

# Welcome to a Year of Celebration!

**Week 17: April 24-30, 2022**

## **Celebrate Yom Hashoah**

This year, we are focusing on who God is and how we can celebrate him and the life that he offers to us. We will draw deeper into a relationship with the Lord through examining his nature and desire for personal intimacy with us as his people, and we are going to do so in such a fun way! We are going to journey in 2022 through practical ways to celebrate various holidays! We will look at many of your favorite celebrations: Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day and much more. We will explore the historic, liturgical holidays of the year, learn about the Jewish festivals of the Bible days, and even consider some of the celebrations of other religious faiths. I'm so glad you will be on this journey with us.

In this packet, you will find some ideas for you to grow closer to God, your family, and others. Nothing is required. It is all for fun and your personal enjoyment and growth. There are enough activities that you could do one or two per day during the week if you want. If you don't want to do something, skip it. If another idea comes to mind, do it. Watch for God's abundant goodness and celebrate it.

Come Join Us as We  
**CELEBRATE GOD!**



**“They celebrate your abundant goodness  
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.”**

*Dr. Patrick Wilson*

**(Psalm 145:7)**

*2022*

# Video Devotional

Go to Patrick Wilson's YouTube page and watch the video devotional for this week: Celebrate Yom Hashoah. Then, consider and discuss with your family/friends the following questions:

- Share what you know about the Holocaust.
- What caused people to have such hatred for other people?
- What do you admire most about Stephen?
- Why do you think the Jews felt so threatened by him?
- In what ways are you suffering or experiencing trouble today?
- How has God comforted you through his compassion?
- Who do you need to forgive and express his comfort to?
- How do you find hope in the Lord's presence with you?

## Craft: Memorial Candle Wrap

As a family go to the below site, which lists the names of 5,000 known victims of the Holocaust. Then, purchase a candle (typically yellow) that is in a clear glass jar or place the candle in a glass container.

To make a candle wrap. Simply take paper and cut it down to size to fit around the glass container that holds your candle. Before taping it around the memorial candle, write the name and homeland of the person that you are remembering. Decorate the remainder of the candle wrap (i.e., star of David, flowers). Then wrap the cover around the candle.

Take time this week to light the memorial candle and remember those who died in the Holocaust.

Partial List of Holocaust Victims: <https://www.ushmm.org/m/pdfs/20141010-dor-names-list.pdf>

### Supplies:

- Candle in Glass Container
- Sheet of Paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Markers/Crayons



# Foods to Prepare

Yom Hashoah does not have a prescribed menu of foods to prepare. So, this week, it might be especially meaningful to take a recipe from one of the victims/survivors of the Holocaust. *In Memory's Kitchen* is a cookbook of selected recipes from Jews who were in the Holocaust. The preface states:

"The pages are filled with recipes. Each is a memory, a fantasy, a hope for the future. Written by undernourished and starving women in the Czechoslovakian ghetto/concentration camp of Terezín (also known as Theresienstadt), the recipes give instructions for making beloved dishes .... (This book) is a beautiful memorial to the brave women who defied Hitler by preserving a part of their heritage and a part of themselves."

Miriam's story is told in the cookbook. She lived in Poland and sent to the ghetto as a child. She was forced to work in potato fields, saw her three cousins shot and her grandparents taken to a death camp where they were gassed. Her father died in Buchenwald one day before liberation. Miriam survived the camp and later came to the United States.

Here is Miriam's Butter Cake recipe from the cookbook: <http://www.annarbor.com/entertainment/food-drink/butter-cake-for-yom-hashoah/>

## Holocaust Museum

There are 16 Holocaust museums in the US and many more around the world. These museums specialize in telling the story of the Holocaust and the people who lived and died in it. They serve as reminders to us of the best and worst of the human condition.

On April 26th, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum will offer a free virtual event to recognize the Day of Remembrance at 5:00 p.m. You can preregister for the event here (for free) or watch it on the YouTube channel at a later date: <https://www.ushmm.org/online-calendar/event/NADOR0422>

# Movies to Watch

If you are movie fan, pick out a favorite movie to watch alone or with family/friends. Here are some movies that speak about the Holocaust, but you certainly are not limited to this list. Pop some popcorn, curl up on the couch, and enjoy the show!

[NOTE: Some of these movies are hard to watch and may need discretion with some ages and audiences.]

## Holocaust Movies:

- Schindler's List
- Sophie's Choice
- The Pianist
- Defiance
- The Diary of Anne Frank
- The Hiding Place
- Life is Beautiful
- The Book Thief
- The Zookeeper's Wife
- The Reader
- Conspiracy
- Judgment at Nuremberg

## Games Children Played in the Camps

In his book, *Free to Learn*, Peter Gray tells about how children tried to cope with being in the concentration camps. He states, "But play is not a luxury. Play is children's means of making sense of their own environment and adapting to it, as best they can, regardless of the type of environment."

Kids played games like daring each other to go up and tickle a corpse to see if it moved or to touch the electric fence. They dramatized the screams of people dying. How tragic!

As a family, consider playing a game of hide and go seek. Then talk with older children/teens about what it would have been like for the people living in such fear and uncertainty of whether they would be found and captured. End by thanking God for our freedom.



# Bible Study

“The Lord will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel” (Joel 3:16).

Sadly, it sometimes seems like evil wins. This had to be the sentiment of Jews during the Holocaust. Questions about where God was and why he let these atrocities happen must have been prevalent on the minds and hearts of many across the world.

