

THE NATIONAL JEWISH COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

Havdalah Service



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The National Jewish Committee on Scouting is pleased to present to all interested parties a series of basic religious services and resource guides. These resources are intended for use on campouts, in a Pack, Troop or Crew setting or as a Scout observance at a religious institution. They can be freely adapted to any specific situation.

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HAVDALAH

Just as we proclaim the entrance of Shabbat “the day of rest” by making “Kiddush,” so too we mark the exit of Shabbat with “Havdalah.” Typically Shabbat ends when three medium-sized stars are visible in one glance in the evening sky. This time varies according to location and season.

The name Havdalah comes from the Hebrew word *l'havdeel*, which means to distinguish or separate. Havdalah is the service separating the Sabbath from the rest of the days of week, the sacred from the secular or mundane, between light and darkness.

It is a service normally conducted in the household, with the full participation of all family members. We frequently hold religious services on Saturday afternoon or early Saturday evening, if so the Havdalah service is appropriate for Jewish Scouts and Scouters at a typical scouting event.

This service is organized both for the practicing Jew and the visitor to our circle for the evening. Explanatory text and transliterations of the Hebrew text are provided to allow all to more fully participate.

To prepare for Havdalah, gather a kiddush cup with wine (at scouting events we use grape juice), a spice box with sweet-smelling spices, and a braided Havdalah candle. At Scouting events the Kiddush cup may be anything from a paper cup or juice box to a formal kiddush cup. Although the leader holds the formal “kiddush” cup at scouting events we usually provide individual “wine” servings so all may participate in the blessings and the refreshment. The spice box may be any sweet-smelling spices (cinnamon and nutmeg work nicely) in a simple or elaborate container and passed around as indicated in the service.

When everything you need has been made ready, gather everyone around and light the Havdalah candle. The youngest Scouts should hold the candle, kiddush cup, and spice box.

***The Havdalah Service is
Made Up of Five Sections:***

Introduction

Our service begins with Biblical verses that praise God.

Blessing over the Wine

Wine symbolizes the joy of the Sabbath.

Judaism teaches us to transform the physical to the spiritual. Just as simple grapes were transformed into wine, so too we take pleasure in the spiritual renewal we have accomplished over Shabbat, and hope it will continue to grow throughout the coming week.

Blessing over the Spices

Spices are smelled so that the sweetness of the Sabbath will be carried over into the work week.

The Kabbalists tell us during Shabbat, we each receive an extra soul, or extra spiritual sensitivity. So as Shabbat goes away, so does the extra soul, causing us to feel faint. For this reason we smell some spices (spiritual smelling salts!) to comfort our soul at the loss of Shabbat.

*Blessing on the Flame of
the Braided Candle*

Light is at the center of the Havdalah service. The braiding symbolizes the unity found at the end of the Sabbath. Since the blessing refers to "lights of the fire" in the plural, two wicks are used in one candle to enable one to extinguish them at the same time.

The Talmud says that when Adam was created on Day Six, he became very sad when he saw darkness setting in on Friday night. He thought perhaps the world was ending! So on Saturday night, God gave Adam the gift of fire. This is why we say the blessing over fire on Saturday night. The Havdalah candle represents the primordial first light of creation; new beginnings, a new commitment. We hope to extend the light of Shabbat into our week.

Conclusion

After saying the blessing, we make use of the flame by holding our hand near the flame and looking at our fingernails. When Shabbat comes in, we light a simple candle; yet, when Shabbat is leaving, we light a larger flame of intertwined lights, for now we had the experience of living with an additional soul and the opportunity that provides.

Preparation

Our service begins with Biblical verses that praise God as our saviour. Then blessings are recited over the wine, the spices and the candle. The service concludes with the Havdalah blessing.

The leader fills a kiddush cup with either wine or grape juice, until the liquid overflows a bit onto the plate below. This is symbolic of our desire for blessings to overflow into the week. Small cups of wine are handed out to each participant.

The leader lights the Havdalah candle (a braided candle with at least two wicks, or two candles held with their flames together). The candle is passed to the youngest child (or Scout) If alone, place the candle in a holder.

