



ספירת
העומר

Counting
the Omer

April 1- May 20, 2018
(16 Nissan – 6 Sivan)

Shoresh David Messianic Synagogue

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Counting The Omer

The Purpose

“Then you are to count from the morrow after the Shabbat (Passover), from the day that you brought the omer of the wave offering, seven complete Shabbatot. Until the morrow after the seventh Shabbat you are to count fifty days, and then present a new grain offering to ADONAI.” --Leviticus 23:15-16 [TLV]

An omer is a unit of measure. On the second day of Passover, in the days of the Temple, an omer of barley was cut down and brought to the Temple as an offering.

Counting the Omer is part of participating in God’s moadim (appointed times). Every day we count, let us be reminded of the link between Pesach (Passover), which commemorates the Exodus and deliverance, and Shavuot (Feast of Weeks - Pentecost), which commemorates the giving of the Torah (First 5 Books of the Bible) and God’s Ruach (Spirit). It reminds us that the redemption from slavery was not complete until we received the Torah - God’s Word. It also reminds us that without God’s Spirit, we don’t have the ability to understand His Word, nor the strength to keep it.

Our purpose in counting the omer is to draw closer to God each day by being obedient to His Word. We should expect that our faith level will be raised each day in anticipation of what God will do in our lives, and through us in the lives of those around us!

Each day you will have new scriptures to read, along with a Thought, a Challenge and the opportunity to Journal. This year, the subject matter will be: God’s Love, our love, praise, prayer, and proclaiming. In the back of this booklet are a number of devotionals called “Shabbat with Friends & Family”. We suggest you invite to Shabbat dinner those who don’t know the Lord, and have a discussion with them led by the questions in this booklet. Plan today for your first Shabbat outreach meal!

According to the Jewish lunar calendar, each day begins in the evening, at sun-down. Counting the omer can begin on the evening of March 31st, or during any part of the day on April 1st.

Each daily entry is short, so don’t just read it - meditate on it! I pray that this “Counting the Omer” Devotional will be a blessing to you, and those you love!

Sunday, April 1, 2018 (16 Nissan) • Omer Day 1

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-she-r kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 1st day of the 1st week and Day 1,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Zephaniah 3:17 *ADONAI* your God is in your midst—a mighty Savior! He will delight over you with joy. He will quiet you with His love. He will dance for joy over you with singing.

Thought:

God loves us. He brings great joy and delight into His relationship with us. When we focus on Him, rather than our brokenness, we know how He feels about us. When we allow the discouragements of the day to block our relationship with Him, we believe we are alone. We have been made in His image—what is a greater acknowledgement of His love than sending His Son, Yeshua, to die for us and atone for our sins?

Challenge:

Our challenge is to know God's love, and be secure in that love, each and every day! Besides studying scripture for knowledge, let's meditate on scripture that shows us God's love. Then praise Him with thanks and proclaim who He is, and what He has done. Will you take the challenge?

Journal:

Monday, April 2, 2018 (17 Nissan) • Omer Day 2

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 2nd day of the 1st week and Day 2,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Messiah died for us.

Thought:

One who has been touched by grace will no longer look on those who stray as “those evil people” or “those poor people who need our help.” Nor must we search for signs of “lovenorthiness.” Grace teaches us that God loves because of who God is, not because of who we are. (Philip Yancey)

Challenge:

Our challenge is to figure out how to receive a gift we don't believe we deserve. In fact, we are sure we are not deserving! Reflect on the enormity of what God has done for us. Then pour out underserved blessings on everyone, but especially those who we would normally judge because of their looks or behavior.

Journal:

Tuesday, April 3, 2018 (18 Nissan) • Omer Day 3

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 3rd day of the 1st week and Day 3,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Romans 8:37-39 But in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Messiah *Yeshua* our Lord.

Thought:

We sometimes think that our inconsistent behavior separates us from His continuous love and grace. We know, from Isaiah 59:2, our sins separate us from God. Yet, He is always there waiting for us to reconnect with Him because His love endures forever. (Jeremiah 33:11)

Challenge:

How have you experienced receiving God's love?

List three things you do regularly that are a result of you receiving God's love and grace.

Journal:

Wednesday, April 4, 2018 (19 Nissan) Omer Day 4

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 4th day of the 1st week and Day 4,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

1 John 4:19-21 We love, because He first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar. For the one who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother.

Thought:

God teaches us first to love Him. It is our first reaction to receiving a love so great from the one who is beyond amazing. We then shower love on those made in His image—all of humanity.

Challenge:

Do you overflow with God’s love to everyone you meet? If not, why not? Do you feel that some people are not deserving of your love? Are you able to promise today to love all people because He loves them and created them?

Journal:

Thursday, April 5, 2018 (20 Nissan) • Omer Day 5

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 5th day of the 1st week and Day 5,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 Hear O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love *ADONAI* your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These words, which I am commanding you today, are to be on your heart. You are to teach them diligently to your children, and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up.

Thought:

We are to be 24/7 lovers of God. It can't be a "Hollywood" type love. It must be deep—with everything in our being. People will recognize our love for God if it is real and observable.

Challenge:

Do people see and appreciate your love for God? If not, what can you do to change either your heart, their perception, or both? Maybe it is how you treat others that causes a negative perception. Would your children, your spouse, your co-worker or the people you meet recognize your love for them? What changes can we make to demonstrate our love for God for others?

Journal:

Friday, April 6, 2018 (21 Nissan) • Omer Day 6

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 6th day of the 1st week and Day 6,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Leviticus 19:18 You are not to take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am *Adonai*.

Galatians 5:14 For the whole *Torah* can be summed up in a single saying: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Thought:

Loving all people is the true test of our faith and trust in God. When we don't act in love, we are saying that our own importance is greater than God's importance in our life. When we don't show love to all, we are acknowledging our flesh is stronger than our Spirit.

Challenge:

Today, you will have many opportunities and challenges to show the love of God is alive and well in the world and in you. Will you recognize your God appointments? Will you act with the full authority of God's love?

