

Ma Navu

מַדְּנָבוּ נִאֲוֹר

Ma Navu—How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Isaiah 52:7, NJPS

As is our tradition in the UMJC, we share in 49 days of unified prayer from Passover to the festival of Shavuot, the period of counting the Omer based on Leviticus 23:15-16.

And from the day on which you bring the Omer, the sheaf of elevation offering—the day after the Shabbat—you shall count seven weeks. They must be complete; you must count until the day after the seventh week—fifty days . . .

For the Messianic Jewish community, counting the Omer also marks the days between Messiah's resurrection during Passover and the outpouring of the Spirit fifty days later on Shavuot. Our theme verse, which we share with this year's annual UMJC conference (July 28-31 in Seattle), reminds us to spread the good news of Messiah by living it out. So let's WALKit! with seven weeks of spiritual mobilization in prayer for the entire Messianic Jewish community, here and in Israel.

We begin on the second night of Passover, Tuesday, March 30. Some communities follow the alternate count, beginning after the close of the Shabbat of Passover week, or April 3. Both customs count the Omer in the evening. Here's how:

1. Recite the blessing,

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו על ספירת העמר.

Baruch atah Adonai Elobenu melech ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al sefrat ha-Omer.

Blessed are you O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by his commandments and commanded us concerning the count of the Omer.

2. During the first week say “Today is day ___ of the Omer.” Through the rest of the weeks, say, “Today is day ___, which is ___ week(s) and ___ day(s) of the Omer.”

3. WALKit! Pray for the request of the week, listed on the reverse side. Before saying the nightly prayer, remember that we are approaching the most high God, and begin with an offering of praise to him.

4. After you pray each night, put aside one dollar – or more! – to present as your offering for Shavuot on the fiftieth night: *You must count until the day after the seventh week—fifty days; then you shall bring an offering of new grain to the Lord. You shall bring from your dwellings two loaves of bread as an elevation offering . . . as firstfruits to the Lord. Leviticus 23:16-17*

5. Check off the box for each day in the chart on the reverse side.

- Omer 1
- Omer 2
- Omer 3
- Omer 4
- Omer 5
- Omer 6
- Omer 7

Working

March 30–April 5 (Alternate, April 3–9)

Are we working on our character? Are those around us affected positively by our example of Messiah Yeshua? We pray for the character and example of Messianic Jewish believers in Israel and throughout the world to be deepened, intensified, and mobilized. *Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. Isaiah 56:1*

- Omer 8
- Omer 9
- Omer 10
- Omer 11
- Omer 12
- Omer 13
- Omer 14

Alive

April 6–12 (Alternate, April 10–16)

Are we alive, living a spiritually healthy and vibrant Messianic Jewish life? Are Scripture, tradition, and prayer through the Spirit of Messiah empowering and renewing us as individuals and congregations? We pray for spiritual renewal, for the Ruach to empower and mobilize the entire Messianic Jewish community. *For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my spirit upon your descendants, and my blessing on your offspring. Isaiah 44:3*

- Omer 15
- Omer 16
- Omer 17
- Omer 18
- Omer 19
- Omer 20
- Omer 21

Learning

April 13–19 (Alternate, April 17–23)

Are we learning the Scriptures and how to apply them? Are our congregations committed to spiritual growth through diligent, lifelong study? We pray for renewed love, study, and devotion to Scripture throughout the Messianic Jewish community. *On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a scroll, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord, and the neediest people shall exult in the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 29:18-19*

- Omer 22
- Omer 23
- Omer 24
- Omer 25
- Omer 26
- Omer 27
- Omer 28

Kiruv

April 20–26 (Alternate, April 24–30)

Are we doing kiruv, reaching out within our Jewish community with the Good News of Messiah Yeshua? Do we both publicly and privately share about God's truth and faithfulness in Messiah? We pray for mobilization of outreach, testimony, and ingathering through the good news of Messiah. *Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Isaiah 55:1*

- Omer 29
- Omer 30
- Omer 31
- Omer 32
- Omer 33
- Omer 34
- Omer 35

Increasing

April 27–May 3 (Alternate, May 1–7)

Are we increasing in Messiah, growing in fruitfulness through following Yeshua? Is our community, no matter what the size, thriving and healthy rather than just surviving? We pray for Messianic congregations and chavurot throughout the world to grow in numbers and in spiritual vitality, and for new groups to arise wherever they are needed. *Enlarge the site of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. Isaiah 54:2*

- Omer 36
- Omer 37
- Omer 38
- Omer 39
- Omer 40
- Omer 41
- Omer 42

Teaching

May 4–10 (Alternate, May 8–14)

Are we teaching others, becoming mentors who actively share what we have learned? Is our community planting the seeds of leadership for future generations? We pray for mature believers to be faithful to teach others, for an inter-generational transfer of truth within the entire Messianic Jewish world. *The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. Isaiah 50:4*

- Omer 43
- Omer 44
- Omer 45
- Omer 46
- Omer 47
- Omer 48
- Omer 49

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May 11–17 (Alternate, May 15–21)

We conclude with the exclamation point of thanks and renewed commitment to Yeshua throughout our final week. Thank you, Lord, for the good news in Messiah Yeshua, proclaiming to Zion, "Your God reigns!" *Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Isaiah 52:9-10*

May 18—the fiftieth day, Erev Shavuot! (Alternate date, May 22)

To commemorate the resurrection of Messiah and his outpouring of the spirit 50 days later, we gather a festival offering that will help mobilize the UMJC community and the Messianic Jewish community in Israel.

Send your offering to: UMJC, 529 Jefferson St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108
OR donate online at <http://umjc.org/prayer>