

# NCYI Youth Groups Shavuot Guide

## The Story of Shavuot

[http://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/2038/jewish/The-Story-of-Shavuot.htm](http://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/2038/jewish/The-Story-of-Shavuot.htm)



Dawn of the sixth day of Sivan, in the year 2448 after the creation of the world.

Thunder and lightning rent the air, and the sound of the shofar was heard growing strangely louder and louder. All the people in the camp of Israel trembled.

Then all was quiet again. The air was very still. Not a sound was to be heard. No bird twittered, no donkey brayed, no ox lowed. Every living thing held its breath. Even the angels interrupted their heavenly praises. Everybody and everything kept silent . . . waiting.

Suddenly G-d's mighty words were heard from one corner of the earth to the other:

"I AM G-D, YOUR G-D!"

One after another, G-d proclaimed the Ten Commandments.

During the next forty days and nights, Moses was G-d's disciple, learning all the Commandments, along with the proper meaning of the Torah which was to be handed down by word of mouth from generation to generation. Afterwards Moses wrote down on parchment all the five books of the Torah, word for word, from the "Bet" of Bereshit to the "Lamed" of Yisrael (the last word of the Pentateuch), as it was dictated to him by G-d Himself.

### Millions of Witnesses

G-d gave the Torah in the presence of all Israel - six hundred thousand male adults, aged 20 to 60, many more older men, and, of course, women and children, together with a multitude of other peoples (erev rav). In all there were several million living witnesses who

saw the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai!

Present also were all the Jewish souls who were ever to come down to live upon this earth. Every one of us then solemnly proclaimed naaseh v'nishma - we shall do and learn. Each one of us was made a party to that sacred covenant between G-d and His people Israel.

The Midrash tells us:

Said Rabbi Yitzchak: The children of Israel should have received the Torah immediately upon their departure from Egypt, but G-d said, "My children have had no convalescence after their bondage in Egypt from which they have just been freed, and cannot receive the Torah so soon." It is like a king whose son had just recovered from a serious illness, and his tutor said,

"Send your son to school." To which the king retorted, "My son has not convalesced at all, and you want him to immediately return to school? No, let him be on a healthy and plentiful diet for two or three months, recover his color and strength, and then he will return to school."

So said the Holy One, blessed be He: "My children have not recovered yet their color and strength from their bondage. Let them convalesce for a few weeks with the manna, the well and the quails, And then I shall give them the Torah."

Here is a beautiful parable telling us of the tender mercies of our Father our G-d who cared for us tenderly as a king cares for his only son recuperating from an illness.

But there is something more than that in this beautiful parable. It wasn't so much our physical condition that had to be considered as our spiritual state. Hundreds of years of Egyptian bondage, enslaved to a people that, despite their architectural prowess and military might, had no feelings, no consideration for human beings, no true ethical teachings or morals - such slavery must have made a deep scar upon our ancestors' moral standards. They had to be cleansed from the "bricks and mortar" of Egypt before they could receive the holy Torah.

The children of Israel understood their situation. They had been told that fifty days after their departure from Egypt they would receive the holy Torah and they knew they had to become worthy of that Divine gift -the most wonderful thing in the world. So they impatiently counted each day, trying to better themselves every day, to improve their conduct and moral standards, to rise higher and higher as the time of the giving of the Torah drew closer.

And G-d Himself helped them to better themselves, as He always does. G-d gave them a wonderful diet that was both a physical and spiritual diet. He rained bread from Heaven in the form of manna. He opened a fountain in the hard rock. He rained meat from the skies - the quails, and He showed them many other miracles and wonders. The children of Israel learned to recognize G-d they saw that He can alter the course of nature for their sake; they realized that they were the chosen people to receive that wonderful gift - the Torah.

For forty nine days, or seven weeks, the children of Israel eagerly prepared themselves for that great event. But the last three days before the giving of the Torah were days of the most careful self-examination and preparation. When the great moment of the giving of the Torah finally came, they were clean, pure and holy in body and soul, and ready to receive the Torah. Unanimously they proclaimed: *"naaseh v'nishma!* - We shall do and we shall hear!"

So must we be pure and clean, in body and soul, if we are to be worthy of the Torah, if we are to appreciate its sacredness and live up to our name - "a kingdom of priests (G-d's servants) and a holy nation."

