

## Shavuot

Shavuot - also called the Feast of Weeks - arrives seven weeks after Pesach. This holiday celebrates God giving the Torah - containing the Ten Commandments - to Moses on Mount Sinai. According to Jewish tradition, this happened more than 3000 years ago. But on Shavuot, you imagine that you yourself are at the mountain receiving the Torah. At that moment, you are promising God that you will try anew to follow the Torah's guidelines.

Shavuot is also a harvest holiday. Long ago, during harvest season, the Jews brought their first-picked fruits to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem as an offering to God.



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### How is Shavuot celebrated nowadays?

At a special service in the synagogue – decorated with flowers and fruit – the Ten Commandments are read aloud. These commandments include that there is only one God and you may not believe in other gods. You must observe the Shabbat. You must honor your father and your mother and you may not kill, steal, be unfaithful in marriage, desire what others have, or lie.

There are lots of rules in Jewish life instructing people how to get along with each other. So, for many Jews, how a person behaves is also more important than what he or she believes. Someone once asked Hillel, a famous Jewish scholar who lived long ago, if he could explain the essence of the Torah in a few simple words. Hillel then replied: 'What is hateful to you, do not unto your neighbor. That is the whole Torah. The rest is commentary. So, go and learn!



My notes:

### Tip from Max



Working on a school project about Shavuot? Show your classmates the films [Torah](#) and [Loving Everybody?](#) And what about decorating your classroom with flowers and fruit? Because that's how the synagogue is decorated for this holiday!