE RECIPES FROM MICHAEL TWITTY



For our Shavuot holiday activity, we are going to get up and move! Many religions use dance as a way to celebrate holidays. *Shiboleth Basadeh* is an Israeli folk song and dance that is performed around the holiday of Shavuot, and is a great dance for beginner learners! The lyrics of the song relate to the act of harvesting wheat from the field, bringing us back to the roots of this harvest

festival. The version of the song shared below is sung by Miriam Makeba, a South African singer, songwriter, and civil rights activist.

The dance is performed in a circle with hands joined, and there are three distinct sections to the dance.

Section 1 (two times):

1. Everyone slides to the right 3 times, starting with your right foot. On the 4th slide, step-hop on the right foot, drop hands from the circle, and turn right to face the outside of the circle. Immediately rejoin hands with the people next to you.
2. Next, everyone slides to the left 3 times, starting with your left foot. On the 4th slide, step-hop on the left foot, drop hands, and turn left to face the inside of the circle again. Rejoin hands.

Section 2 (two times):

1. Everyone turns slightly to the right while holding hands and takes two step-hops forward, first on the right foot, then the left foot.
2. Next, everyone turns slightly to the left, and takes two step-hops backwards, first on the right foot, then on the left foot. The circle should still be moving in the same counterclockwise direction.

Section 3 (1 time):

1. Everyone faces the center of the circle while holding hands, and takes two long “giant” steps towards the middle, first with a right hop, then with a left hop. As you move into the center, everyone should raise their joined hands upwards.
2. Next, everyone moves slowly backwards to rim of circle with 4 tiny step-hops – right, left, right, left.

Repeat from Section 1 and sing along!

Shibolet basadeh kora baru'ach
Me'omes garinim ki rav.
Uv'emerschav harim yom kvar yafu'ach
hashemesh ketem vezahav.

Uru, ho uru,
shuru b'nai kfarim.
Kama hen bashla kvar
al pney hakarim;
Kitsru, shilchu magal
et reishit hakatsir.

The sheaf in the fields bends in the wind,
its seeds heavy and full,
and on the far hilltops daybreak comes,
the sun a stain of gold.

Awake, awake,
let the village children go forth;
How the sun has ripened
the face of the fields!
Swing the scythe and gather in
the first fruits of the harvest.

WATCH HOW-TO VIDEO
DANCE ALONG TO SONG