



Shavuot: Empowered for the Great Commission

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.” Luke 19:10

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

I. SHAVUOT

A. The Buildup (Counting of the Omer): 50 day count connecting Firstfruits to Shavuot

1. Building Expectancy...towards Shavuot
2. Testings Increase...intended to make us stronger
3. Yeshua’s Admonition to tarry...until (watch and pray)
4. Our Responsibility

B. Practical Application

1. Come to the park: At Cushing Park we will have an oneg picnic starting at noon; a convocation follows at 1:15pm; ~2pm we will have prayer and fellowship time for the rest of the time in the park

C. Shavuot’s Themes: Israel corporately became a nation before God at Sinai (Shavuot)

1. Physical Liberation (Symbol of Remission) (A yearly mini-“year of Jubilee”); physical freedom to the captives; from physical to spiritual liberation
 - a. Redemption of land/property
 - b. Redemption of the poor and enslaved: that which was taken (sold) is restored—return to your land
 - c. Pointing towards the greatest fulfillment of the redemption of our very lives through Yeshua’s sacrifice
2. Spiritual Liberation (Slaves Now Free)
 - a. We as those redeemed through Yeshua have been set free from our slavery to sin and have been restored through Him to a right relationship to God.
 - b. “Yeshua has proclaimed to me – a former captive/slave to sin and self – *liberty*. I’ve been released, set free! Furthermore, anything that seeks to recapture me has no claim on my soul. My prison door has been permanently opened. Messiah has come to release me from all forms of slavery and indebtedness. The entry is repentance – turning back to the Living, Merciful God – returning to the incredible *inheritance* I’ve been granted as His adopted son. We are invited to enter into the liberty obtained for us by the blood of Yeshua.” (Eitan Shishkoff’s *Liberty for the Captives* in Tikkun’s May 2016 newsletter)
 - c. Are we now free to live however we want? No! It takes time and energy (and at times is painful) on our part for our desires to be conformed to Yah’s desires. This is done through the two main themes of Shavuot...
3. The Framework of How We Are to Live (Giving of the Torah): the giving of the Scriptures was (and is) given to a free people and does not bring them under bondage again but shows them how to walk in Yah’s ways.
 - a. The Scriptures first and foremost show us our need for a Redeemer (Yeshua)
 - b. Subsequently, the Scriptures show us as freed ones how to live through aligning our lives with these commandments. We give greatest weight to the most important commandments and less weight to the lighter commandments.
4. Empowered to Walk as We Should (Giving of the Spirit)
 - a. Sealed by the Spirit at our conversion
 - b. Regular communion and fellowship with the Spirit
 - c. Baptism of the Spirit: a (often times) subsequent experience to our salvation
 - d. Gifts of the Spirit: to strengthen the saints and to build the kingdom
 - e. Dependence Upon the Spirit: Just as during the Year of Jubilee when the people were conscious of being dependent upon (and blessed by) YHWH, so too we are to be mindful that we are dependent upon (and

blessed by) His physical and spiritual harvest (His Word and His Spirit) to live lives pleasing unto (and effective for) Him.

- i. Let the land lie fallow; trust Yah for your food; living off of the previous harvest
- ii. Live by faith

5. Proclaiming Freedom to Others (Making Disciples) throughout the land (Sharing the Good News): We are reminded of the need to reach out to the “spiritually poor” by sharing God’s provision of the riches of His Gospel and His resultant kingdom.

- a. Firstfruits of the wheat harvest (leavened loaves): thanksgiving to God and dedication and anticipation of that which is coming to Him

IV. DARKNESS TO LIGHT

A. Yeshua Called Us to be a Witness

18 And Yeshua came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

“For ‘Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!’ However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our report?’ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ” Romans 10:13-17

And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. 1 Peter 3:15b

1. Go: We are called to go to others—they aren’t required to come to us
2. Readiness: We are prepared to share

B. The Power of Our Influence: Who Influences Whom Toward Yeshua?

1. The Church Growth Institute has done a variety of surveys asking over 14,000 lay persons, "What or who was responsible for your coming to Yeshua and the church?" The percentage of responses have been:

