Counting the Omer

April 16 - June 4, 2014
(16 Nissan—6 Sivan)

Shoresh David Messianic Synagogue

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Counting The Omer
The Purpose

***"Then you are to count from the morrow after the* Shabbat *(Passover), from the day that you brought the* omer *of the wave offering, seven complete* Shabbats. *Until the morrow after the seventh* Shabbat *you are to count fifty days, and then present a new grain offering to* ADONAI." **--Leviticus 23:15-16 [TLV]**

An omer is a unit of measure. On the second day of Passover, in the days of the Temple, an omer of barley was cut down and brought to the Temple as an offering.

Every day we count, let us be reminded of the link between Pesach (Passover), which commemorates the Exodus, and Shavuot (Feast of Weeks - Pentecost), which commemorates the giving of the Torah (First 5 Books of the Bible) and God's Spirit. It reminds us that the redemption from slavery was not complete until we received the Torah - God's Word. It also reminds us that without God's Spirit, we don't have the ability to understand His Word, nor the strength to keep it.

Our purpose in counting the omer is to draw closer to God and be obedient to His Word. We should expect that our faith level will be raised each day in anticipation of what God will do in our lives, and in the lives of those around us!

You will have a new scripture to consider daily, along with a Thought, a Challenge and the Opportunity to Journal. However, Fridays are different - you will have the regular devotional, and then a second, two-page devotional, called "Shabbat with Friends & Family". The idea is to invite to your Shabbat dinner those who don't know the Lord, and have a discussion with them led by the questions in this booklet. Check it out now, and plan for your first outreach Shabbat meal - April 18th.

Each daily entry is short, so don't just read it - meditate on it! I pray that this "Counting the Omer" Devotional will be a blessing to you, and those you love!

Love in Messiah,

Rabbi Steve

Wednesday, April 16, 2014 (16 Nissan) • Omer Day 1

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 1st day of the 1st week and Day 1,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

John 10:14-15 [TLV*] "I am the Good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father. And I lay down My life for the sheep."

Thought:

God is Personal. He knows us and we should know Him. We mean so much to Him, He gave His life for us. He asks us to come each day to Him and have a conversation and read His Words. By doing that each day, He changes us to be more like Him.

Challenge:

How would you feel if you waited each day for your friend to call and they didn't? If Yeshua sat down next to you, what would you want to say to Him? Take a few minutes to pray, read God's Word, and write what God shows you.

Journal:

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*** [TLV] is Tree of Life translation. (www.tlvbible.com)**

Thursday, April 17, 2014 (17 Nissan) • Omer Day 2

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 2nd day of the 1st week and Day 2,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Psalm 5:2-3 [TLV] "Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, for to You I pray. In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch."

Thought:

"One should never initiate anything that you cannot saturate with prayer."

--Unknown Author

Challenge:

(1) When do you pray? (2) How often do you pray? (3) How long do you pray? (4) After your time of prayer, do you anticipate what God is going to do? (5) Close your eyes and picture what it means to saturate something in Prayer. Describe it below.

Journal:

Friday, April 18, 2014 (18 Nissan) • Omer Day 3

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 3rd day of the 1st week and Day 3,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Philippians 2:3-4 [TLV] "Do nothing out of selfishness or conceit, but with humility consider others as more important than yourselves, looking out not only for your own interests but also for the interests of others."

Thought:

Praying for others, including your enemies and those who do not know Messiah Yeshua (Jesus), is a sign of your love for God as well as people.

Challenge:

Do you love God? Prove it! Make time in your schedule each day to pray for others and their situations. Thankfully you don't have to die for all of humanity like Yeshua did, but you can spend time apart from life's distractions, and intercede for others. Below, list the names of those whom you will pray for.

Journal:

Shabbat with Family & Friends
Friday, April 18, 2014 (18 Nissan) • Omer Day 3

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגָּפֶן.

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
bo-ray p'ri ha-ga-fen. Amen.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Amen.

With this cup, we commit this observance to the Lord, and pray for His blessings over us as we seek to be holy, as He is holy.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, הַמּוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
ha-mo-tzi le-chem min ha-a-retz. Amen.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 3rd day of the 1st week and Day 3,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Exodus 34:9 [TLV] "He said, 'If now I have found grace in Your eyes, my Lord, let my Lord please go within our midst, even though this is a stiff-necked people. Pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for Your own inheritance.'"

Thought:

Praying for others shows leadership. It shows that you are willing to see them through God's eyes. Even though you might not share a sin that they are involved in, you are willing to take their burden to God in prayer.

Challenge:

(1) Whom do you know who is very difficult to pray for? (2) Think of people in our community, and/or in our Country, who need prayer. Write down who you will pray for.

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Discussion:

1. Give one example of how God answered a specific prayer for you.
2. Moses was one of the Bible's great intercessors. Discuss what you think his motivation/thoughts were when he prayed in Exodus 34:9.
3. The previous verse says: *"Then Moses quickly bowed his head down to the earth and worshipped."* Where do you pray, and in what position?
4. Discuss some of the differences between the prayer of Moses and the beginning of this one by Solomon in 1 Kings (8:22-23): *"Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven. He said, 'O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart"*
5. Moses and Solomon made prayer a priority...will you?

Blessing:

The head of the household, or leader, goes around and blesses each person at the table.

Saturday, April 19, 2014 (19 Nissan) • Omer Day 4

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 4th day of the 1st week and Day 4,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

1 Timothy 1:1-3 [TLV] "Therefore, first of all I urge that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made on behalf of all people—for kings and all who are in authority—so we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and respectfulness. This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior."

Thought:

What would happen if everyone in America who believed in Yeshua would proclaim the above Scripture daily?

Challenge:

Make your prayer list for America from these "7 Mountains of Influence":

1. Faith Community 2. Family 3. Government 4. Education
5. Media 6. Arts & Entertainment 7. Business

Journal:

Sunday, April 20, 2014 (20 Nissan) • Omer Day 5

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 5th day of the 1st week and Day 5,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Psalm 122:6-9 [TLV] "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May those who love you be at peace! May there be *shalom* within your walls—quietness within your palaces.' For the sake of my brothers and friends, I now say: 'Shalom be within you.' For the sake of the House of *ADONAI* our God, I will seek your good."

