

*Days 1–4*

# *Counting our Way to Shavuot*

AND MAKING IT COUNT FOR OUR LIVES

## **Introduction**

A handout for counting the 49 days to Shavuot will be available each Shabbat and will contain a verse or two selected from each of the 66 books of the Bible for each day. A brief comment on the selected text is given, along with a few introspective questions in order to help initiate personal reflection on the biblical text as well as open discussion on an individual or group basis.

There is space on each daily page for writing down your thoughts as you consider the application of the selected text and how it could be applied personally, shared with another individual, or incorporated into family time or in a small group setting.

The icons on each page will remind you to consider an application of the verse, first for yourself, then for someone you may be discipling or with whom you have regular conversation, and finally with your family and/or a small group.



In this space, jot down thoughts about how the meaning of the chosen biblical text applies to your own life, and how you can incorporate its truth in your walk with the Lord.



Here you can list people you want to remember in prayer today and perhaps be able to share encouragement related to today's verse(s).



This is a place to write some thoughts on how the topic could be discussed with your family at dinner time, or with friends you may see, or in a small group study session.

## Day One – הַיּוֹם יוֹם אֶחָד לְעֹמֶר –

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to Him shall be the obedience of the peoples.  
Genesis 49:10

### “I pledge allegiance to....”

To many of us who have grown up in America, we would finish this statement with, “...the flag of the United States of America.” Of course, saying the pledge has gone out of vogue. In our consumer saturated world, allegiances last as long as the product or service remains new, fresh, and useful. As disciples of Yeshua, we should know what it means to serve a King, especially when we feel weary (Gal 6:9). In Yeshua, the above Scripture has started to be fulfilled. We see in Him the ruler's staff that will not depart. Yet, we do not see our King in the fullness of His reign. Some day we will!

Do we have our own versions of a pledge? What is it? How often do you say it? (Hint: think of how blessings start.) Consider this: How did people throughout history declare their loyalty to their kings? How do I declare my daily loyalty to my King?



Making it personal

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Sharing it with someone

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Sharing it with others

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Trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.  
Psalm 37:3

## Day Two – הַיּוֹם שְׁנַיִם יָמִים לְעֵמָר –

They shall know that I am the LORD their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell among them; I am the LORD their God.

Exodus 29:46

### “Well, what do you know?”

This expression usually comes after an unexpected discovery; something or something comes through in times of trouble and we feel good. The exodus from Egypt is a centerpiece in God’s redemptive history. As the people crossed the Red Sea they felt good and rejoiced! The truths revealed in God’s setting His people free remain with us even today. In knowing the LORD, we learn not just about Him but we understand the significance of that knowledge. He is the one who remains faithful to His word. He takes action to demonstrate His devotion. Are you experiencing that reality today? He brought His people out of Egypt and slavery so that He might be present with them—in their midst.

How well do we recognize the Lord among us? How does God’s forgiveness help me understand who He is and who I am in Him? How do I experience God’s redemption in the Exodus in my own life?



Making it personal

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Sharing it with someone

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Sharing it with others

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It was for freedom that Messiah set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

## Day Three – הַיּוֹם שְׁלֹשָׁה יָמִים לְעֵמָר –

For I am the LORD who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.  
Leviticus 11:45

### “Be Holy - for I am Holy?”

The English word “holy” has origins in the word “whole”. It carries with it the idea of being wholly devoted to God. Holiness is more about devotion than just doing things the right way. Our example for whole hearted devotion is God Himself. Have you every thought about that? We usually compare our devotion to other people. God desires a people who love Him with their whole heart. He demonstrated His love and devotion to His people by paying the price for them and redeeming them from the slavery of sin.

Yeshua explained to His disciples that He sanctified Himself to fulfill His work of salvation for His own. Discuss John 17:11-23 and how His example and instructions relate to us as His disciples. What kind of things should we be doing (based on this passage) as we trust in Him to do His work in us, enabling us to serve others for Him?



Making it personal

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Sharing it with someone

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Sharing it with others

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For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. John 17:19

## Day Four – הַיּוֹם אַרְבַּעָה יָמִים לְעֹמֶר

You shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the LORD am dwelling in the midst of the sons of Israel. Numbers 35:34

### “Who made this mess!”

Few people thrive in the midst of chaos. Each one of us has a certain level of tolerance for the messes and clutter around us. Defilement is more than just a mess. God’s promises relating to the Land are directly connected to His people’s faithfulness. At times, He exiled them specifically due to their actions defiling the Land (Jer 2:7; 16:18; 26:19; Ezek 36:17).

Being ritually unclean was not necessarily always something sinful. The laws of purity are given by God to teach us about drawing near to Him. While God’s promise of being in our midst is sure, we should also remember that God desires us to conform our ways to His standards as we approach Him. As we seek Him, He will make clear the path towards Him, to enter into His presence (Prov 3:5-6).

In what ways can my actions/attitudes be seen as unclean, even if they are not sinful? How can I relate the nearness of God to someone else? How can I share with my family, friends, or others, ways to draw near to the LORD?



Making it personal

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Sharing it with someone

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Sharing it with others

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O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. Psalm 95:1-2