A special need (1-2%)	Visitation (1-2%)	Church program (2-3%)
Walk in (2-3%)	Sunday school (4-5%)	<u>A friend or relative (75-90%)</u>
Pastor (5-6%)	Evangelistic crusade (0.5%)	

(*The I-Factor: How to Influence Your World* by Jim Egli and Ben Hoerr)

2. These statistics reveal what you probably have seen in your own life and in the lives of those close to you. That is, the great majority of people who come to Yeshua are brought by ordinary people — friends, neighbors, co-workers, and relatives — who take a genuine interest in them, serve them, share their lives, and eventually share the Gospel. This is the most natural and effective method of "evangelism."

C. Two Kingdoms

1. Everyone you meet is in one of two kingdoms: the kingdom of darkness or the kingdom of light; those who have received Yeshua as their Savior and Lord and those who haven’t
2. Engels Scale: everyone is at a different stage in their life

- +5 Stewardship
 - +4 Communion with God
 - +3 Conceptual and behavioral growth
 - +2 Incorporation into a congregation
 - +1 Post-decision evaluation
- ← Kingdom of Light**

New birth

- 1 Repentance and faith in Yeshua
 - 2 Decision to act
 - 3 Personal problem recognition
 - 4 Positive attitude towards Gospel
 - 5 Grasp implications of Gospel
 - 6 Awareness of fundamentals of Gospel
 - 7 Initial awareness of Gospel
 - 8 Awareness of supreme being, no knowledge of Gospel
- ← Kingdom of Darkness**

D. Be Aware Of Periods Of Receptivity

1. A person's openness to spiritual things is often effected by recent life experiences or changes in the human predicament. Factors impacting individual's lives are listed below. As you read through these factors, place the initials of unsaved *oikos* members next to experiences they have encountered in the past year.

<input type="checkbox"/> Death of a spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Change in family member's health	<input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding personal achievement
<input type="checkbox"/> Divorce	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse starts work
<input type="checkbox"/> Marital separation	<input type="checkbox"/> New family member	<input type="checkbox"/> Start or finish school
<input type="checkbox"/> Jail term	<input type="checkbox"/> Business readjustment	<input type="checkbox"/> Change in living conditions
<input type="checkbox"/> Death of a close family member	<input type="checkbox"/> Change in financial status	<input type="checkbox"/> Revision of personal habits
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal injury or illness	<input type="checkbox"/> Death of close friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Change in working conditions
<input type="checkbox"/> Recently married	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreclosure of mortgage or loan	<input type="checkbox"/> Change in residence
<input type="checkbox"/> Fired from work	<input type="checkbox"/> Change in work responsibilities	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marital reconciliation	<input type="checkbox"/> Son or daughter leaves home	
<input type="checkbox"/> Retirement		

(*The I-Factor: How to Influence Your World* by Jim Egli and Ben Hoerr)

2. *Moving From a Need to Truth*: After many years of evangelistic ministry among non-Christians, I have come to the conviction that most people initially come to Christ because they have found that He can meet a need of theirs. But for them to stick with Christ long term, they must come to the conviction that He is the truth. Ajith Fernando's *Jesus-Driven Ministry* pg. 198.

E. Discipleship Steps

Weightier Commands of Yeshua:

1. **Repent, believe, and receive the Holy Spirit** (conversion) Mark 1:15; John 3:16; 20:22.
2. **Be baptized** and live the new life it initiates, leading to all that has to do with ongoing transformation, Matthew 28:18-20
3. **Love** God, neighbor, fellow disciples, the needy—in a practical way—and enemies (forgive), Matthew 22:36-40; John 13:34-35; Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 5:43-48
4. **Break bread** (Communion related to all that we do to worship), Matthew 26:26-28; John 4:24
5. **Pray** (private and family devotions, intercession and spiritual warfare), John 16:24
6. **Give** (Stewardship of our time, treasure, and talents), Luke 6:38
7. **Make disciples** (witness for Yeshua, shepherd, apply the Word, train leaders, send missionaries), Matthew 28:18-20 (As found in *Church Multiplication Guide* by George Patterson pg. 22)