Thought:

Did God appoint you as a watchman with prayers day and night for Israel (e.g. Isaiah 62:6)?

Challenge:

Make your prayer list for Israel from these "7 Mountains of Influence":

1. Faith Community 2. Family 3. Government 4. Education
5. Media 6. Arts & Entertainment 7. Business

Journal:

Monday, April 21, 2014 (21 Nissan) • Omer Day 6

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 6th day of the 1st week and Day 6,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Philippians 4:6-7 [TLV] "Do not be anxious about anything—but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the *shalom* of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Messiah Yeshua."

Thought:

"Worry is having a prayer life without faith and confidence in God."

--Author Unknown

Challenge:

There are many ways to develop faith and confidence in God. One easy way is to pray Scripture because it has authority (ex: *"I will <u>not</u> be anxious about anything, but concerning everything in my life, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, I will make all my requests known to you, my God"*). Below, write a few Scriptures that you can use to help strengthen your prayer life.

Journal:

Tuesday, April 22, 2014 (22 Nissan) • Omer Day 7

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 7th day of the 1st week and Day 7,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Jeremiah 32:17 [TLV] "Ah my Lord *ADONAI!* Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm—nothing is too hard for You."

Thought:

God spoke the Universe into existence. Physicists thought protons and neutrons were small—until they discovered *quarks!* And astronomers thought they could estimate the number of stars in the Universe—until the Hubble telescope saw *thousands of galaxies with tens of billions of stars in each!* This is a clear representation of God's unlimited power! The combined energy of all of Earth's storms and other terrifying forces of nature, throughout history, cannot equal a *fraction* of God's power.

Challenge:

Describe how you see God's power in nature, in your life, and in the lives of your family and friends?

Journal:

Wednesday, April 23, 2014 (23 Nissan) • Omer Day 8

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 1st day of the 2nd week and Day 8,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Romans 8:37-38 [TLV] "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Messiah *Yeshua* our Lord."

Thought:

"Too much of anything is dangerous, unless it is God's love." --Author Unknown

Challenge:

Do you know God's love? Do you think that you can be separated from the love of God? Look at the Scripture above and write what evidence you have in your life that God loves you.

Journal:

Thursday, April 24, 2014 (24 Nissan) • Omer Day 9

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 2nd day of the 2nd week and Day 9,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Exodus 34:6-7 [TLV] "Then *ADONAI* passed before him, and proclaimed, '*ADONAI, ADONAI,* the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth, showing mercy to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means leaving the guilty unpunished, but bringing the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, to the third and fourth generation.'"

Thought:

Though we are incomplete, God loves us completely. Though we are imperfect, He loves us perfectly.

Challenge:

Is our character the same as God's character (e.g. Compassion, Grace, Slow to Anger, Abundant in Lovingkindness, Abundant in Truth, Showing Mercy, and Forgiving Sin)? Below, write about your character.

Journal:

Friday, April 25, 2014 (25 Nissan) • Omer Day 10

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 3rd day of the 2nd week and Day 10,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Colossians 1:15 [TLV] "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created— in heaven and on earth, the seen and the unseen, whether thrones or angelic powers or rulers or authorities. All was created through Him and for Him. He exists before everything, and in Him all holds together."

Thought:

God's power is inherent in His nature. His power has always been and will continue to be His for all eternity. Any power that we have is given to us by God.

Challenge:

(1) What power has God given you? (2) What power are you asking God to give you more of? Write your thoughts in the space below.

Journal:

Shabbat with Family & Friends
Friday, April 25, 2014 (25 Nissan) • Omer Day 10

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגָּפֶן.

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
bo-ray p'ri ha-ga-fen. Amen.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Amen.

With this cup, we commit this observance to the Lord, and pray for His blessings over us as we seek to be holy, as He is holy.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, הַמּוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
ha-mo-tzi le-chem min ha-a-retz. Amen.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 3rd day of the 2nd week and Day 10,
I have counted the Omer.

Shabbat With Friends & Family (continued)

Scripture:

Psalm 19:2-5 [TLV] "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky shows His handiwork. Day to day they speak, night to night they reveal knowledge. There is no speech, no words, where their voice goes unheard. Their voice has gone out to all the earth and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens He pitched a tent for the sun."

Thought:

"Their voice"? "Their" is plural and "voice" is singular—think about it. We try to put God in our box of conventional thinking, but even if we were all geniuses, God would still look upon our collective knowledge and wisdom as mere foolishness.

Challenge:

Can you recognize anything in your life that seems right, but you acknowledge that according to God's thinking it's probably foolishness? If so, how can change your thinking?

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Discussion:

1. Read other verses that talk about God's power including: Genesis 1, Psalm 62:11, Job 26:14, Jeremiah 10:12, Psalm 66:7, and Isaiah 9:6-7.
2. If God is all powerful, then all your power must come from Him.
3. If God is all powerful, He can be involved in your life without you knowing or even comprehending it.
4. If God is all powerful, He can make the Bible infallible even if men wrote the words in it.
5. If God is all powerful, He can change the natural to the supernatural (like having a baby born of a virgin).

Blessing:

The head of the household, or leader, goes around and blesses each person at the table.

Saturday, April 26, 2014 (26 Nissan) • Omer Day 11

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 4th day of the 2nd week and Day 11,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Exodus 15:11 [TLV] "Who is like You, *ADONAI*, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, awesome in praises, doing wonders."

Thought:

Matthew Henry, a 17th Century Clergyman, is attributed to this famous quote: *"No attribute of God is more dreadful to sinners than His holiness."* God's holiness in us requires our repentance and our humility.

Challenge:

In the spaces below, write some words that are descriptive of God's holiness. In what areas of your life do you need to repent?