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<http://www.aish.com/h/sh/t/48959111.html>

## **One of the holiest days of the Jewish year is also one of the least known. What is Shavuot really all about?**

by [Rabbi Shraga Simmons](#)

It is ironic that Shavuot is such a little-known holiday. Because in fact, Shavuot commemorates the single most important event in Jewish history -- the [giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai](#).

Shavuot is the culmination of the seven-week-long "[counting of the Omer](#)" that occurs following Passover. 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 Passover, it is sometimes known as "Pentecost," a Greek word meaning "the holiday of 50 days.")

3,300 years ago, after leaving Egypt on the night of Passover, the Jews traveled into the Sinai desert. There, the entire Jewish nation -- 3 million men, women and children -- directly experienced divine revelation:

*God spoke to you from the midst of the fire; you were hearing the sound of words, but you were not seeing a form, only a sound. He told you of His covenant, instructing you to keep the Ten Commandments, and He inscribed them on two stone tablets. (Deut. 4:12-13)*

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](#).

## HOW TO CELEBRATE

Perhaps the reason for the relative obscurity of Shavuot is because this holiday has no obvious "symbols" of the day -- i.e. no Shofar, no Sukkah, no Chanukah Menorah.

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. And since Torah is the way 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 synagogue services on Shavuot morning, we read the biblical [book of Ruth](#). Ruth was a non-Jewish woman whose love for God 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 God, **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.

On Shavuot, it is customary to decorate the synagogue with branches and flowers. This is because Mount Sinai blossomed with flowers on the day the Torah was given. The Bible also associates Shavuot with the harvest of wheat and fruits, and marks the bringing of the first fruits to the Holy Temple as an expression of thanksgiving. (see Exodus 23:16, 34:22, Numbers 28:26)

## DAIRY FOODS

There is a universal Jewish tradition of eating [dairy foods on Shavuot](#). The reason has been offered by many scholars, some of which are more convincing than others. We offer a selection:

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. The verse in Exodus 23:19 juxtaposes the holiday of Shavuot with the prohibition of mixing milk and meat. On Shavuot, we therefore eat separate meals -- one of milk and one of meat.
3. 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.

## PILGRIMAGE TO THE WESTERN WALL

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 Jerusalem, no cars or buses run on Jewish holidays.)

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.

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## Family Parsha Shavuos

by [Nesanel Yoel Safran](#)

<http://www.aish.com/tp/pak/fp/48908947.html>

### **Shavuot(Exodus 19:1 - 20:23)**

#### **The Value of Unity**

## **From this week's Torah Portion**

The holiday of Shavuot celebrates the birthday of the Jewish people as a unique nation. This occurred when God gave us the Torah, that great source of wisdom and guidance on how to live a happy, meaningful life. When we received the Torah, we were all united, like 'one person with one heart.' The value and power of unity and cooperation is one of the big lessons of Shavuot that we carry with us until today.

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## **Story**

*In our story a couple of kids discover how sometimes one can be greater than two.*

**"MIXED DRINKS"**

Laura could almost count all the money she'd be making as she put the big, sweet carrots through the juicer. It was the first really hot week of the season and she was sure that very few people passing her sidewalk juice stand would be able to resist buying a cool, natural drink on a day like today. When she had discussed the idea with her neighbor, Jackie, she had agreed that the idea was a sure hit.

Laura packed up the fresh juice, together with a couple of ice-packs, and lugged the heavy cooler out to the table she had set up on the edge of her lawn. At only 99 cents a cup, she was sure she'd be rushing home soon to make a second batch.

"Would you like a cool drink?" Laura called out cheerfully to a lady who was walking by pushing a double-stroller.

"Oh, thanks, but I just had a big cup of apple juice," she said with a smile.

"You did?" Laura asked, confused.

"Yeah, I bought it from your friend next door."

*Jackie!*

She looked over and sure enough, Jackie had set up a juice stand of her own, and it was crowded with customers. Laura couldn't believe it. What a nerve! Well, she would show her.

"FRESH JUICE SPECIAL! BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE!" Laura yelled out really loud. The people standing in front of Jackie's stand heard her and most of them came her way to take advantage of the bargain.