In Joel 3:16, the prophet speaks of a day when the Lord will come like a lion. This phrase could have been the impetus to CS Lewis’ development of the Christ-like character of Aslan, the lion, in his Narnia series. God’s vindication and deliverance may not be imminent in our eyes, but it remains certain. God is a refuge that we take shelter in when we experience hardship. God loves refugees and promises to care for us whenever we need a stronghold of defense.

So, when we encounter trouble, we should remember that the mighty Lion is there for us. God protects, defends, and liberates those who seek refuge in him. This week, in whatever struggles you face, turn to the Lord, take your refuge in him, and listen for his roar! You are never alone.

## Prayer Time

In Israel on Yom Hashoah, a siren sounds at sundown to begin the holiday and again at 11:00 a.m. Each time the siren goes off for two consecutive minutes. Cars stop, even on the highway. People stand still wherever they are and observe two minutes of silence and remembrance.

If possible, either at sundown on Wednesday, April 27th or at 11:00 a.m., would you join with Jews from around the world to take just two minutes to remember those who died in the Holocaust? Pray for their families; pray for such atrocities to not occur again; pray for those in the midst of the war in Ukraine and elsewhere in the world. Pray for God to heal our land.



# Service: Preventing Another Holocaust

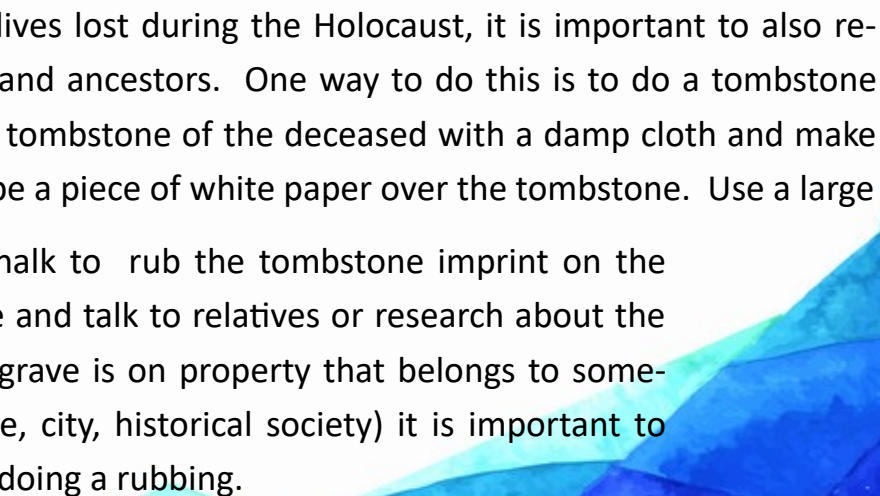
Hitler made the Jews, Social Democrats, and Communists the scapegoats for Germany's loss of World War I. He categorized every race and nationality into high and low races, with "pure" Arian Germans as supreme. During the 1930s, Hitler tried to expel all people that he deemed inferior, but when his political power increased he began to mass murder those he viewed as having lower aptitude and appearance.

While this may seem atrocious to most of us, the views of Hitler continue to this day. They are subtly imbedded into the fabric of modern culture and are even rooted in the prideful arrogance that is common to us all.

One of the best ways to prevent another Holocaust is to serve people who are different than us. Build bridges and get to know their stories. Empathize with their circumstances and seek to support, encourage, and aid them in experiencing a blessed life. When we personally know and relate to others who are different than us, we are less inclined to give in to hateful propaganda that further marginalizes them. This week, find someone at work, school, your neighborhood, church, or the community that is different than you and look for some way that you can demonstrate the acceptance, care, and compassion that Jesus shows to us.

## Connect: Tombstone Rubbing

As we remember the lives lost during the Holocaust, it is important to also remember our heritage and ancestors. One way to do this is to do a tombstone rubbing. Wipe off the tombstone of the deceased with a damp cloth and make sure it is dry. Then, tape a piece of white paper over the tombstone. Use a large crayon, charcoal, or chalk to rub the tombstone imprint on the paper. Then, go home and talk to relatives or research about the person. NOTE: If the grave is on property that belongs to someone (i.e., funeral home, city, historical society) it is important to get permission before doing a rubbing.



# Worship

Carve out some time to listen to worship music, hum or sing along. Here are some great songs to get you started. These songs focus on God being with us in times of trouble. Look them up on YouTube if you don't have them in your music repertoire.

Pick your own songs and spend time worshipping and celebrating who God is to you and all the ways that he has blessed your life.

## God With Us Worship Songs:

- It is Well with My Soul
- He Will Hold Me Fast
- Raise a Hallelujah
- Great is Thy Faithfulness
- I Will Wait for You
- Lord, I Need You
- Way Maker
- Even If
- I Am Not Alone
- Do It Again
- It is Well
- Hills and Valleys
- Surrounded (Fight My Battles)

## Challenge: Stats

Consider the statistical data of those killed by the Nazi's during WWII. So many lives lost and to be remembered.

Jews: 6,000,000

Soviet Civilians: 5,700,000

Soviet POW: 3,000,000

Polish Civilians: 1,800,000

Serbian Civilians: 312,000

Institutionalized/Disabled: 250,000

Sinti/Roma Minorities: 250,000

Criminals/Undesirables: 70,000

Homosexuals: 3,000

Jehovah's Witness: 1,900

“Thou shalt not be a victim, thou shalt not be a perpetrator, but, above all, thou shalt not be a bystander.”  
—Yehuda Bauer