

Shavuot began as a harvest festival, but it also commemorates the revelation at Sinai and the giving of the Torah. While Shavuot has few rituals associated with it, many Jews stay up all night studying Torah. Other customs include eating dairy foods and reading the Book of Ruth.

When the Torah is read in the synagogue on Shavuot, we experience anew the Sinai transmission of the Torah by God. Just as the Sinai Event was attended by every Jewish man, woman and child, so too every Jewish person should make every effort to be present in a synagogue on as the Ten Commandments are read from the Torah.

There is also special significance to bringing children, even the youngest of infants, to hear the Ten Commandments.

Before God gave the Torah to the Jewish people, He demanded guarantors. The Jews made a number of suggestions, all rejected by God, until they declared, "Our children will be our guarantors that we will cherish and observe the Torah." God immediately accepted them and agreed to give the Torah.

Let us make sure to bring all our "guarantors" along to the synagogue on the first day of Shavuot.