Journal:

Sunday, April 27, 2014 (12 Nissan) • Omer Day 12

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 5th day of the 2nd week and Day 12,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Leviticus 11:45 [TLV] "For I am *ADONAI* who brought you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God . Therefore, you should be holy, for I am holy."

Thought:

Andrew Murray, a 19th Century preacher, said: *"In man, humility is the one thing needed to allow God's holiness to dwell in him and shine through him. The chief mark of counterfeit holiness is lack of humility. The holiest will be the humblest."* The litmus test for measuring the effectiveness of your efforts to attain holiness is the increasing amount of humility within you.

Challenge:

(1) Do you seek to be holy as God is holy? Or do you give up easily because you feel it's impossible. Write characteristics that you believe would make you more holy. (2) As you seek an intimate relationship with God, how will your desire to be more holy bring you closer to Him?

Journal:

Monday, April 28, 2014 (28 Nissan) • Omer Day 13

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 6th day of the 2nd week and Day 13,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

1 John 1:9-10 [TLV] "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us."

Thought:

God wants us to confess our sins and repent, but we allow guilt and condemnation to hold us back. It's difficult looking in the mirror and admitting we have a problem, but more difficult confessing to others and asking for prayer. Refusing to admit sin and be accountable keeps each of us from becoming the person He created us to be.

Challenge:

Ask God to show you the sin in your life. Then ask a friend for their opinion about sin in your life. Finally, ask God to show you if your friend was correct.

Journal:

Tuesday, April 29, 2014 (29 Nissan) • Omer Day 14

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 7th day of the 2nd week and Day 14,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 7:9 [TLV] "Know therefore that *ADONAI* your God, He is God—the faithful God who keeps covenant kindness for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His *mitzvot*."

Thought:

"Legalism says God will love us if we change. The gospel says God will change us because He loves us." --Tullian Tchivijian, Pastor

Challenge:

God is love. How do you know God loves you? Write a few Scriptures and then write how you know He loves you personally.

Journal:

Wednesday, April 30, 2014 (30 Nissan) • Omer Day 15

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 1st day of the 3rd week and Day 15,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

John 15:13 [TLV] "No one has greater love than this: that he lay down his life for his friends."

Thought:

You could lay down your life physically as many martyrs did, though doing so makes it harder to be a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12). Either way, if you become a sacrifice, you will never be a victim. Do this and you can be assured that you love God and that He is in you.

Challenge:

(1) Write examples of how one gives rights away when dealing with others. (2) Think about one of your more difficult relationships—would there be peace if you gave up your right to prove that you're right?

Journal:

Thursday, May 1, 2014 (1 Iyar) • Omer Day 16

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 2nd day of the 3rd week and Day 16,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Psalm 139:7-10 [TLV] "Where can I go from Your Ruach (Spirit)? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to heaven, You are there, and if I make my bed in *Sheol*, look, You are there too. If I take the wings of the dawn and settle on the other side of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me."

Thought:

God is always with you! Take comfort in knowing you are never alone!

Challenge:

Write down examples from your life that showed you that God was with you.

Journal:

Friday, May 2, 2014 (2 Iyar) • Omer Day 17

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 3rd day of the 3rd week and Day 17,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Proverbs 30:5 [TLV] "Every word of God is purified. He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him." John 18:37 [TLV] "For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, so that I might testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Thought:

God is truth. *Yeshua* is the Word made flesh. *Yeshua* testifies, throughout the Bible, of God's truths and that He is truth.

Challenge:

(1) When you read the Bible, do you use God's words to find His truth? Or do you use it to back up your own truths? (2) Are there certain areas of the Bible that you struggle to agree with? Write them down, then meditate on who God is and why our truth must come from His truth.

Journal:

Shabbat with Family & Friends
Friday, May 2, 2014 (2 Iyar) • Omer Day 17

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגָּפֶן.

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
bo-ray p'ri ha-ga-fen. Amen.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Amen.

With this cup, we commit this observance to the Lord, and pray for His blessings over us as we seek to be holy, as He is holy.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, הַמּוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
ha-mo-tzi le-chem min ha-a-retz. Amen.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 3rd day of the 3rd week and Day 17,
I have counted the Omer.**

Shabbat With Friends & Family (continued)

Scripture:

Proverbs 30:4-7 [TLV] "'Who has gone up into heaven, and come down? Who has gathered the wind in the palm of His hand? Who has wrapped the waters in a cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name and what is the name of His Son—if you know?' Every word of God is purified. He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words, or else He will rebuke you and prove you a liar."

Thought:

The Bible is God's Word—God's Word is purified (e.g. truth)...and *Yeshua* is the Word made flesh. So God warns never to add anything to His Word, yet also says He's your shield in times of trouble. Look at what it says in Psalm 2:11-12: *"Serve ADONAI with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish along your way—since His wrath may flare up suddenly. Happy is everyone taking refuge in Him!"*

Challenge:

(1) Define "truth". (2) Do you think truth is "relative", meaning that it can change? (3) If people say truth can change, can it be truth?

_____

_____

_____

Discussion:

1. If truth can change, what word in our English language can be used for a truth that cannot change?
2. List a few truths that don't change.
3. The ability to understand truth as unchangeable depends on how you feel about the authority who brings the truth.
4. Is there an authority figure that is right all the time? Person? God?
5. If we have no authority figure over us, would you agree that we then have become the authority—making ourselves God.

Blessing:

The head of the household, or leader, goes around and blesses each person at the table.

Saturday, May 3, 2014 (3 Iyar) • Omer Day 18

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 4th day of the 3rd week and Day 18,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Psalm 86:5 [TLV] "For You, my Lord, are good and ready to forgive and full of mercy to all who call upon You."

Thought:

God shows mercy to **all** who call on His Name. Regardless of our sins, when we cry out, He is there and shows His mercy. As Romans 5:8 says: *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Messiah died for us."*

Challenge:

(1) Say this aloud 3 times: "God wants me to show mercy to others." (2) Who do *you* know who you believe is 'undeserving' of grace and mercy? Write their names and what you can intentionally do to show them that mercy.

