

Hei/Vav (5th/6th) Shabbat Family Readings

NOTE:

For those with English reading honors, families typically either read together as a family or split the sentences up within their family.

Daniel Bodansky & Family: **Thank** you Dear **God** for helping us enter this **holy prayer** space. **Adonai, thank** you for being so **compassionate** and **patient** with us.

Rachel Gordon & Family: **Thank** you Dear **God** for helping us join **together** as a **community**.

Noa Brown & Family: **Thank** you, Dear **God** for **comforting** those who suffer **physically, emotionally** and/or **spiritually**.

Dafna Belkind & Family:

Loving life
And its mysterious source
With all our heart
And all our spirit,
All our senses and strength,
We take upon ourselves
These promises:
To care for the earth
And those who live upon it,
To pursue justice and peace,

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Levi Maer & Family:

To love kindness and compassion,
We will teach this to our children
Throughout the passage of the day —
As we dwell in our homes
And as we go on our
Journeys,
From the time we rise
Until we fall asleep.

Shayna Kamm & Family:

And may our actions
Be faithful to our words
That our children's children
May live to know:
Truth and kindness
Have embraced,
Peace and justice have kissed
And are one.

Natalie Waldman & Family: Our tradition speaks of a very interesting phenomenon concerning Shabbat. During the week everyone has a *n'shamah*, a soul. But on Shabbat we receive a *n'shamah y'teirah*, an “additional soul.”

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Nathan Levy & Family: This suggests that there is some kind of undeveloped facet of personality, a spiritual dimension, of which we remain unaware in the normal course of events. On Shabbat we are given the time to enrich ourselves by developing or creating this extra spiritual dimension.

Iris Rosenthal and Family: “Who is **like** You, **Adonai**, among the **mighty**? Who is **like** You, dressed in **holiness**, **cherished** in praise, working **miracles**! The children of Israel respond “**This** is **my God**! **Adonai** will **reign forever** and **ever**.”

Stephanie Orr and Family:

May no physical ailment or spiritual despair cause me to forget the blessings You have granted me in life. May Your love and Your compassion ever be before me.

Evan Silver-Schack and Family:

This week’s counting of the Omer reading focuses on Judgment and Power. Limits are important; without them, chaos would reign. Even love has its rules. Yet the very qualities that allow us to establish limits are the same ones that can lead to oppression and evil.

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Lyla Drapatsky and Family:

Judgment — so necessary for almost every aspect of daily living — can become judgmentalism, the disparagement of others, and may even lead to fanaticism.

Power — so necessary for the implementation of good — can become drunk with itself, overpowering others.

Jamie Loewenthal and Family:

This week invites reflection on the way my competitiveness and desire to win may become hurtful to others, and how my self-concern can be dismissive of the needs of others and even be destructive. What limits should I place on my ego? What limits should I place on my desires? Perhaps I might pause to stand in awe, stopping for a moment to appreciate what is around me and better understand my own limitations. Not incidentally, it is during this week that we memorialize those killed in the Holocaust.