



Sinai in Your Living Room!

A Practical Guide to Reading the 10 Commandments at Home

Please print before the onset of the holiday

On **Shavuot morning**, 3,332 years ago, Heaven kissed Earth, and Gd communicated the 10 Commandments upon Mount Sinai. Every year we relive that experience when we read of this event (as it's recorded in the Book of Exodus) from the Torah during Shavuot morning services.

This year, we'll be reading the 10 Commandments ourselves, as our own living spaces have become our places of worship.

When: The ideal time for this reading is on Shavuot morning (May 29, 2020), as part of the services.

However, it may be read later in the day as well.

Who: Every single Jewish woman, man and child should either read the 10 Commandments, or hear it read by someone else.

How: Since this is not an actual Torah reading, it may be read in Hebrew or English, or both.

Have everyone stand around the designated reader, who will read the text (from Exodus 20) aloud in a clear voice.

After the reading (and the conclusion of services), enjoy a celebratory dairy *kiddush* reception, during which you can discuss the significance of what was read and its relevance to us today.

The 10 Commandments

עשרת הדברות

אֲנֹכִי יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים
 לֹא יִהְיֶה לְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים עַל פְּנֵי:
 לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה לְךָ פֶסֶל וְכָל תְּמוּנָה אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׁמַיִם מִמַּעַל וְאֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֶץ
 מִתַּחַת וְאֲשֶׁר בַּמַּיִם מִתַּחַת לְאָרֶץ:
 לֹא תִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לָהֶם וְלֹא תַעֲבֹדֵם כִּי אֲנֹכִי יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֵל קַנָּא פֶקֶד עֵינַי
 אֲבֹת עַל בְּנֵי עַל שְׁלֵשִׁים וְעַל רְבָעִים לְשׁוֹנְאֵי:
 וְעֹשֶׂה חֶסֶד לְאֲלָפִים לְאֹהֲבָיו וְלֹשְׁמֵרֵי מִצְוֹתַי:
 לֹא תִשָּׂא אֶת שֵׁם יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשׁוּא כִּי לֹא יִנְקֶה יְיָ אֶת אֲשֶׁר יִשָּׂא אֶת
 שְׁמוֹ לְשׁוּא:
 זָכוֹר אֶת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ:
 שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד וְעֹשֵׂיתָ כָּל מְלַאכְתֶּךָ:
 יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי שַׁבָּת לַיְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה כָּל מְלַאכְהָ אַתָּה וּבִנְךָ
 וּבִתֶּךָ עַבְדְּךָ וְאִמָּתֶךָ וּבְהִמְתַּךְ וּגְרֶךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ:
 כִּי שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים עָשָׂה יְיָ אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ אֶת הַיָּם וְאֶת כָּל
 אֲשֶׁר בָּם וַיָּנַח בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי עַל כֵּן בֵּרַךְ יְיָ אֶת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת וַיְקַדְּשֶׁהוּ:
 כִּבְדֹד אֶת אָבִיךָ וְאֶת אִמְךָ לְמַעַן יֵאָרְכוּן יְמֵיךָ עַל הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר יְיָ
 אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ:
 לֹא תִרְצַח ס לֹא תִנְאֹף ס לֹא תִגְנֹב ס לֹא תַעֲנֶה בְרַעְךָ עַד שֹׁקֶר:
 לֹא תַחְמוֹד בֵּית רַעְךָ ס לֹא תַחְמוֹד אִשְׁתְּ רַעְךָ וְעַבְדּוֹ וְאִמָּתוֹ וְשׁוֹרוֹ
 וְחִמְרוֹ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר לְרַעְךָ:



- 1.** I the Lord am your G-d who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery:
- 2.** You shall have no other gods besides Me.
You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image, or any likeness of what is in the heavens above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I the Lord your G-d am an impassioned G-d, visiting the guilt of the parents upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generations of those who reject Me, but showing kindness to the thousandth generation of those who love Me and keep My commandments.
- 3.** You shall not swear falsely by the name of the Lord your G-d; for the Lord will not clear one who swears falsely by His name.
- 4.** Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your G-d: you shall not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female slave, or your cattle, or the stranger who is within your settlements.
For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth and sea, and all that is in them, and He rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.
- 5.** Honor your father and your mother, that you may long endure on the land that the Lord your G-d is assigning to you.
- 6.** You shall not murder.
- 7.** You shall not commit adultery.
- 8.** You shall not steal.
- 9.** You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 10.** You shall not covet your neighbor's house: you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female slave, or his ox or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.