Journal:

Sunday, May 4, 2014 (4 Iyar) • Omer Day 19

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 5th day of the 3rd week and Day 19,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

James 2:12-13 [TLV] "So speak and act as those who will be judged according to a Torah that gives freedom. For judgment is merciless to the one who does not show mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

Thought:

In John 8, Yeshua tells a woman who was condemned to death for committing adultery: *"Then neither do I condemn you...now go, and sin no more."* God's Law through Moses demanded her death; so then did Yeshua violate this command? Not at all. Yeshua told the woman to "sin no more" knowing He would take the punishment for her.

Challenge:

God is seeking to teach us mercy. Each circumstance allows mercy to look different, however, it always seems to require courage and compassion. Try to explain below the connection between mercy, courage, and compassion.

Journal:

Monday, May 5, 2014 (5 Iyar) • Omer Day 20

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 6th day of the 3rd week and Day 20,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Galatians 5:22-24 [TLV] "But the fruit of the *Ruach (Spirit)* is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Messiah have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

Thought:

"Fruit is always the miraculous, the created; it is never the result of willing, but always a growth. The fruit of the Spirit is a gift of God, and only He can produce it. They who bear it know as little about it as the tree knows of its fruit. They know only the power of Him on whom their life depends."

--Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "The Cost of Discipleship"

Challenge:

(1) Are your fruits growing? (2) Which fruits are your best? (3) Which need greater growth? (4) What are you doing to encourage growth?

Journal:

Tuesday, May 6, 2014 (6 Iyar) • Omer Day 21

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 7th day of the 3rd week and Day 21,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Philippians 4:4-7 [TLV] "Rejoice in the Lord always—again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all people. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything—but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the *shalom* of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Messiah *Yeshua*.

Thought:

"I think we all sin by needlessly disobeying the apostolic injunction to 'rejoice' as much as by anything else." --C.S. Lewis, "The Problem of Pain"

Challenge:

(1) Have you cultivated a habit of rejoicing? (2) Can you rejoice continuously? Can you rejoice in all things? (3) Do other people see your rejoicing spirit?

Journal:

Wednesday, May 7, 2014 (7 Iyar) • Omer Day 22

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 1st day of the 4th week and Day 22,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Isaiah 26:3 [TLV] "You keep in perfect peace one whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."

Thought:

Mother Teresa said *"Peace begins with a smile"*. The amount of peace that shows on your face depends on your ability to trust God even during difficult times.

Challenge:

(1) How much peace do you have in your life? (2) If you don't have peace, are you doing anything to get it? (3) Write ideas on what you can do to trust God more so you can enter into His rest. [e.g. Psalm 37:7-9]

Journal:

Thursday, May 8, 2014 (8 Iyar) • Omer Day 23

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 2nd day of the 4th week and Day 23,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Colossians 1:11 [TLV] "We pray that you may be strengthened with all the power that comes from His glorious might, for you to have all kinds of patience and steadfastness." Colossians 3:12 [TLV] "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves in tender compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."

Thought:

"He that can have patience can have what he will." (Benjamin Franklin)
"All things come to him who waits – provided he knows what he is waiting for."
--Woodrow T. Wilson

Challenge:

(1) Do you desire more patience? (2) Write down those things that you know trigger your impatience. How can you develop more patience? Well?? What are you waiting for??? ☺

Journal:

Friday, May 9, 2014 (9 Iyar) • Omer Day 24

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 3rd day of the 4th week and Day 24,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Ephesians 4:32 [TLV] "Instead, be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other just as God in Messiah also forgave you."

Thought:

"You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late." (Ralph Waldo Emerson) *"Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind."* (Henry James)

Challenge:

(1) Do you consider yourself kind? (2) Do others consider you kind? (3) Take a moment to close your eyes and get a picture of what "kindness" looks like—write that down. Then write what you can do daily to be kinder to those whom you deal with in your daily life.

Journal:

Shabbat with Family & Friends
Friday, May 9, 2014 (9 Iyar) • Omer Day 24

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגָּפֶן.

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
bo-ray p'ri ha-ga-fen. Amen.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Amen.

With this cup, we commit this observance to the Lord, and pray for His blessings over us as we seek to be holy, as He is holy.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, הַמּוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
ha-mo-tzi le-chem min ha-a-retz. Amen.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 3rd day of the 4th week and Day 24,
I have counted the Omer.**

Shabbat With Friends & Family (continued)

Scripture:

Psalm 25:8-9 [TLV] "Good and upright is *ADONAI*. Therefore He directs sinners in the way. He guides the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way." Psalm 34:9 [TLV] "Taste and see how good *ADONAI* is. Blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him." Psalm 31:20 [TLV] How great is Your goodness, which You have stored up for those who fear You, which You have given to those who take refuge in You, before the children of men."

Thought:

"Goodness" does not describe our behavior, but rather is descriptive of the condition of our heart. "Goodness" is automatic—it's the result of our heart being transformed by God's heart.

Challenge:

Define "goodness".

_____

_____

_____

Discussion:

1. Who determines what is good behavior?
2. Is good behavior dependent on our culture (meaning it can change depending on when and where you live)?
3. Are there certain absolutes, truths, that don't change? If so, where do they come from?
4. Is it reasonable to sacrifice good behavior in order to achieve a goal that you feel would not be achieved in any other way? (e.g. Not telling all the truth on your tax return to get more money back.)
5. Is it possible for those who are not believers in Yeshua to be "better in their goodness" then those who do believe in Him? Discuss the various aspects of this question.

Blessing:

The head of the household, or leader, goes around and blesses each person at the table.

Saturday, May 10, 2014 (10 Iyar) • Omer Day 25

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 4th day of the 4th week and Day 25,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Lamentations 3:21-23 [TLV] "This I recall to my heart—therefore I have hope: Because of the mercies of *ADONAI* we will not be consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning! Great is Your faithfulness."