Participants can sit or stand, and but should not idly speak until the ceremony is completed. Holding the wine cup in the palm of the leaders (and participants) right hand, we read together:

Introduction

הִנֵּה אֵל יִשׁוּעָתִי אֶבְטַח וְלֹא אֶפְחָד.
כִּי עֲזִי וְזִמְרַת יְיָ וְיְהִי לִי לִישׁוּעָה.
וְשָׂאֲבֹתֶם מַיִם בְּשִׁשְׁוֹן מִמַּעַיְנֵי הַיִּשׁוּעָה.
לִי הַיִּשׁוּעָה עַל עֵמֶךָ בְּרִבְכָּתְךָ סֵלָה.
יְיָ צְבָאוֹת עֲמָנוּ מִשְׁגֵּב לָנוּ אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב סֵלָה.
לַיְהוּדִים הָיְתָה אוֹרָה וְשִׂמְחָה וְשִׁשְׁוֹן וִיקָר.
בֶּן תִּהְיֶה לָנוּ. בּוֹס יִשׁוּעוֹת אֲשֶׁר וּבָשֵׁם יְיָ אֶקְרָא.

Hineh El yishuati evtach v'lo efchad.
Ki Ozi v'zimrat ya, Adonai v'yahee li l'yeshua.
U'shavtem mayim b'sason mi-mayanei ha'yeshua.
La'Adonai ha'yeshua al amcha birchatecha sela.
Adonai tzvaot imanu misgav lanu elohei yaakov sela.

Those present respond
La'yehudim hayta orah v'simcha v'sason v'ikar.
Ken tiyehah lanu.

Leader repeats and then lifts the kiddush cup and continues
Kos yeshuot esah u'bshem Adonai ekra.

Isaiah 12:2

Behold, God is my unfailing help; I will trust in God and will not be afraid.
The Lord is my strength and song; God is my Deliverer.

Isaiah 12:3

With joy shall you draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Psalms 3:9

The Lord alone is our help; May God bless our people.

Psalms 46:12

The Lord of the universe is with us; The God of Jacob is our protection.

Esther 8:16

There was light and joy, gladness and honor for the Jewish people. So may we be blessed.

Blessing Over the Wine

Lifting the kiddush cup filled with wine



We will lift the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגֶּפֶן.

*Barukh atah Adonai Elohaynu melek ha-olam,
borei p'riy ha-gafen.*

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Amen.

אָמֵן

Blessing Over the Spices

Holding the spice box aloft.



בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בוֹרֵא מִיְּנֵי בְשָׁמִים.

*Barukh atah Adonai Elohaynu melek ha-olam,
borei minei v'samim*

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates
diverse kinds of spices.

Amen

אָמֵן

The spice box is passed around for everyone to take a sniff.

**Blessing on the Flame of
the Braided Candle**



With the wine cup still in the left hand, the candle is raised by the youngest and the blessing over the fire (candle flame) is said:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בוֹרֵא מְאוֹרֵי הָאֵשׁ.

*Barukh atah Adonai Elohaynu melek ha-olam,
borei m'orei ha'eish.*

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the lights of the fire.

Amen.

אָמֵן

Those present cup their hands and hold them toward the flame of the candle so that their fingertips cast a shadow on the palm of their hands. In this way, the distinction between light and darkness is illustrated on their hand. We have been known to make shadow plays with our hands at our house.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
הַמְבָדִיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל, בֵּין אוֹר לְחֹשֶׁךְ,
בֵּין יִשְׂרָאֵל לְעַמִּים,
בֵּין יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי לְשֵׁשֶׁת יְמֵי הַמַּעֲשֶׂה.
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הַמְבָדִיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל.

*Barukh atah Adonai Elohaynu melek ha-olam,
hamavdil bein kodesh l'hol, bein or l'choshech,
bein yisrael l'amim,
bein yom hashvi'i l'shsishet ymei ha'ma'ase.
Barukh ata Adonai Hamavdil bein Kodesh l'chol.*

Blessed are You, Lord our God, ruler of the world,
who separates the holy from the mundane, light from darkness,
Israel from the other peoples,
the seventh day of rest from the six days of work.
Blessed are You, Lord, who separates the holy from the mundane.