Laura smiled as she poured cup after cup. She wasn't making as much money as she hoped for with all her hard work, but still...

"Hey what's the idea of stealing my customers?" rang out a familiar, but at the moment not-too-friendly voice. Laura looked up at Jackie, who was now fuming.

"Well it's no worse than stealing my idea!" Laura snapped back.

Jackie mumbled something under her breath and ran back to her stand.

It was a long, hot afternoon for both girls, as they ran themselves ragged, working frantically to out-sell each other.

"FRESH APPLE JUICE! REALLY CHEAP!" called out Jackie to everyone within earshot.

"CARROT JUICE! FRESHER AND CHEAPER!!" Laura would counter, even louder and vice versa. They attracted a crowd, but it seemed that more people were just stopping to see what the commotion was all about than to actually buy a drink from either of them.

It occurred to each girl how it would be so much easier, not to mention more fun and profitable, if they weren't competing like that. But each one figured that competition was what the other one wanted.

As the sun started going down and people stopped walking along the street, an exhausted Laura began to clean the sticky table and bring it and all her things back into her garage by herself. For all of her work, her moneybox was still pretty light.

She came back out to make sure she hadn't forgotten anything and saw a figure leaning against the nearby mailbox. Was it one last customer who needed a drink? She came closer and saw it was Jackie, who looked just as tired as she did. Laura didn't know whether to smile at her like a friend or scowl at her like a competitor. She was too zonked to fight, so she just shrugged her shoulders, threw up her hands and said, "There's got to be a better way."

Jackie nodded and said, "There is, Laura and I've got an idea...."

The next day was even hotter, and the people neighborhood bought plenty of cool drinks from the newly combined, "L & J's ALL-NATURAL CARROT-APPLE JUICE COCKTAIL" stand that the two girls had set up together in between their houses. They were both much more relaxed as they split up all the jobs they had to do and found that working together they were making a lot more money than each one had separately.

"Thanks for the drink. What a great combo!" said one of their many satisfied customers.

What a great combo indeed.

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## Discussion Questions

### Ages 3-5

Q. How did Laura feel at first when she saw Jackie had set up a juice stand next to hers?

A. She felt angry and tried to do things so she would be successful and Jackie wouldn't.

Q. How did the girls feel in the end?

A. They saw how it wasn't good for either of them to fight against each other, so they decided to team up and had a much easier and better time.

### Ages 6-9

Q. What life-lesson did the girls learn that day?

A. They had thought that the best way to succeed was to compete with each other and make the other one lose, but they discovered they were much happier once they found a way to cooperate and help each other win.

Q. Do you think people are happier when they compete against each other or cooperate and work together for a common goal? Why?

A. While there is a certain thrill in competition (when you win, that is), that thrill is short term and at the expense of someone else. Working together to achieve a common goal gives a person a much deeper and more spiritual sense of satisfaction.

### **Ages 10 and Up**

Q. The receiving of God's Torah that we celebrate on Shavuot was the highest God-connection experience in history and it happened specifically at a time when we were all united and at peace with each other. What do you think is the connection between unity and being close to God?

A. God is one. The more we make ourselves one, the more we resemble and can be more open to connecting with Him.

Q. While it is a positive value to cooperate, is there ever a time that competition can be a win-win situation and good for everybody involved?

A. Usually competition is about winning by making someone else lose, but if two people are each striving to reach their personal potential, they can use the motivating feeling of competition to each accomplish more. That type of competition is in a sense cooperating to help each other grow.

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## **Family Parsha Shavuot**

by [Nesanel Yoel Safran](#)

<http://www.aish.com/tp/pak/fp/48968991.html>

### ***Shavuot(Exodus 19:1 - 20:23)***

#### **Set A Good Example**

## **From this week's Torah Portion**

What does it mean to be the chosen people? On Shavuot when God gave us the Torah on Mt. Sinai, He chose us to set a good example for the rest of the world by living an especially ethical life. Living

up to this - by following the Torah's guidelines - isn't always easy, but when we do so, we bring so much good into the world - and ourselves.