Journal:

Satday, April 7, 2018 (22 Nissan) • Omer Day 7

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 7th day of the 1st week and Day 7,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Messiah compels us, since we have concluded that One died for all; as a result all died. And He died for all so that those who live might no longer live for themselves, but for the One who died for them and was raised.

Thought:

Our love for Yeshua is so great that we no longer live for ourselves. That love for Him keeps us from being selfish. Our love for Him causes us to put others before ourselves. And when we are in difficult situations, our love for Him causes us to handle those things with grace. Our grace for others is an outgrowth of our love for Yeshua.

Challenge:

Is your love for the Lord strong enough to not be controlled by adverse situations? If not, what can you do to make Yeshua more important in your life than your problems, or problem people?

Journal:

Sunday, April 8, 2018 (23 Nissan) • Omer Day 8

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 1st day of the 2nd week and Day 8,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Psalm 145:1-3 I will exalt You, my God, the King, and I will bless Your Name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and praise Your Name forever and ever! Great is *ADONAI*, and greatly to be praised—His greatness is unsearchable.

Thought:

The true praising of God comes from our heart. It is the overflow from within us of our admiration for Him. Words never seem enough when we praise God, so our words of excitement and description of Him are the best we can do.

Challenge:

When you have an opportunity to sing to the Lord or describe Him with words of praise, is it deep from your heart? Is it deep from your spirit? Or do you go through the motions of praise, get distracted, and lose your focus? What could you do to better praise the Lord?

Journal:

Monday, April 9, 2018 (24 Nissan) • Omer Day 9

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Scripture:

**Today is the 2nd day of the 2nd week and Day 9,
I have counted the Omer.**

Psalm 145:4-7 One generation will praise Your works to another and declare Your mighty acts. I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty and Your wonders. They will speak of the might of Your awesome deeds, and I will proclaim Your greatness. They will pour out the renown of Your great goodness, and sing joyfully of Your righteousness.

Thought:

When we proclaim our praise for the Lord to our children, we are following the Lord's desire. However, God also desires us to proclaim our faith and praise in Him to all those who are the younger generation! The older we get, the more we have to offer those who are younger. Let us make sure we proclaim the Good News that God has placed in us to the younger generations!

Challenge:

If you find you are not sharing with younger people, how can you change that? What can you do to model to young people what you know about God, His salvation for us, and how He wipes away our sins?

Journal:

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 (25 Nissan) • Omer Day 10

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 3rd day of the 2nd week and Day 10,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Psalm 145:8-9 *ADONAI* is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. *ADONAI* is good to all. He has compassion on all His creatures.

Thought:

God's love for us is clear. Our love for Him and others must be equally clear. As we look at His characteristics, we see those areas in our lives that must be evaluated. Surely, one of our goals should be an evaluation of our loving behavior to others.

Challenge:

Check out these characteristics of God's love and see if they line up with your love:

1. Gracious
2. Compassionate
3. Slow to Anger
4. Great in Lovingkindness
5. To Everyone

Journal:

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 (26 Nissan) • Omer Day 11

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 4th day of the 2nd week and Day 11,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

John 15:13 “No one has greater love than this: that he lay down his life for his friends.”

Thought:

Love is not just a word—it has to look like something. There are actions that we can attribute to love. One important characteristic of love is sacrifice. “If you become a sacrifice, you will never be a victim.” Love costs us something. If you are not willing to sacrifice, it will be hard to really love.

Challenge:

- (1) Write examples of how you sacrifice your rights when dealing with your family that shows your love.
- (2) Think about one of your more difficult relationships—would there be peace if you sacrificed your need to be right and made love of greater importance?

Journal:

Thursday, April 12, 2018 (12 Nissan) • Omer Day 12

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 5th day of the 2nd week and Day 12,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

1 Chronicles 29:10-13 Blessed are You, *ADONAI*, God of Israel our father, from eternity to eternity! Yours, *ADONAI*, is the greatness, the power and the splendor, and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything in heaven and earth. Yours is the kingdom, *ADONAI* and You are exalted above all. Both riches and honor come from You. You rule over everything. In Your hand is power and might, in Your hand, to magnify and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise Your glorious Name

Thought:

Praising God is not only an act of obedience, it also enhances the quality of our lives! By praising God, we are reminded of the greatness of God! His power and presence in our lives is reinforced in our understanding, which brings us great joy!

Challenge:

Practice praising God each day this week. Make it a habit. You will be blessed!

Journal:

Friday, April 13, 2018 (28 Nissan) • Omer Day 13

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 6th day of the 2nd week and Day 13,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

1 Timothy 1:1-3 “Therefore, first of all I urge that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made on behalf of all people—for kings and all who are in authority—so we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and respectfulness. This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.”

Thought:

What would happen if everyone in America who believed in Yeshua would pray the above Scripture daily? Personal and corporate prayer is part of being obedient to God, and is also pleasing to God.

Challenge:

Make your prayer list for America from these “7 Areas To Influence Our Culture”:

1. Faith Community & Shores David
2. Family
3. Government
4. Education
5. Media
6. Arts & Entertainment
7. Business

Journal:

Saturday, April 14, 2018 (29 Nissan) • Omer Day 14

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 7th day of the 2nd week and Day 14,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that *ADONAI* your God, He is God—the faithful God who keeps covenant kindness for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His *mitzvot*. (commandments)

Thought:

“Legalism says God will love us if we change. The gospel says God will change us because He loves us.” --Tullian Tchivijian, Pastor

Challenge:

- (1) How do you show your love for God?
- (2) How has God shown His love and faithfulness to you?

Journal:

Sunday, April 15, 2018 (30 Nissan) • Omer Day 15

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 1st day of the 3rd week and Day 15,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Romans 12:1 I urge you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy, acceptable to God—which is your spiritual service.

Thought:

Consider this understanding of the above scripture. God wants us to love and trust Him so much, that those things that would bring our bodies pleasure, would be sacrificed in order to make Him #1. Our willingness to make God #1 makes us holy.

Challenge:

What might you have to give up doing to present yourself to God as a living sacrifice?

