



Chizuk Amuno Congregation
Ties that Bind
5767

עֹטָה אֹר כְּשֵׁלֶמָה נוֹטָה שָׁמַיִם כְּרִיעָה:

You have wrapped yourself with a garment of light, spreading out the heavens like a curtain. (*Psalm 104:2*)

Blessed are you, Adonai, who I bless with all of my soul. My God, Your greatness is clothed in glory and majesty.

God, as I begin this journey of becoming a Jewish adult, let me feel this warmth of Your light.

Let the *tzitzit* that I am about to tie be a reminder of the threads of Your presence in my life.

Let the tying of this *tzitzit* bind me to my family and my community.

Let the completion of the final knot be the first step of this important journey.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

שְׁחַחֵנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהַגִּיעֵנוּ לְזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

Barukh atah Adonai elo-heinu melekh ha-olam

She-che-hi-yanu ve-ki-yamanu ve-hi-ge-ya-nu laz-man ha-zeh

Praised are You Eternal our God, Source of the Universe, for the gift of our lives, for all that keeps us, and for letting us reach this special time.

Place the 4 strings of the tzitzit into the hole in the corner of the *Tallit*. Pull the strings through so you have 8 strings with one string much longer than the other seven. Divide the strings into two sets of four strings and then tie the first double knot.

There are five sets of knots that remind us of how the teachings of the Torah bind us to our tradition and to God.

וְעָשׂוּ לָהֶם צִיצִית עַל כַּנְּפֵי בְּגֵדֵיהֶם לְדֹרוֹתָם

Ve-asu la-chem tzi-zit al kan-fey vig-dey-hem le-do-ro-tam
And you will make tzitzit on the corners of your clothes in every generation...

7 Continuing the work of creation...

Seven wraps connect us to the work of creation that is ongoing in our lives.

Everyday we have the power to create and build.

Everyday we have the opportunity to do Tikkun Olam--repair the world.

Everyday we have the chance to discover God in our lives.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
יוֹצֵר אוֹר וּבוֹרֵא חֹשֶׁךְ עֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם וּבוֹרֵא אֶת הַכּוֹל:

Barukh atah Adonai elo-heinu melekh ha-olam

yotzer ore u-vo-reh cho-shech o-seh shalom u-vo-reh et ha-kol

Praised are You, Eternal our God, who creates light, darkness and peace and creates everything.

**Wrap the shamash seven times
around the other
seven strings and then
tie a double knot.**



8

Eight reminds us of the covenant that Abraham created for Isaac on the 8th day. As parents we have the opportunity to help our children strengthen their covenant with God everyday of their life.

**We bless our children:
FOR BOYS:**

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאַפְרַיִם וְכַמְנַשֶּׁה

Yesimcha Elohim Ke-Efrayim Ve-khi-menashe

May God give you the blessings of Ephraim and Menasseh

FOR GIRLS:

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּשָׂרָה רִבְקָה רָחֵל וְלֵאָה

Yesimech Elohim Ke-Sara, Rivka, Rachel, Ve-Leah

May God give you the blessings of Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.

CONTINUE HERE FOR ALL CHILDREN:

יְבָרְכֶךָ יי וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ. יָאֵר יי פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֹךְ.
יִשָּׂא יי פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם.

Yivarechecha Adonai ve-yishmerecha. Ya-er Adonai panav elecha vichuneka. Yisa Adonai panav ilecha veyasem lecha shalom.

May God bless and keep you. May God’s light shine on you and be gracious to you. May God’s light shine within you and bring you Peace.

Wrap the shamash eight times around the other seven strings and then tie a double knot.

11

11 reminds us of the stars in Joseph’s dream. Joseph’s dreams represented his hopes for the future. Parents take a moment to share with your child a dream that you have for your child as they begin the process of creating an adult *brit*—partnership with God.

Wrap the shamash eleven times around the other seven strings and then tie a double knot.



13

Our tradition teaches that we are created in the image of God--*Betzelem Elohim*. The final 13 wraps of the tzizit are a reminder of 13 attributes of God and how we can discover some of these attributes in all of us. In each year of your life before you become Bar or Bat Mitzvah look for these attributes in yourself and your community.

13 wraps also represents the word *echad*--one. As we wrap the final 13 wraps around the tzizit we read:

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְיָ אֶחָד׃

Shema yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai echad.
Listen! Hear Israel! Adonai Our God, Adonai is One!

Tie the final double knot on the tzizit.

Mazal Tov!



Tzizit by the numbers:

Adonai Echad=

Yud (10) + *Hay* (5) + *Vav* (6) + *Hay* (5) + *Aleph* (1) + *Chet* (8) + *Dalet* (4) =39

Tzizit

Tzadi 90

Yud 10

Tzadi 90

Yud 10

Tav 400

= 600 + 8 strings + 5 knots=613 *mitzvot*

4 sets of 8 strings=32

lamed + *bet* = *Lev*-- heart

5 knots = 5 books of the Torah