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## Story

*In our story, a kid sees how much there was to gain by taking responsibility and setting a good example.*

### NO SHOW

Karen looked at her watch anxiously. She'd been excited when she was chosen to be a volunteer crossing guard and was usually happy to do it. But today her friends were all going to a special gymnastics show and she wanted to go too.

"Follow me!" She blew her whistle and walked out to the middle of the crosswalk as what seemed to be the last couple of little kids from the nearby kindergarten followed her like baby ducks.

Lifting her 'stop' sign like a soldier - even though there were no cars in sight on the quiet side street she'd been assigned to guard - Karen dutifully waited for the kids to pass safely before returning to the curb.

*Okay, time for the show!* she smiled to herself.

Karen had to hurry or else she'd definitely miss the ride her friend Stacy's mom had offered to anyone who wanted to come along.

She knew she was officially supposed to stay a couple of minutes longer, but maybe it would be okay not to - just for today. After all, just hanging around doing nothing wasn't helping anyone and it was certainly going to hurt her if it made her miss the ride and the show!

Karen was about to dash off to her friend's place when she felt a tug on her crossing guard's vest. Her face fell.

"Can you cwoos me pwease?" a little boy, the last straggler who'd seemingly come from nowhere, asked.

*Oh, no,* Karen thought, *if I wait around until this kid waddles across, I'll miss the ride and the show for sure. There hasn't been a single car coming down the road for more than five minutes. He could surely manage on his own this one time.*

"You know what? Just for today I allow you to cross all by your..." Karen stopped herself. How can a crossing guard tell a little kid he can cross by himself while she took off? Being chosen for this job was a privilege - and a responsibility. Show or no show, she had to set a good example for these kids.

"Okay, follow me," she said halfheartedly and marched across the crosswalk, stop sign in hand.

*SCREECH...*

Karen looked up to see a car, which must have been going pretty fast, quickly brake and stop only about twenty feet from her.

*Wow! she thought. If that car had to brake so fast even after seeing me in my day-glow orange vest and big, red 'stop' sign, I don't want to think about what would have been if only that little kid was crossing!*

Karen waited for the boy to cross and then waved the car through.

She'd definitely made the right choice and was happy she did - but still, it was going to hurt tomorrow to hear all her friends gushing about what a great show she had missed.

By now officially off duty, Karen slipped off her guard's vest and absently noticed another car coming down the road. Two cars in two minutes - almost a record for this sleepy street...

"Hey! Jump in!"

*Huh?*

"Come on, or we'll miss the opening act!" Stacy shouted out the window, with a smile.

"We knew you were just finishing crosswalk duty, so we picked up everyone else first before swinging by to get you," her friend said as Karen jumped into the car, amazed, dazed - and very grateful.

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## Discussion Questions

### Ages 3-5

Q. How did Karen feel at first about letting the last kid to cross the road by himself?

A. She thought it didn't matter because she wanted to leave early.

Q. How did she feel in the end?

A. She was grateful that she'd been responsible and decided to help him.

### Ages 6-9

Q. What life-lesson do you think Karen learned that day?

A. She'd been tempted to take her responsibility lightly and fail to set an example, but she'd realized

- and avoided dire consequences by doing so - that being chosen for a responsibility is a privilege and is sometimes worth paying a price to upkeep.

Q. Would Karen's decision to stay have been unwise if, in the end, no car had come while the boy was crossing *and* she had missed the show?

A. Not at all. Doing the right thing is a value that brings good into the world, independent of whether we see that good or not.

## **Ages 10 and Up**

Q. Does being a member of the 'chosen people' make a person superior to others?

A. In God's eyes, *every* person, of every race or religion has infinite value. Being the chosen people simply means being chosen as His ambassadors and teachers to help the entire world reconnect to their true infinite spiritual essence and value.

Q. Do we have a 'choice' not to be 'chosen'?

A. While we have a choice whether or not to complete the task God has chosen for us - we remain chosen and will bring tremendous light to the entire world if we accept who we are and do our utmost to fulfill our God-given role.

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## **Family Parsha Shavuot**

by [Nesanel Yoel Safran](#)

<http://www.aish.com/tp/pak/fp/48882347.html>

### ***Shavuot(Exodus 19:1 - 20:23)***

#### **For Each Other**

*For the next few weeks, the Torah portion read in Israel will be different than the Torah portion read in the rest of the world.*

#### **OVERVIEW**

Shavuot is one of the most important days of the Jewish year.