Journal:

Monday, April 16, 2018 (1 Iyar) • Omer Day 16

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 2nd day of the 3rd week and Day 16,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

1 Chronicles 16:23-25 Sing to *ADONAI*, all the earth! Proclaim His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wondrous works among all the peoples. For great is *ADONAI* and greatly to be praised. He is to be feared above all gods.

Thought:

If we would talk more about the Lord and praise Him, we would have less time to talk about ourselves. (M.R. DeHaan) When we proclaim the Lord with praise, we have less time to gossip and judge others.

Challenge:

Are you able today to proclaim and praise God to the various people you will meet? Do you have a list in your mind of the many reasons to praise God? Has proclaiming God part of your daily activities?

Journal:

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 (2 Iyar) • Omer Day 17

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 3rd day of the 3rd week and Day 17,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Ephesians 1:13-14 After you heard the message of truth—the Good News of your salvation—and when you put your trust in Him, you were sealed with the promised *Ruach ha-Kodesh*. He is the guarantee of our inheritance, until the redemption of His possession—to His glorious praise!

Thought:

Certainly, being sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, is a great reason to praise the Lord! When we proclaim God to those who don't know Him, it should motivate them to know that this promise from God is available to them.

Challenge:

Have you made sure that your salvation has been sealed by the Holy Spirit? If not, put your trust in God now, and that promise is yours. When you have trusted in Yeshua as your Messiah, you get a greater inheritance than you could have ever hoped for, and a reason to give God great praise! Will you proclaim Him today?

Journal:

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 (3 Iyar) • Omer Day 18

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 4th day of the 3rd week and Day 18,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Psalm 86:5 “For You, my Lord, are good and ready to forgive and full of mercy to all who call upon You.”

Thought:

God shows mercy to all who call on His Name. Regardless of our sins, when we cry out, He is there and He shows His mercy. As Romans 5:8 says: *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Messiah died for us.*

Challenge:

- (1) Say this aloud 3 times: “God wants me to show mercy to others.”
- (2) Who do *you* know who you believe is undeserving of grace and mercy? Write their names and intentionally show them God’s mercy each day.

Journal:

Thursday, April 19, 2018 (4 Iyar) • Omer Day 19

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 5th day of the 3rd week and Day 19,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

James 2:12-13 “So speak and act as those who will be judged according to a Torah that gives freedom. For judgment is merciless to the one who does not show mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

Thought:

In John 8, Yeshua tells a woman who was condemned to death for committing adultery: *Then neither do I condemn you...now go, and sin no more.* God's Law through Moses demanded her death; so then did Yeshua violate this command? Not at all. Yeshua told the woman to “sin no more” knowing He would take the punishment for her.

Challenge:

God is seeking to teach us mercy. Each circumstance allows mercy to look different, however, it always seems to require courage and compassion. What is the connection between mercy, judgment, courage, and compassion? Do you show mercy?

Journal:

Friday, April 20, 2018 (5 Iyar) • Omer Day 20

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 6th day of the 3rd week and Day 20,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Psalm 103:1-5 Bless *ADONAI*, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Bless *ADONAI*, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: He forgives all your iniquity. He heals all your diseases. He redeems your life from the Pit. He crowns you with lovingkindness and compassions. He satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like an eagle.

Thought:

Concentrate on counting your blessings and you'll have little time to count anything else. (Woodrow Kroll) Like most spiritual gifts, blessing God in good times or bad is an act of our will. We choose to bless God because of the faith He has planted in us, and the actions He has performed for us.

Challenge:

Are you willing to believe that all things work out for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose? (Romans 8:28) If the answer is yes, then be intentional and bless the Lord despite any negative circumstances you may encounter.

Journal:

Saturday, April 21, 2018 (6 Iyar) • Omer Day 21

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 7th day of the 3rd week and Day 21,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirs up strife but love covers up all transgressions.

Proverbs 17:9 Whoever covers up an offense seeks love. Whoever repeats a matter separates close friends.

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Thought:

God's love covers our sin. God is showing us that we need to model His character. People sin against us often—sometimes daily. Our response must be love!

Challenge:

You say you want to serve and obey God—are you willing to love someone in order for their sin to be covered? Are you willing to love God enough that you are willing to love and forgive someone who hurt you? Think of their name(s), and think of how you can show them love.

Journal:

Sunday, April 22 2018(7 Iyar) • Omer Day 22

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 1st day of the 4th week and Day 22,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Luke 6:12-13 And it was during these days that *Yeshua* went out to the mountain to pray, and He spent all night in prayer to God. When day came, He called His disciples, choosing from among them twelve whom He also named emissaries—

Thought:

Why would Yeshua spend all night in prayer? The next day He chose His disciples. Yeshua shows us that when we have big decisions to make, we must bathe them in prayer.

Challenge:

God wants us to have a daily prayer life, to help and guide us with decisions we have to make each day. However, for those big decisions, we should bathe them in prayer. Do you have big decisions that you have not bathed in prayer? Are you trying to do things on your own? What will you do about it?

Journal:

Monday, April 23, 2018 (8 Iyar) • Omer Day 23

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 2nd day of the 4th week and Day 23,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Psalm 19:2-3 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky shows His handiwork. Day to day they speak, night to night they reveal knowledge.

Thought:

God uses His works to declare His glory. They even reveal knowledge. We are made in His image, so let's model what He does! Along with our mouth, our actions should proclaim who He is and what He has done!

Challenge:

God requires us to proclaim His glory and reveal His knowledge. Are we accomplishing His will? Did you do it yesterday? Did you do it the past week? Did you do it with your speech? Did your actions line up with proclaiming His glory and His knowledge?

Journal:

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 (9 Iyar) • Omer Day 24

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 3rd day of the 4th week and Day 24,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Ephesians 4:32 Instead, be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other just as God in Messiah also forgave you.

Thought:

“You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.”
(Ralph Waldo Emerson) *“Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind.”* (Henry James)

Challenge:

- (1) Do you consider yourself kind?
- (2) Do others consider you kind?
- (3) Take a moment and close your eyes and get a picture of what “kindness” looks like—write what you see. Then write what you can do daily to show more kindness to those you deal with in your daily life.