F. We Are Responsible

1. *Personal Assessment*: How active a witness are you presently?
2. *Committed to Move*: Move closer to where you should be
3. *Giving Something to Everyone*: We have something to give to everyone we come in contact with
 - a. Smile and be friendly/kind; we can say God bless you
 - b. See and meet a practical need
 - c. Sow kingdom seeds of kindness, gentleness, peacemaking, love, etc.
 - d. "How can I pray for you?"
4. *Teamwork*: We work best as a team and teaming up helps make us more accountable
5. *For Unbelievers*: help move them "up the scale"
6. *For Believers*
 - a. Encourage them
 - b. How can I pray for you?
 - c. Here is something I appreciate about you.....
7. *For Friends/Family*: Don't forget those in your most immediate sphere (your spouse, friends, children, etc)

V. PARTNERING IN THE GREAT COMMISSION

A. Pray

1. *Personally*
 - a. Praying daily for your "top 2 Unbelievers" list that they would find an active faith in Yeshua and become involved in a life-giving congregation (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
 - b. Pray for laborers to go into the Harvest
 - c. Ask the Holy Spirit for boldness, ideas, and opportunities

Olsen's *Towards Shavuot – Empowered for the Great Commission* (19-0525)

- d. Cultivate His presence daily in your times with Him
 - e. See where the Father is active and join Him in His kingdom work
 - f. Join in on a weekly corporate prayer time
2. Corporately: As a community, we will grow in the place of corporate prayer for the lost to come to Yeshua
- a. daily corporate prayer times
 - b. special times of “nights of prayer”
3. Assessment: How is your prayer life? ____ (from 1-10) Are there any needed changes?

B. Prepare

15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. 16 But do this in a gentle and respectful way. 2 Peter 3:15-16

1. Preparing to Bring the Kingdom
- a. Conversion: we consistently share God’s story with the hope that we will see people respond to the Good News.
 - b. Healing the sick: we consistently pray for those who are sick.
 - c. Deliverance to the oppressed: we consistently pray and minister to those who are oppressed.
 - d. Baptism of the Spirit: we consistently have encounters with the Holy Spirit where we receive a fresh enduement of His fire and power.
2. Preparing to Tell Your Story: What is your story? How far do you have to go back to tell parts of your story after your salvation experience? What is going on in your life...now?
- a. Sharing your Yeshua-story: It’s God’s responsibility to bring salvation but we are to tell of His goodness in our lives and in the lives of others.
 - i. I was.... (give 2 relevant adjectives); then I met Yeshua Who changed me and now I’m.....
 - b. Praying for others: Are we praying for others to have softened hearts which are receptive to His truths.
3. Preparing to Tell His Story
- a. Salvation: Sharing the salvation basics
 - i. **A: Admit** that you are a sinner. Repentance is involved
For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Romans 3:23
 - ii. **B: Believe** that Yeshua paid Your debt
For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Messiah Yeshua our Lord. Romans 6:23
 - iii. **C: Confess** with Your mouth that He is Lord. He is the boss and He has ultimate control over your life.
9 If you confess with your mouth that Yeshua is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. Romans 10:9-10
4. Practice Sharing with Friends & Family
5. Assessment: How prepared are you to share your story? ____ and His story? ____ How readily and consistently are you praying for the sick and oppressed? ____ (from 1-10) Are there any needed changes?

C. Go For it

1. Personally:
- a. who will you share your story with?
 - b. who will you share His story with
 - c. smile at people and say hi
 - d. plan to join us with helping with Awana in the fall (opportunities to develop relationships with pre-Believers)
2. Corporately:
- a. once a month we have a one hour time where we share with folks in a local park
 - b. give to the special offering in this season for the middle eastern prayer room
5. Assessment: How are you on sharing with others? ____ (from 1-10) Are there any needed changes?

VI. MAKING IT PERSONAL

A. What Will You Take With You? What is the most relevant concept from today’s teaching for you personally?

B. Who Can You Share With? As we share with others, that which we are learning grows in our lives. As we make our decisions accountable to someone else, we are more likely to walk in the way that we desire.