On Shavuot the whole nation stood together at Mount Sinai and God gave them the Torah. The same Torah we have today!

A wonderful thing happened when they stood together at that mountain. They felt an awesome unity. In the presence of God, everyone forgot their selfish feelings and they all cared about each other just as much as they cared about themselves. They were like "one person with one heart."

Every year since then, for over 3000 years, we try to recreate these feelings of unity on Shavuot. We try to appreciate the special gift of the Torah, and remember that when we all look out for each other, amazing things can happen.

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## Story

*In our story, a group of individuals become a team and reach the highest heights.*

### **"ALL TOGETHER NOW"**

"Coach, I think we should just give up now," sighed Barry, the center of the Rams basketball team.

His team-mates nodded in agreement.

It was half-time of the championship game and the Wolves were ahead of the Rams by 20 points.

"What are you talking about?" answered the coach confidently.

"But coach, they're killing us." groaned Barry. "Each one of them is a superstar. We just can't compete!"

Coach Manhig wiped his brow and said "I know how you guys feel. They are a bunch of stars. But that's just why I think we can beat 'em."

The boys' perked up a little and waited for the coach to go on.

"We might not be as talented as they are, its true. But we have one advantage over them, we know how to play as a team. I can see that the Wolves are all out for themselves and that they have no teamwork. In the end its gonna backfire. If you all get back out there and try not to be selfish, work together and help each other out, you' ll win. So go out there and DO IT!"

The coach slapped each one of the boys on the back as he sent the team onto the court for the second half of the game.

Sure enough the Rams played with togetherness and with a minute left in the game the score was tied!

Now the Wolves had the ball. Each one of them was screaming to his team-mate to pass him the ball so that he could be the hero. But the player with the ball took the shot himself and it was a wild shot that missed by a mile.

Barry, the Rams' center caught the ball, and was about to take a shot. But then he thought of his coaches words, "try not to be selfish" and decided to pass the ball to his team-mate, Jonny who was closer to the basket.

Jonny scored an easy hoop just as the buzzer sounded, ending the game. The Rams had won!

After the game coach Manhig asked the team to vote for the "star of the game award." But he cracked a big smile when everyone gave him the same answer: "We all were!"

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## Discussion Questions

### Ages 3-5

Q. If there was something big and heavy that had to be moved, do you think it would be easier to move it by yourself, or if you and some of your friends moved it together? Why?

A. It would be easier if we did it all together. When we work together we can really get things done that would be much harder to do alone.

Q. How would you feel about your friends after you finished working together and got the job done?

A. We would feel very close and friendly to each other since we had all worked together.

### Age 6-9

Q. What do you think makes people feel united with each other? What makes our family united?

A. When people feel like they have something in common with each other, and they have similar goals, they feel united. When people love and care for each other, they feel united. When God gave the Torah to the Jewish people, they all felt like they were one family and had the same special goal of keeping the Torah.

Q. What causes disunity and fights between people or countries?

A. One big cause is selfishness. When people are only concerned with what they want and don't care about the other guy's needs there are likely to be bad feelings and fights.

### Age 10 and Up

Q. What does it mean that "the whole is greater than the sum (total) of its parts"?

A. Often when things or people come together, something more comes out than would if they were separate. For example: bread, cheese, and tomato sauce all taste pretty good by themselves, but when you eat them together as pizza, it all tastes much better. With people also, when they unite and work together there is the potential for much greater things than even the combined efforts of each of them working separately.

Q. Do you think a person should be willing to give up some of his own good or comfort for the common good of a larger group such as a) his family, b) community, or c) the world? Why or why not?

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## **Shavuos**

### **KINDNESS LEADS TO TORAH**

Avi, I sure am excited about Shavuos.

So am I, Chaim. I stay up late into the night learning Torah with my father.

Me too. It is really something to see the Beis HaMidrash (study hall) packed at that hour.

My father will be giving a class Shavuos night.

Really, Avi? What will he be speaking about?

He will talk about the connection between the Megilla of Ruth, which we read on Shavuos and the holiday itself.

I always wanted to know what the story of Ruth had in common with the giving of the Torah on Shavuos.