Journal:

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 (10 Iyar) • Omer Day 25

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 4th day of the 4th week and Day 25,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Psalm 96:2-3 Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Thought:

Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words. (Francis of Assisi)

Proclaiming God's good news should not just be on the agenda of our congregation. It should be our identity. It should be who we are. The concept of proclaiming God's salvation is found in the Hebrew Scriptures as well as the New Covenant.

Challenge:

Fill me up Lord, so that I may be a proclaimer of Your good news. May it be in my inner self to proclaim You and Your works continually. Lord, my heart is to see others know Your salvation — use me!

Journal:

Thursday, April 26, 2018 (11 Iyar) • Omer Day 26

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-she-r kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 5th day of the 4th week and Day 26,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. **Psalms 18:36** You gave me the shield of Your salvation. Your right hand upholds me, Your gentleness makes me great. **Matthew 11:29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Thought:

God wants us to use gentleness and love when seeking to correct someone. Scripture instructs us in **Galatians 6:1**, “Brethren, if someone is caught doing something wrong, you who are directed by the Ruach, restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness—looking closely at yourself so you are not tempted also.”

Challenge:

- (1) Write an instance of when you tried to correct a fellow Believer but they resisted.
- (2) Do you think things would have turned out better had you used more love and gentleness?
- (3) What can you do to become more gentle and be more like Yeshua?

Journal:

Friday, Aopril 27, 2018 (12 Iyar) • Omer Day 27

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 6th day of the 4th week and Day 27,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Exodus 9:15-17 Surely by now I could have stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. However, I have let you stand for this reason: to show you My power, and that My Name might be proclaimed throughout all the earth. Yet still you exalt yourself over My people, by not letting them go.

Thought:

Do you think that God is serious about His name being proclaimed in all the earth? Had Israel not proclaimed Him, God would have wiped them off the earth. Wow!

Challenge:

Are you intentional about sharing and proclaiming your faith? This might be the time for you to pray for courage, and an opportunity to share your faith. When we say we can't do it, we are saying we don't trust the Lord. Will you trust the Lord today and each day by sharing?

Journal:

Saturday, April 28, 2018 (13 Iyar) • Omer Day 28

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-she-r kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 7th day of the 4th week and Day 28,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Ephesians 3:17-19 so that Messiah may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to grasp with all the *kedoshim* (believers) what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Messiah which surpasses knowledge, so you may be filled up with all the fullness of God.

Thought:

Love seeks one thing only: the good of the one loved. It leaves all the other secondary effects to take care of themselves. Love, therefore, is its own reward. (Thomas Merton) I still cannot completely fathom the love of God who can love me while I am a sinner.

Challenge:

Pray to receive God's love as He intended us to. His love is so humbling. Read the scripture above, and pray to receive something that is greater than your mind and heart can conceive.

Journal:

Sunday, April 29, 2018 (14 Iyar) • Omer Day 29

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 1st day of the 5th week and Day 29,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not brag, it is not puffed up, it does not behave inappropriately, it does not seek its own way, it is not provoked, it keeps no account of wrong, it does not rejoice over injustice but rejoices in the truth; it bears all things, it believes all things, it hopes all things, it endures all things. Love never fails—

Thought:

To love someone means to see him as God intended him. (Fyodor Dostoevsky) I believe this is why it is so difficult to love someone. Look at all God's requirements on how to love that are listed above. Is this why Yeshua says in Matthew 7:1—judge not?

Challenge:

In the movie, “Fireproof” the husband was given a 40 day love-dare. Talk about stripping everything from you and being only in a position of humility and love. This truly is sacrificial love. Are you up for it?

Journal:

Monday April 30, 2018 (15 Iyar) • Omer Day 30

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 2nd day of the 5th week and Day 30,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Hebrews 13:15-16 Through *Yeshua* then, let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips giving thanks to His name. Do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Thought:

Doth not all nature around me praise God? If I were silent, I should be an exception to the universe. Doth not the thunder praise Him as it rolls like drums in the march of the God of armies? Do not the mountains praise Him when the woods upon their summits wave in adoration? Doth not the lightning write His name in letters of fire? Hath not the whole earth a voice? And shall I, can I, silent be? (Charles Spurgeon)

Challenge:

Close your eyes and imagine how you should praise God—then do it. Often times there is something within us that is not able to express our true emotions. Let praise ooze out from you. Don't allow your flesh to stop you.

Journal:

Tuesday, May 1, 2018 (16 Iyar) • Omer Day 31

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 3rd day of the 5th week and Day 31,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

1 Peter 4:7-10 Now the end of all things is near. So be self-controlled and sober-minded for prayer. Above all, keep your love for one another constant, for “love covers a multitude of sins.” Be hospitable one to another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of the many-sided grace of God.

Thought:

Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend. We never get rid of an enemy by meeting hate with hate; we get rid of an enemy by getting rid of enmity. By its very nature, love creates and builds up. Love transforms with redemptive power.
(Martin Luther King Jr.)

Challenge:

Whether an enemy, friend or family member—who are you having trouble loving? Motivate yourself to chose to love and pray. Pray that God would use love to cover any sins and redeem the relationships that pride and worldly thinking have stolen from us.

Journal:

Wednesday, May 2, 2018 (17 Iyar) • Omer Day 32

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 4th day of the 5th week and Day 32,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Romans 8:26-27 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 Therefore, brethren, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But let everything be done decently and in order.

Thought:

But you, loved ones, continue building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Ruach ha-Kodesh. **Jude 1:20**

Challenge:

- (1) Do you pray in the Spirit?
- (2) If you do, what are the benefits to you of praying in this way?
- (3) If you do not pray in the Spirit, why not?
- (4) If you agree that God gives everyone His gifts, how do we go about acquiring and exercising them?

Journal:

A NOTE FROM RABBI STEVE

Lag Ba'omer is a traditional holiday mostly observed in the Orthodox Jewish community. I thought you would find this shortened article interesting.

WHAT IS LAG BA'OMER?

The 33rd day of the Omer is an occasion for happiness during an otherwise mournful period..

