

# PROGRAMMING BOOKLET



Office of The  
**CHIEF RABBI**

# LEAD UP TO SHAVUOT

**LEARNING:** In the weeks leading up to Shavuot, offer programming that helps people explore the big questions of Judaism and connect with their faith. This could include a study group that culminates in an intimate learning circle for Tikun Leil, or a scholar in residence who can be shared among local communities.

**OUT & ABOUT:** As Shavuot is our harvest festival, organise field trips to places in your city where people can learn about the world around them, such as gardens and museums. This programming can be tailored to various demographics and could focus on themes like sustainability and nature.

**FIRST FRUITS:** Explore the concepts of Bikkurim (first fruits) and Hakarat Hatov (gratitude) in the lead up to Shavuot.

**CREATIVE SHIRURIM:** Offer candlelit shiurim (study sessions) on topics like mindfulness, Torah through art (for all ages), and creative writing.

**DAIRY FOOD:** Reflect on the role of dairy food in Shavuot and what the Torah teaches us about consumption. This could include a cheese and wine evening or a cheesecake competition.

**TORAH UP CLOSE:** Offer Torah study sessions specifically for women, focusing on women in the Torah.

**CREATING A CHABURAH:** Encourage people to form study groups in the lead up to Shavuot, culminating in an intimate learning circle for Tikun Leil.

**THE GREAT SHAVUOT BAKE OFF:** Similar to the ShabbatUK Challah makes, mass cheesecake and ice cream making events can be held at the shul before Yom Tov, with some Torah content incorporated by the leader/demonstrator.

**ICE CREAM CHALLENGE:** Host a competition or taste test for the best flavour of ice cream, which could be served at kiddush during Shavuot. Brief Torah ideas can be incorporated by the Rabbi/ another speaker.

**FLOWERS:** Encourage people to dry out their Shabbat flowers in the weeks leading up to Shavuot and create table centres with the petals or flowers. Alternatively, host a workshop on a Torah approach to sustainability and how to make flowers from crepe paper.

**YOUTH:** Connect with local Jewish schools to coordinate programming and encourage heavier participation on both days of Shavuot.

Create a youth magazine featuring messages, stories, Divrei Torah, activities, learning materials for Tikun Leil at home, songs, essays, and reflections from educators.



# TIKUN LEIL

**INTERACTIVE SESSIONS:** Offer interactive sessions on Torah-centered themes during Tikun Leil, such as Q&A, debates, interviews, and panels. For the youth, consider offering activities through youth movement madrichim (leaders).

**A SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE:** Invite a scholar to lead programming in your community, sharing their knowledge and expertise with all ages.

**THE SHAVUOT EXPERIENCE:** For those who have never participated in Shavuot before, create a programme that introduces them to the holiday and what it looks like in your community. This could include a dinner on either night of the festival with exciting Torah content in it followed by a shiur.

For a more educational focus, consider hosting a panel discussion or speaker series on a topic related to Shavuot, such as harvest, megillat Ruth or Matan Torah.

Interactive learning discussions built around hot topics (e.g. organ donation, mental health, climate change, etc.) via q&a, debates, interviews, panels, etc.

**COMMUNAL DINNER:** Host a Shavuot-themed communal dinner with a speaker and/or creative educational content

**PLANTS AND TREES IN JUDAISM:** Explore the role of plants and trees in Judaism and how they can be used to enhance our connection to the natural world.

**TORAH TRACKS:** Offer a variety of Torah study tracks for different demographics, including children, students, women-only, and mixed groups.

**CHILDREN'S 'TORAH TALENT' DINNER.** Children are invited to share a story or lesson, in the form of a reading, song, poem, play, rap, etc. in front of their friends. The most creative efforts win a prize and all enjoy a special children's dinner while the 'performances' are taking place.

**SHABBAT SHAVUOT:** Take advantage of the fact that Shavuot falls on Shabbat by creating a full programme for the second day that includes meals and activities for all ages and demographics.

Invite madrichim to lead various programmes throughout the evening and days of the festival.



## FIRST DAY - FRIDAY NIGHT

**TORAH TOURS** : Communities can choose 4 houses in which speakers house hop. This can be done on the second night of Shavuot (Friday Night) or during any one of the two days of the festival.

Encourage children to learn and present a part of the davening.

**COME TOGETHER**: Host a special Yom Tov evening kiddush featuring delicious chicken soup, inviting the entire community to come together.

## SECOND DAY - SHABBAT

Treat the community to a refreshing Shabbat ice cream kiddush.

Host a special seuda shlishit featuring a "pinch of Torah" where various members of the community can share an insight through a unique presentation, such as a song, poem, rap, or skit.

Host a "Tea & Torah" event for the whole community or just the women of the community to come together for a great social event with powerful Torah content.

Consider organising a visit to the homes of elderly or poorly members of the community to bring Yom Tov meal to them (for communities with an eruv).

Inspire the community through music with an acapella group, guest chazzan, or choir.

Make an effort to make the programming as inclusive as possible, including provisions for members with disabilities and efforts to make absent members feel welcome and safe. Siddur Lakol is now available for all communities. For further information, please go to [www.jweb.org.uk/siddur-lakol](http://www.jweb.org.uk/siddur-lakol)



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