Why don't you come to the class, Chaim?

I think I will.

*Later that night, Avi's father begins the class.*

I am happy that all of you could join us this evening. Tonight we will be discussing the connection between the Megilla of Ruth and the holiday of Shavuos.

Our story begins with a famine in the Land of Israel. Elimelech was one of the wealthy men of the time, a supporter of many people. Due to the famine, poverty became rampant, and Elimelech did not want to support the many needy people who would beg for his help. He decided to leave his homeland, along with his family, and stay in the land of Moab. After a while he decided to live there. That is when the problems began. Elimelech passed away. His sons married non-Jewish women. They too passed away, leaving his wife, Naomi, a widow with no children. She became poverty stricken and heartbroken. Naomi decided to return to her homeland, the Land of Israel.

Her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, were Moabite women. Moab was the son of Lot, the nephew of Avraham Avinu, our father Abraham. Ruth and Orpah had Jewish ancestry. We know that Avraham Avinu was a man whose very essence was kindness. He spent his entire life doing acts of kindness for others. That is why he was fitting to be the father of the Jewish nation. His descendants also had this character trait of kindness. However, Lot, his nephew went to live in Sodom, a place where kindness was against the law. The trait of kindness became hidden, covered up, and eventually almost forgotten. Until it surfaced generations later in the person of Ruth, the Moabite.

Ruth was a beautiful woman, the daughter of Eglon, King of Moab. She could have stayed in Moab and married a wealthy young man. Instead, she clung to her mother-in-law, Naomi, and returned with her to the land of Israel. Why did she do this? She saw Naomi's plight and empathized with her. She saw the truth of the Torah and was drawn to it. The trait of loving kindness, which had lain dormant for generations, was coming out. She later performed an even bigger act of kindness. She married an elderly man, Boaz, for the sake of Naomi's family. These two acts of self-sacrifice earned her a place in Jewish history.

Now, what does this have to do with receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai? The very essence of the Torah is kindness. The mitzvos are one act of kindness after another. In order to receive the Torah, one must prepare himself. What sort of preparation is necessary? Being kind to others. Becoming a compassionate, selfless, empathetic person. Only such a person can receive the Torah.

The story of Ruth can be an inspiration to all of us in our day and age. All Jews have that spark of kindness in their hearts. They are exiled throughout the world, far and wide. Sometimes that spark of Jewishness is covered by many layers of the foreign culture in which they are living. We should not be discouraged, however. The spark is always there. It just needs to be uncovered and brought back to its source. There it will grow into a flame of Jewishness, loving G-d, Torah, and all Jews.

*Back to our friends, Avi and Chaim.*

Avi, that was so inspiring. I am ready to go help anyone that I can come closer to Judaism.

Chaim, it is also a self-inspiration. Our own hearts also want to do more acts of kindness. When we help others, we are also helping ourselves, and preparing ourselves to receive the Torah in its entirety this Shavuot.

Avi, we should all be successful.

Amen.

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# SIMCHA'S QUIZ

A traveler comes to a fork in the road and does not know how to get to his destination. Two men are at the fork in the road. One of them always tells the truth, and the other one always lies. He may ask the men one question to find his way. What question does the man ask these men?

Write Simcha with the correct answer to [simcha\\_b@mail.netvision.net.il](mailto:simcha_b@mail.netvision.net.il)

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# Yom Tov Games

## Shavuot

### Mesora



#### Props:

- A toy Torah

**Discussion:** Hashem gave Moshe the Torah, but Moshe didn't hog all for himself. He gave it to Yehoshua, who gave it to the zkenim, etc, and that's how we have it today. But how is the next generation going to get it? It's up to us to learn the Torah so we can pass it on too.

**Activity:** "Hashem" stands on a table, Moshe on a chair, and everyone else lines up behind them. Hashem starts with the stuffed Torah, and when you say go he passes it to Moshe, and then to everyone else until the end of the line. Then do it again while singing "torah torah torah..", then when you get it you have to say a Mitzvah, then everyone kisses when they get it, then pass it backwards while singing it backwards, then pass it in slow motion while singing slowly, etc.

Courtesy of [parshaactivities.com](http://parshaactivities.com)