By Francine Klagsbrun

Lag Ba'Omer is a minor holiday that occurs on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Passover and Shavuot. A break from the semi-mourning of the Omer, key aspects of Lag Ba'Omer include holding Jewish Weddings (it's the one day during the Omer when Jewish law permits them), lighting bonfires and haircuts.

There are a few explanations why we celebrate Lag Ba'Omer, but none is definitive.

The Omer is a time of semi-mourning, when weddings and other celebrations are forbidden, and as a sign of grief, observant Jews do not cut their hair. Anthropologists say that many peoples have similar periods of restraint in the early spring to symbolize their concerns about the growth of their crops. But the most often cited explanation for the Jewish practice comes from the Talmud, which tells us that during this season a plague killed thousands of Rabbi Akiva's students because they did not treat one another respectfully. The mourning behavior is presumably in memory of those students and their severe punishment.

According to a medieval tradition, the plague ceased on Lag Ba'Omer, the 33rd day of the Omer. (The Hebrew letters *lamed* and *gimel* which make up the acronym "Lag" have the combined numerical value of 33.) As a result, Lag Ba'Omer became a happy day, interrupting the sadness of the Omer period for 24 hours.

The Talmudic explanation makes most sense when put into historical context. The outstanding sage Rabbi Akiva became an ardent supporter of Simeon bar Koseva, known as Bar Kochba, who in 132 C.E. led a ferocious but unsuccessful revolt against Roman rule in Judea. Akiva not only pinned his hopes on a political victory over Rome but believed Bar Kochba to be the long-awaited Messiah. Many of his students joined him in backing the revolt and were killed along with thousands of Judeans when it failed. The Talmudic rabbis, still suffering under Roman rule and cautious about referring openly to past rebellions, may have been hinting at those deaths when they spoke of a plague among Akiva's students. Possibly, also, Lag Ba'Omer marked a respite from battle, or a momentary victory.

Thursday, May 3, 2018 (18 Iyar) • Omer Day 33

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-she-r kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 5th day of the 5th week and Day 33,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

1 John 4:15-16 If anyone acknowledges that *Yeshua* is *Ben-Elohim* (*Son of God*), God abides in him and he abides in God. So we have come to know and trust in the love that God has for us. God is love. Now whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Thought:

Knowing and trusting in the love of God is a key to our relationship with Him. Knowing Him is the beginning of our love relationship, while trusting His love for us is what strengthens our daily walk with Him.

Challenge:

Do you trust that God loves you? If no, find ways to step out in faith so the love of God becomes planted in your heart. Also, pray that your trust level grows. The more you trust God's love for you, the greater your relationship with Him will be.

Journal:

Friday, May 4, 2018 (19 Iyar) • Omer Day 34

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 6th day of the 5th week and Day 34,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Isaiah 63:7 I will remember the lovingkindnesses of *ADONAI*, the praises of *ADONAI*, according to all that *ADONAI* has granted us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which He has granted them according to His compassion, and according to the abundance of His lovingkindnesses.

Thought:

I may not be the man I want to be; I may not be the man I ought to be; I may not be the man I could be; I may not be the man I truly can be; but praise God, I'm not the man I once was. (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Challenge:

Is praising God part of your spiritual legacy? As in the quote above, we might not always be satisfied with situations or our own character, but we must find reasons to praise God because He told us to do so. Are you praising God today?

Journal:

Saturday, May 5, 2018 (20 Iyar) • Omer Day 35

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 7th day of the 5th week and Day 35,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 32:3-4 For I will proclaim *ADONAI's* Name, ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock—blameless is His work. Indeed, all His ways are just. God of faithfulness without iniquity, righteous and upright is He.

Thought:

Being an extrovert isn't essential to evangelism- obedience and love are. (Rebecca Pippert) Proclaiming our faith is part of our life serving the Lord. Though it might begin with obedience to God's Word, it should become a product of the love that God has placed within us.

Challenge:

Did you share your faith yesterday? Did you share your faith this past week? Will you share your faith today and tomorrow? God wants you to be intentional about proclaiming who He is to a needy generation. Be prepared, be willing, and God will give you divine appointments!

Journal:

Sunday, May 6, 2018 (21 Iyar) • Omer Day 36

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 1st day of the 6th week and Day 36,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Philippians 2:2-4 then make my joy complete by being of the same mind, having the same love, united in spirit, with one purpose. Do nothing out of selfishness or conceit, but with humility consider others as more important than yourselves, looking out not only for your own interests but also for the interests of others.

Thought:

The scripture above shows us that love looks like something. It isn't just warm and fuzzy. *First, we must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.* (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Challenge:

Consider writing a list of what love looks like to you. Rate yourself on how well you do with each area of love on your list.

Journal:



Monday, May 7, 2018 (22 Iyar) • Omer Day 37

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 2nd day of the 6th week and Day 37,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Matthew 26:41 Keep watching and praying, so that you won't enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Thought:

Prayer shouldn't be casual or sporadic, dictated only by the needs of the moment. Prayer should be as much a part of our lives as breathing. (Billy Graham) People are different, and it is reasonable to have different habits concerning prayer. You might enjoy the morning, or prefer the evening or mid-day. However, sporadic prayer is going to your Father infrequently, and He desires more!

Challenge:

Decide when you will go to prayer each day. If you can't have the same schedule each day, then decide each evening, for the next day, when you will spend time in prayer. Sometimes, when our schedule changes, we have to change the times we get up or go to sleep in order to make sure we have time for prayer. Prayer should be our first priority!

Journal:

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 (23 Iyar) • Omer Day 38

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 3rd day of the 6th week and Day 38,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Galatians 2:19-20 I have been crucified with Messiah; and it is no longer I who live, but Messiah lives in me. And the life I now live in the body, I live by trusting in *Ben-Elohim (Son of God)*—who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Thought:

The nature of God's love is unchangeable. Ours alternates all too readily. If it is our habit to love God with our own affection we shall turn cold towards Him whenever we are unhappy. (Watchman Nee)

Our love depends on our relationship with an unchanging God.

Challenge:

Is our love unchangeable or does it alternate depending on the person or the circumstance? Does our love come from trusting the Son of God? Does our love for others come from our love of God?

