

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT EMOR

17-18 MAY | 10 IYAR

Meeting the King



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If you had a private audience with the king, what would be going through your head?

“What am I going to wear?”

“What am I going to say?”

“What is he going to ask me?”

One of the beautiful things about this week’s parasha, Emor, is that it lists a number of opportunities to meet with God. It does this through naming the festivals as well as Shabbat as times to connect. These times are called *Moadim* (appointed times). The word *Moed* is also used to describe the place where

a meeting will take place. For example, Moshe (Moses) would often go to the *Ohel Moed*, the Tent of Meeting, when he had to speak to God, when the Israelites were traversing the desert.

I want to switch focus and look at the importance of a few of the festivals and how we’re all being invited to speak to God, but in different contexts. These festivals, such as Pesach, Shavuot and Succot, serve as pivotal moments for the us to come together in celebration and reflection. They punctuate the year, marking the passage of time with moments of holiness and celebration.

Pesach, for instance, commemorates our freedom from slavery in Egypt. We do this by reading the story of the Exodus during the Seder and by only eating

unleavened foods. It’s a celebration of freedom and the miracles that allowed that to happen.

Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai; it’s a time of renewal and renewing our connection to God. Not only do we eat dairy foods but we also learn Torah – during *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* (the first night of Shavuot) – and commit to continuing to do so for the upcoming year.

Yom Kippur is a deeply spiritual time when we connect with God and ask to be sealed in the Book of Life. It’s a time to speak one-on-one with our Creator, repent for our past actions and commit to do better in the upcoming year.

These *Moadim* help us to frame our discussions with God throughout the year – helping us to work out what to say to the King!

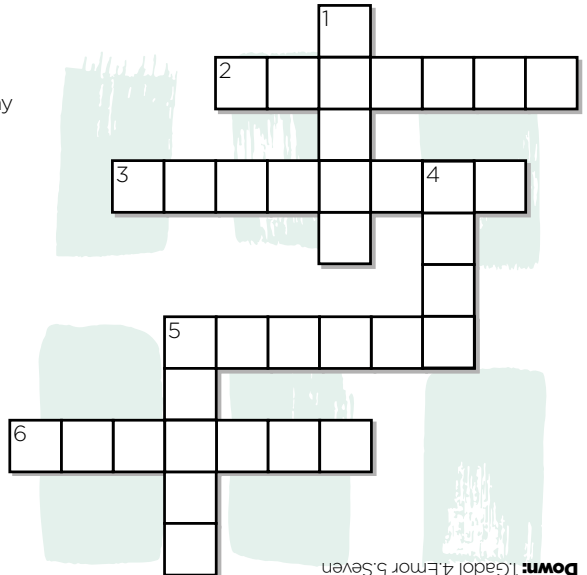
Emor Crossword

Across

- For six days we work and the seventh day is _____
- We eat matzot on _____
- On Rosh Hashanah we blow the _____
- We count the Omer for 49 days, and the 50th day is the festival of _____

Down

- The Kohen _____, the High Priest, is never allowed to become spiritually impure
- The name of this week’s parasha
- A newborn animal must be left with its mother for at least _____ days



Answers: Across: 2.Shabbat 3.Passover 5.Shofar 6.Shavuot
Down: 1.Gadol 4.Emor 5.Seven