Transliteration

אֲנֹכִי יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עַבְדִּים
לֹא יִהְיֶה לְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים עַל פְּנֵי:
לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה לְךָ פֶסֶל וְכָל תְּמוּנָה אֲשֶׁר בְּשָׁמַיִם מִמַּעַל וְאֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֶץ
מִתַּחַת וְאֲשֶׁר בַּמַּיִם מִתַּחַת לְאָרֶץ:
לֹא תִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לָהֶם וְלֹא תַעֲבֹדֵם כִּי אֲנֹכִי יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֵל קַנָּא פֶקֶד עֵוֹן
אֲבֹת עַל בְּנֵי עַל שְׁלֹשִׁים וְעַל רַבְעִים לְשׁוֹנֵא:
וְעַשֶׂה חֶסֶד לְאֶלְפִים לְאִהְבִי וּלְשֹׁמְרֵי מִצְוֹתַי:
לֹא תִשָּׂא אֶת שֵׁם יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשׁוֹא כִּי לֹא יִנְקֶה יְיָ אֶת אֲשֶׁר יִשָּׂא אֶת
שְׁמוֹ לְשׁוֹא:
זְכוֹר אֶת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ:
שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד וְעֵשִׂיתָ כָּל מְלַאכְתֶּךָ:
יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי שַׁבָּת לַיְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה כָּל מְלַאכָה אַתָּה וּבִנְךָ
וּבִתֶּךָ עַבְדֶּךָ וְאִמָּתֶךָ וּבְהִמְתֶּךָ וּגְרֶךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ:
כִּי שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים עָשָׂה יְיָ אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ אֶת הַיָּם וְאֶת כָּל
אֲשֶׁר בָּם וַיִּנַּח בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי עַל כֵּן בֵּרַךְ יְיָ אֶת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת וַיְקַדְּשֶׁהוּ:
כַּבֵּד אֶת אָבִיךָ וְאֶת אִמְךָ לְמַעַן יֵאָרְכוֹן יְמֶיךָ עַל הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר יְיָ
אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ:
לֹא תִרְצַח ס לֹא תִנְאֵף ס לֹא תִגְנוֹב ס לֹא תַעֲנֶה בְרַעְיָה עַד שֹׁקֶר:
לֹא תַחְמוֹד בֵּית רַעְיָה ס לֹא תַחְמוֹד אֶשֶׁת רַעְיָה וְעַבְדּוֹ וְאִמָּתּוֹ וְשׁוֹרוֹ
וְחִמְרוֹ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר לְרַעְיָה:

1. Ah-noh-khee ah-doh-noi eh-loh-heh-khah, ah-sheh hoh-tzeh-ti-khah meh-eh-retz mitz-rah-yim, mee-bet ah-vah-dim.
2. Loh yih-yeh leh-khah eh-loh-him ah-kheh-rim ahl pah-nai. Loh tah-ah-seh leh-khah peh-sel veh-khohl teh-moo-nah, ah-sheh bah-shah-mah-yim mee-mah-ahl, vah-ah-sheh bah-ah-retz mee-tah-khat, vah-ah-sheh bah-mah-yim mee-tah-khat lah-ah-retz. Loh tish-tah-khah-veh lah-hem, veh-loh tah-ahv-dem, kee ah-noh-khee ah-doh-noi eh-loh-heh-khah, el kah-nah, poh-ked ah-vohn ah-voht ahl bah-nim, ahl shee-leh-shim veh-ahl ree-beh-im leh-soh-neh-ai. Veh-oh-seh kheh-sehd lah-ah-lah-fim, leh-oh-hah-vai uh-leh-shoh-meh-reh mitz-voh-tai.
3. Loh tee-sah et shem ah-doh-noi eh-loh-heh-khah lah-shahv, kee loh yeh-nah-keh ah-doh-noi et ah-sheh yee-sah et sheh-moh lah-shav.
4. Zah-khohr et yohm hah-shah-baht leh-kah-deh-shoh. Sheh-shet yah-mim tah-ah-vohd veh-ah-see-tah kohl meh-lakh-teh-kha Veh-yohm hah-sheh-vee-ee shah-baht lah-doh-noi eh-loh-heh-khah, loh tah-ah-seh kohl meh-lah-khah, ah-tah oo-vin-khah oo-vee-teh-khah, ahv-deh-khah vah-ah-mah-teh-khah oo-veh-hehm-teh-khah, veh-geh-reh-khah ah-sheh bee-sheh-ah-reh-khah. Kee sheh-shet yah-mim ah-sah ah-doh-noi et hah-shah-mah-yim veh-et hah-ah-retz, et hah-yahm veh-et kohl ah-sheh bahm, vah-yah-nakh bah-yom hah-sheh-vee-ee, ahl ken beh-rakh ah-doh-noi et yohm hah-shah-baht vah-yeh-kah-deh-sheh-hoo.
5. Kah-bed eht ah-vee-khah veh-et ee-meh-khah, leh-mah-ahn yah-ah-ree-khoo yah-meh-khah ahl hah-ah-dah-mah ah-sheh ah-doh-doi eh-loh-heh-khah noh-ten lakh.
6. Loh tir-tzakh.
7. Loh tin-ahf.
8. Loh tig-nohv.
9. Loh tah-ah-neh beh-reh-ah-khah ed shah-ker.
10. Loh takh-mohd bet reh-eh-kha, loh takh-mohd eh-shet reh-eh-khah, veh-ahv-doh vah-ah-mah-toh veh-shoh-roh vah-khah-moh-roh, veh-khohl ah-sheh leh-reh-eh-kha.

10 Points for Discussion:

1. Was the giving of the 10 Commandments a one-time event or something that is relevant to us today?
2. How are these 10 Commandments different from the rest of the 613 mitzvahs of the Torah?
3. Of all the 10 Commandments, which one do you relate to on a personal level?
4. Why did Gd choose to reveal Himself on a mountain? Why in the desert?
5. How did the people feel after the experience at Sinai, and how can we recreate that for ourselves?
6. What empowering lesson can we gain from the fact that we are forced to celebrate Shavuot in our homes?
7. What is the significance of 10? Where else does this number appear in Jewish tradition?
8. What meaning does the Giving of the Torah have to non-Jews?
9. Why was the Giving of the Torah accompanied by thunder, lightning and shofar blasts?
10. Why isn't Mount Sinai revered by Jewish people as a sacred place today?

Please print these questions (as well as other holiday reading material) prior to the onset of the holiday.