Journal:

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 (24 Iyar) • Omer Day 39

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-she-r kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 4th day of the 6th week and Day 39,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

2 Samuel 22:50-51 Therefore I praise You among the nations, *ADONAI*, and will sing praises to Your name. He is a tower of salvation to His king, He shows loyal love to His anointed—to David and to his seed, forever.

Thought:

Whatever troubles are weighing you down are not chains. They are featherweight when compared to the glory yet to come. With a sweep of a prayer and the praise of a child's heart, God can strip away any cobweb. (Joni Eareckson Tada)

Challenge:

What chains are weighing you down that are not allowing you to praise the Lord? Describe what you do to praise God?

Journal:

Thursday, May 10, 2018 (25 Iyar) • Omer Day 40

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 5th day of the 6th week and Day 40,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Revelation 14:6-7 And then I saw another angel flying high in the sky, having a timeless message of good news to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation and tribe and tongue and people. He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship the One who made heaven and earth and sea and springs of water.

Thought:

The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life. (Corrie ten Boom)

Challenge:

Are you ready to proclaim who God is? The quote above is a good example of proclaiming who God is, and what He has done for us. If someone asked you today, why do you believe in Yeshua, what would you say? Or if someone asked why you love God, what would you say?

Journal:

Friday, May 11, 2018 (26 Iyar) • Omer Day 41

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 6th day of the 6th week and Day 41,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Isaiah 54:10 Though the mountains depart and the hills be shaken, My love will not depart from you, nor will My covenant of peace be shaken, says *ADONAI* who has compassion on you.

Thought:

God's unfailing love for us is an objective fact affirmed over and over in the Scriptures. It is true whether we believe it or not. Our doubts do not destroy God's love, nor does our faith create it. It originates in the very nature of God, who is love, and it flows to us through our union with His beloved Son. (Jerry Bridges)

Challenge:

The consistency of God's love is undeniable. Can we say the same for our love? Would you agree that it is time for our "yes" to God to be "yes"? Tell God now that your love will be consistent, unending, and undeniable. Make loving God your number one objective!

Journal:

Saturday, May 12, 2018 (27 Iyar) • Omer Day 42

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 7th day of the 6th week and Day 42,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

1 John 4:7-8 Loved ones, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Thought:

We may give all of our possessions to the poor and surrender our bodies to be burned and have faith to move mountains and heal disease, calling Him Lord, yet these profit us nothing if love does not rule our hearts. (Ted Dekker)

Challenge:

Is there anything that stops you from loving others? Is it a person, a bad memory, or a difficult circumstance? Are you afraid that you will get hurt and it is keeping you from being open and transparent? Are these situations more important than God's commandment to love? Make loving others your number two objective!

Journal:

Sunday, May 13, 2018 (28 Iyar) • Omer Day 43

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-she-r kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 1st day of the 7th week and Day 43,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Philippians 4: 6-7 Do not be anxious about anything—but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the shalom of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Messiah Yeshua.

Thought:

Prayer does not change God, it changes us. It deepens insight, increases intuitive perception, expands consciousness. It transforms personality. (Wilferd A. Peterson)

Challenge:

When you pray, what are you expecting to happen? We all pray for God to answer us; however, much of the time God grows us through being consistent and persistent prayer warriors? Are you allowing God to mature you, or do you give up when you don't receive the answer you want, when you want it? God wants you transformed through prayer.

Journal:

Monday, May 24, 2018 (29 Iyar) • Omer Day 44

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 2nd day of the 7th week and Day 44,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Psalm 100:1-6 Shout joyfully to *ADONAI*, all the earth Serve Adonai With gladness. Come before His presence with joyful singing. Know that *ADONAI*, He is God. It is He who has made us, and we are His. We are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise! Praise Him, bless His Name. For *ADONAI* is good. His lovingkindness endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

Thought:

We would worry less if we praised more. Thanksgiving is the enemy of discontent and dissatisfaction. (Harry Ironside)

Challenge:

A large part of praising God is being thankful and expressing your thanks. List at least five things that you are thankful for.

Journal:

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 (1 Sivan) • Omer Day 45

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 3rd day of the 7th week and Day 45,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

1 Peter 3:14-15 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not be afraid or worry about their threats. Instead sanctify Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you,

Thought:

The remedy for discouragement is the Word of God. When you feed your heart and mind with its truth, you regain your perspective and find renewed strength. (Warren Wiersbe) We can't allow ourselves to lack courage or allow any reason to stop us from speaking consistently about the Lord.

Challenge:

Decide that today you will recognize divine opportunities to proclaim God and His Word. Be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you. You might talk to believers and encourage them, or talk to pre-believers and lead them to the Lord. Either way, you will have obeyed your Father in Heaven.

Journal:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 4th day of the 7th week and Day 46,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

1 John 4:9-11 The love of God was revealed among us by this—that God sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might live through Him. This is love—not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atonement for our sins. Loved ones, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Thought:

Measure not God's love and favour by your own feeling. The sun shines as clearly in the darkest day as it does in the brightest. The difference is not in the sun, but in some clouds which hinder the manifestation of the light thereof. (Richard Sibbes)

Challenge:

Receive the truth today. The truth doesn't depend on your feelings or your thoughts. Put away your doubts, regardless of the reason, and receive the truth: God loves you and He gives you the strength to love others!

Journal:

Thursday, May 17, 2018 (3 Sivan) • Omer Day 47

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 5th day of the 7th week and Day 47,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Psalm 103:8-13 *ADONAI* is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and plentiful in mercy. He will not always accuse, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not treated us according to our sins, or repaid us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His mercy for those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so *ADONAI* has compassion on those who fear Him.

Thought:

Matthew 24:14 This Good News of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Challenge:

Proclaiming God's Word and who He is, is easy when you use scripture. If you don't have a personal testimony of what God has done in your life, or if you are too shy to speak about what God has done for you, memorize Psalm 103:8-13. Then tell people this is what the bible says.

Journal:

Friday, May 18, 2018 (4 Sivan) • Omer Day 48

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-she-r kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 6th day of the 7th week and Day 48,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

James 5:13-16 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of Messiah's community, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. So confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous person is very powerful.

