

Days 19–25

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.

היום תשעה עשר לעומר – Day Nineteen

I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations... Isaiah 42:6

“And He walks with me, and He talks with me...”

Ultimately the verse from Isaiah speaks of Yeshua. How is it that we share in His work of being lights to the nations? In what ways does He hold us by our hand? In Eph 5 Paul teaches that we are “light in the Lord” and “children of light.” As a family and community this is our family heritage. Our families become lights to Yeshua in this darkened world.

- How do you see your part in Yeshua’s family vision? How are you a reflection of His brilliance? How does He shine in your life to chase away darkness in you?
- Share your light with someone today. Find a dark place and ask someone to shine a light for you. Talk to someone about this today. Who might I pray for today?
- Read over the following verses and discuss the different aspects of light in them; Is 49.6; 51.4–5; 60.1–3; Luke 2.32; John 8.12; Acts 13.47; 26.23; 1 Pet 2.9.



Making it personal



Sharing it with someone



Sharing it with others

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. (Ephesians 5.6–10)

Day Twenty – הַיּוֹם עֶשְׂרִים יוֹם לְעֹמֶר

Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, "The LORD our righteousness." Jeremiah 23:5-6

"Long live the King!"

God has created every human being with the need to have Him rule and reign in their life. Sin has separated man from His creator. Yeshua and the message of the gospel brings about a re-alignment of loyalties. We become new creations with a membership in a new Kingdom. We live for the King. It may be hard for us (if we live in America especially) to understand loyalty to a monarch. But in relationship to God, this is what we were designed for and created to be.

God is the one who appointed Yeshua as King of Kings.

- In day one we asked about allegiance to a king. Over the last three weeks have you continued to "say your pledge?" How so?
- What kind of things might a righteous King change in your daily life if He visited you today? What would you like Him to change (something out of your control)?
- Read together Isaiah 61:1-7 and list all the things the servant of the Lord will do and did. How did Yeshua begin this kingdom work? How does He continue it through us?



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The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; (Isaiah 61.1)

היום אחד ועשרים לעומר – Day Twenty-one, 3 Weeks

The LORD's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22–23

“Your Lovingkindness is better than life...”

When Jeremiah penned the verse above he was experiencing great anguish due to God's judgments and the sins of the nation. In chapter 3 he speaks of being torn, walled in, having flesh and skin waste away, and bones broken. He further describes his condition as being filled with bitterness and having teeth broken by gravel. His whole body felt the weight and seriousness of the sinful condition. Yet, he recalled to mind something that gave him hope. Even in the midst of hard times we can find our hope in the LORD.

- Is there a relationship or condition concerning which you have lost hope? Write it down and continue to pray to the LORD who will be faithful.
- How might you encourage someone who is going through a hard time, that they can hope in the LORD?
- God does not always remove the consequences of our sin. He does forgive but sometimes relationships are not restored. Share together how we can encourage one another even after major failures in relationships. How can we stand more firmly in faithful ways?



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Why should any living mortal, or any man, offer complaint in view of his sins? Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the LORD. We lift up our heart and hands toward God in heaven; (Lamentations 3.39–41)

Day Twenty-Two – הַיּוֹם שְׁנַיִם וְעֶשְׂרִים לְעֹמֶר –

I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.
Ezekiel 36:27

“Created for Good Works (Eph 2:8, 9)”

God’s work of salvation has a goal in mind. We become new creations in the Messiah and are a treasured possession. He intends to be glorified in us as we bear much fruit. Doing the will of God (what He desires) is an ongoing process of sanctification that is in accord with God’s revealed words. Yeshua lived as one who did what His Father desired. We are to be children like Him. The Spirit of God fills us with purpose: to glorify God by obeying Him and living lives that show others the value of being citizens in His kingdom.

- In what ways, Lord, does Your word become flesh in me? How am I being led by Your Spirit through your word? How are you speaking to me today in your Torah?
- As religious beings we want to believe and worship something. How would you explain salvation by grace which leads to good works as God’s goal in us to a new believer?
- Read Eph 2:8, 9 and discuss how we know what the good works are that are mentioned by Paul. Also read and discuss Titus 2:11-14. What are those things that we as believers should be zealous for “in this present age”?



Making it personal



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For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Messiah Yeshua, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. (Titus 2.11–14)

Day Twenty-Three – הַיּוֹם שְׁלֹשָׁה וְעֶשְׂרִים לְעֹמֶר

For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?”
Daniel 4:34–35

“What right do you have to....”

People can get upset if someone tries to overpower their rights. This is often seen when someone suggests that the way they live is wrong. “What right do you have to tell me I’m wrong!” Their objection might be correct if the one delivering the rebuke is self-righteous or proud. But what about God? Does He have the right to hold people accountable? How can we respect His rights in our own lives and the lives of our families?

God is just in condemning sinners. Do we really believe that?

- Lord help me to see Your rulership over me today. What specific rights do I ascribe to You and affirm Your due respect?
- Many have said that people who reject God do so more on moral grounds than on proofs of His existence. How has sin replaced His true place in lives of those who reject Him?
- As we continue to grow in Kingdom living, our lives are transformed. Read Rom 12:1, 2 and discuss what it means to “prove the will of God.” How does this relate to His rightful position as King? How does this relate to our multi-generational discipleship mission?



Making it personal



Sharing it with someone



Sharing it with others

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12.1–2)

היום אַרְבַּעָה וְעֶשְׂרִים לְעֹמֶר – Day Twenty-four

I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, in lovingkindness and in compassion, and I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD.
Hosea 2:19–20

“...Man and Wife”

Our God views His people as a bride. He desires to join with them in an intimate relationship. The “vows” He makes contain matters of justice, righteousness, lovingkindness, and compassion. His marriage doesn’t have a prenuptial agreement or a divorce clause. His heart is to unite in faithfulness with His people in a true, everlasting relationship with them. What God has joined together let no man separate.

- How are you bound to me, Lord? How are we as your people bound to You? How do I see You working to keep us and complete Your covenant in and through us?
- How important are wedding vows? How do we show His faithfulness in our relationships? Talk to a friend about the importance of friendship.
- Continue your discussion in Rom 12:1,2 from yesterday. How does today’s key verse communicate God’s desire for intimacy and how does this give us a bigger picture of His will for us?



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Day Twenty-five – הַיּוֹם חֲמִשָּׁה וְעֶשְׂרִים לְעֹמֶר

And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD will be delivered. Joel 2:32

“Don’t cry over spilt milk”

Some things in life don’t justify tears. Some things are easily fixed. A mother can discern what is wrong with her child just by listening to the way they cry. How much more for God! Our need for deliverance is great! It is an amazing thing that God cares, hears, and delivers. He knows our cries. The God who hears cries and saves is also able to bring us to full maturity in the Messiah.

- How important is it to answer someones text? How soon should I an responded to an email I receive? How important are your day to day, face to face conversations? Have one today with a friend and explore this topic.
- Consider today’s verse and also the verse below. What truths do we need to remember when we call out to the Lord? Discuss the place of prayer in our lives. Consider how Yeshua prayed and taught others to pray.



Making it personal



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Sharing it with others

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Messiah Yeshua. (Philippians 4.6–7)