Thought:

"Marriage has a unique place because it speaks of an absolute faithfulness, a covenant between radically different persons, male and female; and so it echoes the absolute covenant of God with His chosen, a covenant between radically different partners." --Rowan D. Williams, Theologian

Challenge:

(1) Is your "yes" or "no" dependable? (2) Do you change your mind based on your feelings (e.g. you were hurt, disappointed, felt sick, etc.) (3) God is faithful! So, how are you who represent God also faithful?

Journal:

Sunday, May 11, 2014 (11 Iyar) • Omer Day 26

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 5th day of the 4th week and Day 26,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Proverbs 15:1 [TLV] "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Psalm 18:36 [TLV] "You gave me the shield of Your salvation. Your right hand upholds me, Your gentleness makes me great." Matthew 11:29 [TLV] "'Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and 'you will find rest for your souls.'"

Thought:

God wants us to use gentleness when seeking to correct someone in their sin. As it says in Galatians 6:1, *"Brethren, if someone is caught doing something wrong, you who are directed by the Ruach, restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness—looking closely at yourself so you are not tempted also."*

Challenge:

(1) Write an instance of when you tried to correct a fellow Believer in their sin but they resisted. (2) Would things have turned out better had you used more love and gentleness? (3) How can you become more gentle in order to be more like Yeshua?

Journal:

Monday, May 12, 2014 (12 Iyar) • Omer Day 27

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 6th day of the 4th week and Day 27,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 9:25-27 [TLV] "Every competitor exercises self-control in all respects. They do it to receive a perishable crown, but we do it to receive an imperishable one. So I run in this way—not aimlessly. So I box in this way—not beating the air. Rather, I punish my body and bring it into submission, so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."

Thought:

"Educate your children to self-control, to the habit of holding passion and prejudice and evil tendencies subject to an upright and reasoning will, and you have done much to abolish misery from their future and crimes from society." --Benjamin Franklin

Challenge:

(1) Do you practice self-control, or leave it up to chance? (2) If you're weak in some fruits of the Spirit then you probably haven't developed enough self-control to bring about transformation. Write things you can do to practice self-control.

Journal:

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 (13 Iyar) • Omer Day 28

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 7th day of the 4th week and Day 28,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Hebrews 12:11 [TLV] "Now all discipline seems painful at the moment—not joyful. But later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

Thought:

"Self-respect is the root of discipline: The sense of dignity grows with the ability to say no to oneself." --Abraham Joshua Heschel, "Insecurity of Freedom"

Challenge:

It's interesting that our sense of dignity "*grows with the ability to say no to [ourselves]"*. (1) List something in your life that you need to say "no" to. (2) Write how you felt when you said "yes" to yourself, yet you knew that you should have said "no". (3) What can you do to develop more self-discipline and consequently bolster your dignity?

Journal:

Wednesday, Month 14, 2014 (14 Iyar) • Omer Day 29

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 1st day of the 5th week and Day 29,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

1 Peter 2:13 [TLV] "For the Lord's sake, submit yourselves to every human authority—whether to a king as supreme, or to governors sent by him for the punishment of those who do evil and the praise of those who do good. For this is God's will, that you silence the ignorance of foolish men by doing good."

Thought:

"Football is like life—it requires perseverance, self-denial, hard work, sacrifice, dedication and respect for authority." --Vince Lombardi, former NFL Coach

Challenge:

(1) Do you respect authority? (2) Write the names of at least 3 people who's authority you are under, and answer whether or not you treat them with respect. (3) How do you react when you disagree with them?

Journal:

Thursday, May 15, 2014 (15 Iyar) • Omer Day 30

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 2nd day of the 5th week and Day 30,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Matthew 16:23-24 [TLV] "But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind Me, satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but the things of men.' Then *Yeshua* said to His disciples, "If anyone wants to follow after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me."

Thought:

"I have now concentrated all my prayers into one, and that one prayer is this, that I may die to self, and live wholly to Him." --Charles H. Spurgeon, Theologian

Challenge:

Close your eyes and imagine what "denying yourself" looks like. (1) What changes will you make in certain areas of your life so that you can deny yourself? (2) What outcome should this produce?

Journal:

Friday, May 16, 2014 (16 Iyar) • Omer Day 31

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 3rd day of the 5th week and Day 31,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Ezekiel 33:6 [TLV] "But if the watchman sees the sword come and does not blow the *shofar*, the people are not warned. Then the sword does come and takes a person from among them—he is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand."

Thought:

Scripture drives us to find ways of being useful citizens for God's Kingdom. Remaining silent, fearing man, and doing nothing, are not options!

Challenge:

What has God been speaking to you about that you have not spoken of nor acted upon?

Journal:

Shabbat with Family & Friends
Friday, May 16, 2014 (16 Iyar) • Omer Day 31

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגָּפֶן.

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
bo-ray p'ri ha-ga-fen. Amen.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Amen.

With this cup, we commit this observance to the Lord, and pray for His blessings over us as we seek to be holy, as He is holy.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, הַמּוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
ha-mo-tzi le-chem min ha-a-retz. Amen.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 3rd day of the 5th week and Day 31,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Isaiah 62:6 [TLV] "On your walls, Jerusalem, I have set watchmen. All day and all night, they will never hold their peace. 'You who remind *ADONAI*, take no rest for yourselves, and give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.'"

Psalm 122:6 [TLV] "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem—'May those who love you be at peace! May there be shalom within your walls—quietness within your palaces.'"

Ezekiel 33:6 [TLV] "But if the watchman sees the sword come and does not blow the *shofar*, the people are not warned. Then the sword does come and takes a person from among them—he is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand."

Thought:

"I pray Heaven to bestow the best of Blessings on this House and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise Men ever rule under this roof."

--John Adams, on moving into the White House

Challenge & Discussion:

(1) How should we, who believe in the Bible, seek to influence the culture surrounding our daily lives; including social issues, legislation, and public policy? (2) How has the culture negatively influenced us as Believers? (3) Are there places in the Bible that deal with social issues and public policy? (4) Did Yeshua address the social issues and public policy of that time?