Amen

אָמֵן

*The following two sections of Scout themed readings are not traditionally part of a Havdalah service. However, there are added here especially for Scout outings to remind us of the interrelationships between our duties to God and our scout lives.
Please consider selecting one section and continue.*

**A Reflection on the Scout
Laws**

Read responsively

Psalms 101:7

Leader: A Scout is Trustworthy

אָמין

All: The person who is dishonest shall not live in my house; the person who is untruthful shall not stand before my eyes

Ruth 1:16

Leader: A Scout is Loyal

נֶאֱמָן

All: And Ruth said: "Do not beg me to leave you or to return from following after you, for where you go, I will go; and where you stay, I will stay."

Leviticus 19:16

Leader: A Scout is Helpful

מוֹעִיל

All: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Amos 3:3

Leader: A Scout is Friendly

יְדִידוּתִי

All: Can two walk together unless they agree

Exodus 20:12

Leader: A Scout is Courteous

אָדִיב

All: Honor your father and your mother.

Leviticus 19:18

Leader: A Scout is Kind

סוֹג

All: You shall love your neighbor as yourself

Proverbs 23:12

Leader: A Scout is Obedient

מִמּוֹשָׁמַע

All: Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to the words of knowledge.

Proverbs 17:22

Leader: A Scout is Cheerful

עֲלִיז

All: A glad heart is good medicine

Proverbs 21:20

Leader: A Scout is Thrifty

חֲסִכָּן

All: Precious treasure remains a wise person's dwelling, but a foolish person uses it up

I Chronicles 26:20

Leader: A Scout is Brave

אֲמִיץ

All: Be strong and of good courage

Psalms 24:3-4

Leader: A Scout is Clean

לְנִקּוֹת

All: Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord? And who shall stand in God's holy place? The person who has clean hands and a pure heart"

Micah 6:8

Leader: A Scout is Reverent

שֹׁמֵי יָרָא

All: It has been told to you what is good, and what the Lord requires of you. Only to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.
(Micah 6:8)

**Scout Laws through our
Lives**

Read together

אָמין	Oh God, we pray that You will make us Trustworthy , for there are those who have placed their trust in us.
נאָמן	Make us Loyal , for through loyalty we reach our highest ideals.
מועיל, ידידותי	Let us be Helpful and Friendly , for each of us needs help and friendship throughout life.
אָדיב	Train us in Courtesy - for courtesy is the carpet on life's floor.
סוג	Make us Kind - for the world is full of your creations and every living thing deserves our respect.
ממושמע	Remind us that success comes to those who first learn to Obey .
עליו	Make us cheerful, for Cheerfulness makes our journey through life a pleasant experience.
חסכן	Train us to be Thrifty in our wants and generous in our charity.
אמיץ	Give us courage that we might Bravely face life's challenges.
לנקות	Help us to be Clean in thought, word, and deed.
שמים ירא	Make us Reverent to You and respectful of the beliefs of all people.
	Guide us in all these things and never let us forget the promise to which all Scouts are pledged.

Amen.

**Religious Awards – The National Jewish Committee on Scouting
encourages all Scouts to earn the religious award of their faith**

The Havdalah candle is now extinguished in the wine. By turning it upside down and dip the wick end directly in the wine cup.

May God forgive our transgressions and make our people as numerous as the sand, and as the stars of the night.

SHA-VU-AH TOV!

שְׁבוּעַ טוֹב!

Have a good week!

אֱלֹהֵי הַנְּבִיא, אֱלֹהֵי הַתְּשֻׁבִּי,
אֱלֹהֵי אֱלֹהֵי הַגִּלְעָדִי.
בְּמַהֲרָה בְּיָמֵינוּ יָבֹא אֵלֵינוּ
עַם מְשִׁיחַ בֶּן דָּוִד, עַם מְשִׁיחַ בֶּן דָּוִד

*Eliyahu Hanavi, Eliyahu hatishbi,
Eliyahu, Eliyahu, Eliyahu hagiladi.
Bimhera b'yameinu yavo eleinu.
Im mashiah ben Daveed, im mashiah ben Daveed.*

Elijah the Prophet, Elijah the Tishbaite, Elijah the Gileadite.
Soon, in our day, he will come to us with the messiah, son of David.

Questions and Answers

At Scouting events we are often joined by individuals who are not of the Jewish faith. This service provides an opportunity to answer their questions and introduce them to a beautiful Jewish ceremony.