Thought:

God wants us to pray in faith and see His power manifested in our lives and those of our family and friends. Combine praying in faith with confessing our sins—we automatically come closer to God. (Isaiah 59:2)

Challenge:

Do you have faith to pray for the small and the large needs in your life? Do you have the faith to confess your sins? Are you willing to be humble enough to ask for prayer when you are sick?

Journal:

Saturday, May 19, 2018 (5 Sivan) • Omer Day 49

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 7th day of the 7th week and Day 49,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Romans 12:9-10 Let love be without hypocrisy—detesting what is evil, holding fast to the good. Be tenderly devoted to one another in brotherly love; outdo one another in giving honor.

Thought:

As you begin to love others as you love yourself and strive to do unto others as you would have others do unto you, you will find that you are changing, and that change comes from the heart by the indwelling Holy Spirit. (Gaines Johnson)

Challenge:

It is always good to test our actions and motivations. Do you outdo others in giving honor? If not, what can you do to change? Are you tenderly devoted to your family, friends, congregational family, work family, etc.? Are you open to loving, God's way? In what ways do you need to change?

Journal:

Sunday, May 20, 2018 (6 Sivan) • Omer Day 50

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 50th day, and I have counted the Omer!
Baruch HaShem, it is Shavuot!**

Scripture:

Matthew 24:9-14 Then they will hand you over to persecution and will kill you. You will be hated by all the nations because of My name. And then many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one other. Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. This Good News of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 Be on the alert! Stand firm in the faith! Be men of courage! Be strong! **Let all that you do be done in love.**

Thought:

God tells us about the last days. However, the power and certainty of God's love makes us victorious in every phase of our walk with Him. As we become more sure within our spirit of God's love and the truth of His Word, our trust becomes greater and our outcome is secure. Don't allow your love to grow cold—you have the victory in His love!!!

Challenge:

Find scriptures that speak to your heart and mind about God's love, His faithfulness, and His victory. Read them daily, memorize them, and pray them into your spirit so that there will be no doubt about who God is, what He has done, and His everlasting love for you!

Notes:



Shabbat with Family & Friends Friday Blessings

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגָּפֶן.

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
bo-ray p'ri ha-ga-fen. Amen.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Amen.

With this cup, we commit this observance to the Lord, and pray for His blessings over us as we seek to be holy, as He is holy.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
ha-mo-tzi le-chem min ha-a-retz. Amen.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the _____ day of the _____ week and Day _____,
I have counted the Omer.**

Shabbat With Friends & Family (Discussion 1)

Scripture:

Exodus 34:9 He said, 'If now I have found grace in Your eyes, my Lord, let my Lord please go within our midst, even though this is a stiff-necked people. Pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for Your own inheritance.

Thought:

Praying for others demonstrates leadership and love. It shows you are willing to look at people through God's eyes. Even though you might not share their sin, your prayers show you are willing to ask God to forgive them.

Challenge:

(1) Who is very difficult for you to pray for? (2) Think of people in your family, our community, and/or in our Country who need our prayers. Write down who you will pray for.

Discussion:

1. Give one example of how God answered a specific prayer for you.
2. Moses was one of the Bible's great intercessors. Discuss what you think his motivation was when he prayed in Exodus 34:9.
3. The previous verse says: Then Moses quickly bowed his head down to the earth and worshipped. Where and how do you pray?
4. Discuss differences between the prayer of Moses in Exodus 34:9 and the beginning of this one by Solomon in 1 Kings (8:22-23): Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven. He said, 'O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart
5. Moses and Solomon made prayer a priority—how will you?

Blessing:

The head of the household, or leader, blesses each person at the table.

Shabbat With Friends & Family (Discussion 2)

Scripture:

Psalm 19:2-5 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky shows His handiwork. Day to day they speak, night to night they reveal knowledge. There is no speech, no words, where their voice goes unheard. Their voice has gone out to all the earth and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens He pitched a tent for the sun.

Thought:

“Their voice”? “Their” is plural and “voice” is singular—think about it. We try to put God in our box of conventional thinking, but even if we were all geniuses, God would still look upon our collective knowledge and wisdom as mere foolishness.

Challenge:

Can you recognize anything in your life that seems right, but according to God’s thinking it is foolishness? How can you know that?

Discussion:

1. Read other verses about God’s power including: Genesis 1, Psalm 62:11, Job 26:14, Jeremiah 10:12, Psalm 66:7, and Isaiah 9:6-7.
2. If God is all powerful, then all your power must come from Him.
3. If God is all powerful, He can be involved in your life without you knowing or even comprehending it.
4. If God is all powerful, He can make the Bible infallible even if men wrote the words in it.
5. If God is all powerful, He can change the natural to the supernatural (like having a baby born of a virgin).

Blessing:

The head of the household, or leader, goes around and blesses each person at the table.

Shabbat With Friends & Family (Discussion 3)

Scripture:

Proverbs 30:4-7 Who has gone up into heaven, and come down? Who has gathered the wind in the palm of His hand? Who has wrapped the waters in a cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name and what is the name of His Son—if you know? Every word of God is purified. He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words, or else He will rebuke you and prove you a liar.

Thought:

The Bible is God's Word, and God's Word is purified (e.g. truth)... *Yeshua* is the Word made flesh. So God warns never to add anything to His Word, and says He's your shield in times of trouble. Look at what it says in Psalm 2:11-12: Serve ADONAI with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish along your way— since His wrath may flare up suddenly. Happy is everyone taking refuge in Him!

Challenge:

(1) Define "truth". (2) Is that different from God's truth? (3) Do you think truth is "relative", meaning that it can change? (4) If people say truth can change, can it be truth?

Discussion:

1. If truth can change, what word in our English language can be used for a truth that cannot change?
2. List a few truths that don't change.
3. The ability to understand truth as unchangeable or absolute depends on how you feel about the authority who brings the truth.
4. Is there an authority figure in your life, other than God, who is right all the time?
5. If we are not under authority, would you agree that we then have become the authority? Does that make us like God?