Jot down notes to help answer the above questions.

Blessing:

The head of the household, or leader, goes around and blesses each person at the table.

Saturday, May 17, 2014 (17 Iyar) • Omer Day 32

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 4th day of the 5th week and Day 32,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Leviticus 20:22-24 [TLV] "Now you are to keep all My statutes and all My ordinances and do them, so that the land where I am bringing you to dwell will not vomit you out. You are not to walk in the ways of the nation which I am casting out before you, for they did all these things and therefore I abhorred them. But I have said to you, 'You will inherit their land and I will give it to you to possess it, a land flowing with milk and honey.' I am *ADONAI* your God, who has set you apart from the peoples."

Thought:

God made you for a particular purpose. He guides your life differently after you answer His call, and although it may not *seem* like you're in ministry, you are called to minister to others daily. Because God set you apart, you are fulfilling your destiny here on Earth.

Challenge:

(1) What has God called <u>you</u> to do? (2) What are you accomplishing right now for Him?

Journal:

Sunday, Month 18, 2014 (18 Iyar) • Omer Day 33

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 5th day of the 5th week and Day 33,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 7:6 [TLV] "For you are a holy people to *ADONAI* your God—from all the peoples on the face of the earth, *ADONAI* your God has chosen you to be His treasured people." 1 Peter 2:9 [TLV] "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Thought:

"According to the Old Testament, God chose the descendants of Abraham through the line of Isaac and Jacob—the ancestors of today's Jews—as the people through whom he would reveal himself to the world. God therefore freed them from slavery in Egypt and led them into the Promised Land." --Cultural Dictionary

Challenge:

(1) Do you feel "chosen"? Why or why not? (2) Do you feel God leading you into His Promised Land? (3) How is your presence revealing God to the world?

Journal:

Monday, May 19, 2014 (19 Iyar) • Omer Day 34

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 6th day of the 5th week and Day 34,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Romans 12:2 [TLV] "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Thought:

Knowing God's Will requires your transformation by the renewing of your mind. A "renewed mind" naturally enjoys being around other "renewed minds" for fellowship, community, and accountability.

Challenge:

(1) Has your mind been renewed by God? If so, then is your mind dwelling on God and His Will for your life 24/7? (2) In how you live your life and the choices you make, whom are you accountable to? Would those people say that you are accountable to them?

Journal:

Tuesday, May 20, 2014 (20 Iyar) • Omer Day 35

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 7th day of the 5th week and Day 35,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

John 17:15-18 [TLV] "I am not asking that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Make them holy in the truth. Your word is truth. Just as You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world."

Thought:

Just as Yeshua was sent into the world, so are we to proclaim the Good News. However, in doing so, we cannot allow the evil one to cause us to stumble. By reading God's Word daily and staying focused on Him, we can remain on that narrow path of holiness (e.g. Matthew 7:13-14) .

Challenge:

(1) Are you so "heavenly-minded" that people dismiss you, or so "earthly-minded" that few can tell the difference between you and an unbeliever. (2) What areas of your life do you have to be careful about?

Journal:

Wednesday, May 21, 2014 (21 Iyar) • Omer Day 36

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 1st day of the 6th week and Day 36,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

1 Kings 18:38-40 [TLV] "Then the fire of *ADONAI* fell and consumed the burnt offering—and the wood, the stones and the dust—and licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces, and they said, '*ADONAI*, He is God! *ADONAI*, He is God!' Then Elijah said to them, 'Seize the prophets of Baal! Let not a single one of them escape.'"

Thought:

Our God is a miracle-working God. Everything in nature was created by God, and even man-made structures would not be possible without the raw materials, physics, and knowledge which come from God.

Challenge:

(1) Write down a "big" miracle that you've personally witnessed, or one that someone else experienced and told you about. (2) Why do you suppose we don't see more miracles happening today?

Journal:

Thursday, May 22, 2014 (22 Iyar) • Omer Day 37

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 2nd day of the 6th week and Day 37,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Mark 5:28-30,34 [TLV] "For she kept saying, 'If I touch even His clothes, I shall be healed.' Right away the blood flow stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed from her disease. At once *Yeshua*, knowing in Himself that power had gone out from Him, turned around in the crowd and said, 'Who touched My clothes?' And He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in *shalom* and be healed from your disease.'"

Thought:

God *can* heal us whether or not we have faith. However, most healings are dependant on the level of faith of at least one person, if not two.

Challenge:

(1) Do you believe God wants to heal you physically, emotionally, financially, etc.? (2) Write down your needs for healing. (3) Write down a loved one's needs. (4) Now pray God's will, believing and expecting that He will answer your prayers.

Journal:

Friday, May 23, 2014 (23 Iyar) • Omer Day 38

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 3rd day of the 6th week and Day 38,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Isaiah 62:1-2 [TLV] "For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness shines out brightly, and her salvation as a blazing torch. Nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You will be called by a new name, which *ADONAI*'s mouth will bestow."

Thought:

"Some people like the Jews, and some do not. But no thoughtful man can deny the fact that they are, beyond any question, the most formidable and most remarkable race which has appeared in the world." --Winston S. Churchill

Challenge:

(1) What has God burdened in your heart for the Land of Israel? (2) In what ways do you speak up, and take action, when it comes to the security and well-being of Israel and her people?

Journal:

Shabbat with Family & Friends
Friday, May 23, 2014 (23 Iyar) • Omer Day 38

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגָּפֶן.

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
bo-ray p'ri ha-ga-fen. Amen.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Amen.

With this cup, we commit this observance to the Lord, and pray for His blessings over us as we seek to be holy, as He is holy.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, הַמּוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
ha-mo-tzi le-chem min ha-a-retz. Amen.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 3rd day of the 6th week and Day 38,
I have counted the Omer.**

Shabbat With Friends & Family (continued)

Scripture:

Exodus 14:21-22 [TLV] "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. *ADONAI* drove the sea back with a strong east wind throughout the night and turned the sea into dry land. So the waters were divided. Then *Bnei-Yisrael* (Sons of Israel) went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, while the waters were like walls to them on their right and on their left."

