



## Shavuot themed Shabbat Mishpacha

Submitted by: *Marcia Seigal*

**Subject Area:** Jewish Living and Identity, Holidays, Prayer, Jewish History, Culture & Art.

**Target Age Group:** Families with young children ranging from preschoolers to first graders.

### **Lesson Objective:**

To teach about Shavuot and to create a comfortable learning environment that helps families with young children integrate Jewish traditions and customs into the fabric of their lives as well as connect to the synagogue. The program attracts many families with young children who are seeking an opportunity to meet other Jews within their demographic. It also appeals to interfaith families who do not possess the skill set to create a Jewish experience and want to gain exposure to Jewish living.

### **Summary:**

The program begins with a short Shabbat service which includes Hinei Mah Tov, The Shalom Song, Modeh Ani, Barchu, Shema, Mi Chamocha, and Miriam's Song as well as a closing song and story connected to Shavuot. The section, which describes Shavuot in Dance, Sing, Remember – A Celebration of Jewish Holidays by Leslie Kimmelman can be read at storytime, as children's books on Shavuot are scarce. Nametags are provided for families as they arrive, as well as instruments for children to play during the service.

After the service, everyone participates in the blessings over the wine and the challah. String cheese is also available for children to snack on. Next, children may choose from a variety of activities and art projects. Children may concentrate on just one activity, or they can try their hand at them all. Possibilities include assembling luminaries, planting greenery, and making tissue paper flowers (see appendix for more information). Plain paper and crayons are also available for children to illustrate their favorite part of Shavuot.



## Shavuot themed Shabbat Mishpacha

Submitted by: *Marcia Seigal*

Finally, the program concludes with the singing of Shalom Chaverim, as well as an invitation to attend next month's program. Handouts relating to Shavuot are distributed to parents as they leave.

### **APPENDIX:**

#### **Luminaries**

You will need:

Brown paper bags  
Cardboard patterns (stars, moons, etc.)  
Pencils  
Scissors  
Tea lights

What you do:

- 1) Trace various patterns onto a folded bag with a pencil.
- 2) Cut out the patterns.
- 3) Open up the bag and place a tealight in it.

Children may use their luminaries to light up their late night "study" sessions. Of course, never leave the luminaries unsupervised.

#### **Planting Greenery**

You will need:

Small pots  
Potting soil  
Green plants  
Paper cups



## Shavuot themed Shabbat Mishpacha

Submitted by: *Marcia Seigal*

What you do:

- 1) Scoop some soil into a pot with a paper cup.
- 2) Drop a green plant into the pot. Then surround it with soil.
- 3) Take the plant home and place it in a sunny spot and water when needed in order to keep soil slightly moist.

### Tissue Paper Flowers

Gather a few sheets of multi-colored tissue paper in the middle and wrap a pipe cleaner around them. Connect a few tissue paper flowers together in order to create a garland, if desired.