Blessing:

The head of the household, or leader blesses each person at the table.

Shabbat With Friends & Family (Discussion 4)

Scripture:

Psalm 25:8-9 Good and upright is *ADONAI*. Therefore He directs sinners in the way. He guides the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way. Psalm 34:9 Taste and see how good *ADONAI* is. Blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him. Psalm 31:20 How great is Your goodness, which You have stored up for those who fear You, which You have given to those who take refuge in You, before the children of men.

Thought:

“Goodness” does not describe our behavior, but is descriptive for God. As we draw closer to God, we automatically are transformed by God’s heart. We are continually growing in goodness as we get closer to God.

Challenge:

Define “goodness”.

Discussion:

1. Who determines what is good behavior?
2. Is the definition of good behavior dependent on our culture, or the times we live in, or where we live?
3. Are there certain absolute truths about our behavior? If so, where or who do we get them from?
4. Is it reasonable to sacrifice good behavior in order to achieve a goal that you feel is good or would not be achieved in any other way? (e.g. little white lies?)
5. Is it possible for those who are not believers in Yeshua to be “better in their goodness” than those who do believe in Him? Discuss what you can do about that...

Blessing:

The head of the household, or leader blesses each person at the table.

Shabbat With Friends & Family (Discussion 5)

Scripture:

Isaiah 62:6 On your walls, Jerusalem, I have set watchmen. All day and all night, they will never hold their peace. ‘You who remind *ADONAI*, take no rest for yourselves, and give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Psalms 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem—‘May those who love you be at peace! May there be shalom within your walls—quietness within your palaces.

Ezekiel 33:6 But if the watchman sees the sword come and does not blow the *shofar*, the people are not warned. Then the sword does come and takes a person from among them—he is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand.

Thought:

I pray Heaven to bestow the best of Blessings on this House and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise Men ever rule under this roof.

--John Adams, on moving into the White House

Challenge & Discussion:

(1) How can we, who believe in the Bible, seek to influence the culture surrounding our daily lives; including social issues, legislation, and public policy? (2) How has the world’s culture negatively influenced us as Believers? (3) Where in the Bible does God deal with social issues and public policy? (4) When did Yeshua address the social issues and public policy of that time?

Jot down notes to help answer the above questions.

Blessing:

The head of the household, or leader, blesses each person at the table.

Shabbat With Friends & Family (Discussion 6)

Scripture:

Exodus 14:21-22 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. *ADONAI* drove the sea back with a strong east wind throughout the night and turned the sea into dry land. So the waters were divided. Then *Bnei-Yisrael* (Sons of Israel) went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, while the waters were like walls to them on their right and on their left.

Thought:

Miracles are a retelling in small letters of the very same story which is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see. (C. S. Lewis)

Challenge:

- (1) How would you define a “miracle”.
 - (2) Do you expect miracles in your life?
 - (3) Have you ever received a miracle in your life?
-
-
-
-

Discussion:

1. Do you believe miracles in the Bible really happened?
2. The definition of a miracle is: *“an extraordinary event in the physical world that surpasses all known human or natural powers and is ascribed to a supernatural cause”*. By contrast, the definition of coincidence is: *“a striking occurrence of two or more events at one time apparently by mere chance”*. Discuss the difference between the two.
3. Does God still perform miracles?
4. Have you ever experienced a miracle? If so, share about it.
5. What do you believe comes first, and why?
 - Believing God and then seeing miracles.
 - Seeing miracles and then believing in God.

Blessing:

The head of the household, or leader, blesses each person at the table.

Shabbat With Friends & Family (Discussion 7)

Scripture:

Romans 11:25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be ignorant of this mystery—lest you be wise in your own eyes—that a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Luke 21:24 They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led away captive into all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Thought:

The modern Messianic Movement was birthed just after 1967 when Jerusalem was restored to Israel. God said in His Word He would restore Israel. We see He is faithful to His Word and His timing is always perfect!

Challenge and Discussion:

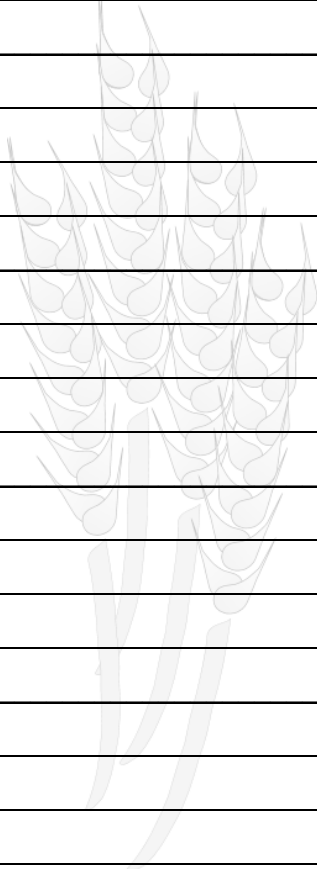
Imagine living 2000 years ago and hearing this prophecy: *Jewish people would have a hardening of their hearts towards Yeshua until they once again controlled Jerusalem.* The modern day Messianic Movement began when Jerusalem returned to Jewish control. After that happened, “supernaturally”, blinders suddenly started falling off many Jewish people worldwide who began accepting Yeshua as their promised Messiah. Question: *Is this is an amazing miracle, or just mere coincidence?*

1. How many fulfilled prophecies should it take for someone to believe that God and the Bible are real, and should be taken as truth?
2. There are over 300 prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures that Yeshua fulfilled. Isn't that enough to believe Yeshua as Messiah?
3. Discuss this prophecy from Isaiah 9:5-6 (6-7) For to us a child is born, a son will be given to us, and the government will be upon his shoulder. His Name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God My Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and shalom there will be no end—on the throne of David and over His kingdom—to establish it and uphold it through justice and righteousness from now until forevermore. The zeal of ADONAI-Tzva'ot will accomplish this.
4. Even with so many Hebrew Scripture prophecies fulfilled about Yeshua, what are the reasons you have heard why Jewish people still deny Yeshua as Messiah and Lord?

Blessing:

The head of the household, or leader, blesses each person at the table.

Notes:



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