Thought:

"Miracles are a retelling in small letters of the very same story which is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see." --C. S. Lewis

Challenge:

How would you define a "miracle". Are miracles really possible? Who is the author of miracles?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Discussion:

1. Did miracles in the Bible really happen?
2. The definition of a miracle is: *"an extraordinary event in the physical world that surpasses all known human or natural powers and is ascribed to a supernatural cause"*. By contrast, the definition of coincidence is: *"a striking occurrence of two or more events at one time apparently by mere chance"*. Discuss the difference(s) between the two.
3. Does God still perform miracles?
4. Have you ever seen a real miracle? If so, share about it.
5. Which comes first, and why?
   - Believing God and then seeing miracles.
   - Seeing miracles and then believing in God.

Blessing:

The head of the household, or leader, goes around and blesses each person at the table.

Saturday, May 24, 2014 (24 Iyar) • Omer Day 39

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 4th day of the 6th week and Day 39,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

1 Chronicles 29:11 [TLV] "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all."

Proverbs 24:6 [TLV] "For by wise guidance you will wage war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory."

Thought:

"*Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure… than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat."*

--Theodore Roosevelt

Challenge:

Are you sensing a change in your spiritual atmosphere? Believe God—victory is yours! Appropriate your faith in new ways; expect healings, deliverances, and victories over even lifetime battles. This is a good time to join His army: hear the Word of God, believe the Word of God, and see God's manifestations in our lives.

Journal:

Sunday, Month 25, 2014 (25 Iyar) • Omer Day 40

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 5th day of the 6th week and Day 40,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Matthew 23:11-12 [TLV] "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." 2 Timothy 2:23-26 [TLV] "But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will."

Thought:

"He who is not a good servant will not be a good master." --Plato

Challenge:

(1) Why do you enjoy doing mitzvot (good deeds) by serving others and bearing their burdens? (2) How are others encouraged by your excellence and willingness to serve? (3) Do you do these things because of your dedication to Yeshua, or because you enjoy getting the proverbial "pat on the back".

Journal:

Monday, May 26, 2014 (26 Iyar) • Omer Day 41

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 6th day of the 6th week and Day 41,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Isaiah 61:10 [TLV] "I will Rejoice greatly in the Lord, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."

Thought:

"Service which is rendered without joy helps neither the servant nor the served. But all other pleasures and possessions pale into nothingness before service which is rendered in a spirit of joy." --Mahatma Gandhi

Challenge:

(1) Do you really rejoice in the Lord always? (2) When people or situations irritate you, what must you do to rejoice in the Lord? (3) When you are feeling down, how do you go to the Lord and rejoice? (4) Do you rejoice as you serve others?

Journal:

Tuesday, May 27, 2014 (27 Iyar) • Omer Day 42

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 7th day of the 6th week and Day 42,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Psalm 119:11 [TLV] "Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!" Isaiah 40:8 [TLV] "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever." Isaiah 55:11 [TLV] "So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

Thought:

"My intelligence will take me to my limit but only the Word of God can take me beyond." --Author Unknown

"So great is my veneration for the Bible, that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hopes that they will prove useful citizens to their country and respectable members of society."--John Quincy Adams

Challenge:

The Bible is trustworthy. God's Word is powerful and can change your life. God's Word will be with us forever. (1) How does reading the Bible affect you daily? (2) What has God's Word done for you?

Journal:

Wednesday, May 28, 2014 (28 Iyar) • Omer Day 43

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 1st day of the 7th week and Day 43,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Matthew 4:4 [TLV] "But He answered and said, 'It is written, `man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.´"" Luke 11:28 [TLV] "But He said, 'More than that, blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!'" Ephesians 6:17 [TLV] "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God;"

Thought:

"The word of God, it can break you down and lift you up at the same time!"

--Unknown Author

Challenge:

(1) Is the Word of God prominent in you life? If so, how? (2) How is the Word of God related to the "Sword of the Spirit"? (3) If you disagree with the Word of God, what do you do? (Who wins?)

Journal:

Thursday, May 29, 2014 (29 Iyar) • Omer Day 44

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 2nd day of the 7th week and Day 44,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Psalm 1:1-3 [TLV] "Happy is the one who has not walked in the advice of the wicked, nor stood in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seat of scoffers. But his delight is in the *Torah* of *ADONAI*, and on His *Torah* he meditates day and night. He will be like a planted tree over streams of water, producing its fruit during its season. Its leaf never droops—but in all he does, he succeeds."

Thought:

"This book of the Torah should not depart from your mouth—you are to meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. For then you will make your ways prosperous and then you will be successful." --Joshua 1:8

Challenge:

When you meditate on God's Word, He promises success as you apply it to your daily life. (1) During your day, how does Scripture crowd out the world and how does the world try to crowd out Scripture? (2) How do you apply Scripture in each area of your life?

Journal:

Friday, May 30, 2014 (1 Sivan) • Omer Day 45

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 3rd day of the 7th week and Day 45,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Isaiah 9:5-6 [TLV] "For to us a child is born, a son will be given to us, and the government will be upon his shoulder. His Name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God My Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and *shalom* there will be no end—on the throne of David and over His kingdom—to establish it and uphold it through justice and righteousness from now until forevermore. The zeal of *ADONAI*-Tzva'ot will accomplish this."

Thought:

The above is a prophecy given to Isaiah 700 years before Yeshua's birth. Because Jewish people believe in one God and not to have any idols, this gives them difficulty as they ponder a baby being called "mighty God". Prophecy helps prove the accuracy and authority of God's Word.

Challenge:

(1) Have you memorized the Scriptural prophesies about Yeshua in order to share your faith with our Jewish brethren? (2) Do you know where those Scriptures are located? (3) Below, write 10 Scripture references that you would use when sharing your faith in Yeshua.

Journal:

Shabbat with Family & Friends
Friday, May 30, 2014 (1 Sivan) • Omer Day 45

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגָּפֶן.

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
bo-ray p'ri ha-ga-fen. Amen.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Amen.

With this cup, we commit this observance to the Lord, and pray for His blessings over us as we seek to be holy, as He is holy.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, הַמּוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
ha-mo-tzi le-chem min ha-a-retz. Amen.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

**Today is the 3rd day of the 7th week and Day 45,
I have counted the Omer.**

Scripture:

Romans 11:25 [TLV] "For I do not want you, brethren , to be ignorant of this mystery—lest you be wise in your own eyes —that a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."

Luke 21:24 [TLV] "They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led away captive into all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."

Thought:

The modern Messianic Movement was birthed just after 1967 when Jerusalem was taken over by Israel. God said in His Word that He would restore Israel; He is faithful to His Word and His timing is perfect.

Challenge and Discussion:

Imagine living 2000 years ago and hearing this prophecy: *Jewish people would have a hardening of their hearts towards Yeshua until they once again controlled Jerusalem.* The modern day Messianic Movement began when Jerusalem returned to Jewish control. After that happened, "supernaturally", blinders suddenly started falling off, as many Jewish people worldwide began accepting Yeshua as their promised Messiah. Question**:** *Is this is an amazing miracle, or just mere coincidence? You thoughts?*

1. How many prophesies fulfilled should it take for anyone to believe that God and the Bible are real and should be taken seriously?
2. There are over 300 prophesies in the Hebrew Scriptures that Yeshua fulfilled. Should that be enough to consider Yeshua as Messiah?
3. Discuss this prophecy from Isaiah 9:5-6 (6-7) *"For to us a child is born, a son will be given to us , and the government will be upon his shoulder . His Name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God My Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and shalom there will be no end—on the throne of David and over His kingdom—to establish it and uphold it through justice and righteousness from now until forevermore. The zeal of ADONAI-Tzva'ot will accomplish this."*
4. Even with so many Hebrew Scripture prophecies fulfilled about Yeshua, why do you think Jewish people still deny Yeshua as Messiah and Lord?

Blessing:

The head of the household, or leader, goes around and blesses each person at the table.

Saturday, May 31, 2014 (2 Sivan) • Omer Day 46

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 4th day of the 7th week and Day 46,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Numbers 11:24-25 [TLV] "So Moses went out and told the people *ADONAI*'s words. He gathered 70 of the elders of the people and had them stand around the Tent. *ADONAI* descended in the cloud and spoke with him. He took some of the *Ruach* that was on him and placed it on each of the 70 elders. It so happened that when the *Ruach* first rested on them, they prophesied—but never again."

Thought:

Just as the 70 elders received God's Spirit, which was on Moses, God wants us to receive His Spirit, which was and is upon Yeshua.

Challenge:

(1) Do you earnestly desire the gifts of The Spirit that are from God [e.g. 1 Cor. 12:31]? (2) What spiritual gifts do you currently have and use? (3) How do you exercise the gifts that you have been given? (4) Does God want you to have more? Explain.

Journal:

Sunday, June 1, 2014 (3 Sivan) • Omer Day 47

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 5th day of the 7th week and Day 47,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Isaiah 61:1-3 [TLV] "The Spirit of *ADONAI Elohim* is on me , because *ADONAI* has anointed me to proclaim Good News to the poor . He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, to proclaim the year of *ADONAI*'s favor and the day of our God's vengeance, to comfort all who mourn to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they might be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of *ADONAI,* that He may be glorified.

Thought:

Imagine what it would be like to have God's Spirit empowering us to be effective talmidim (disciples). This is God's desire for us—it should be our desire as well so that we can better accomplish His will!

Challenge:

(1) Do you desire God's Spirit daily [e.g. Isaiah 61:1-3]? (2) Write down what you can do to accomplish God's "Isaiah 61:1-3" in your life.

Journal:

Monday, June 2, 2014 (4 Sivan) • Omer Day 48

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 6th day of the 7th week and Day 48,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Acts 2:1-4 [TLV] "When the day of *Shavuot* had come, they were all together in one place. Suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And tongues like fire spreading out appeared to them and settled on each one of them. They were all filled with the *Ruach ha-Kodesh* and began to speak in other tongues as the *Ruach* enabled them to speak out."

Thought:

"The fact is, Christians are more to blame for not being revived than sinners are for not being converted." --Charles G. Finney

Challenge:

(1) What does revival look like to you? (2) What are its' characteristics? (3) As you strive to improve your relationship with God, explain how you expect God will meet you and bring you personal revival?

Journal:

Tuesday, June 3, 2014 (5 Sivan) • Omer Day 49

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 7th day of the 7th week and Day 49,
I have counted the Omer.

Scripture:

Romans 8:26-27 [TLV] "In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 [TLV] "Therefore, brethren, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But let everything be done decently and in order."

Thought:

"But you, loved ones, continue building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Ruach ha-Kodesh." --Jude 1:20 [TLV]

Challenge:

(1) Do you pray in tongues? (2) If you do, what are the benefits to you of praying in tongues? (3) If you do not pray in tongues, then why not? (4) If you agree that God gives everyone His gifts, how do we go about finding them and exercising them?

Journal:

Wednesday, June 4, 2014 (6 Sivan) • Omer Day 50

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher kid-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu al s'-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by Your commandments and has commanded us to count the Omer.

Today is the 50th day, and I have counted the Omer!
Baruch HaShem, it is Shavuot!

Scripture:

Acts 20:16 [TLV] "For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he might not spend much time in Asia, because he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Shavuot."

Thought:

God's Appointed Times are to be anticipated and planned. Whether it is Shabbat or Shavuot, let us be mindful and obedient of His desires.

Challenge:

Every day is a new day with the Lord. Are you ready to begin a new chapter with Him? Will you desire Him? Will you push other things out of the way for Him? Will you show Him love? Will you be consistent? Yeshua is coming for His bride. Will you ready yourself??!!

Journal:

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[TLV] is Tree of Life translation. (www.tlvbible.com)

Notes:

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