

The Sticky Shofar

Shalom Sesame ~ Volume 10

Program Focus

Age group:	Ages 3-8
Time frame:	45 minutes
Central value:	Heeding the Shofar's call: Striving to be the best one can be



Please note: this program can be run on its own or in combination with the book-based program for Today is the Birthday of the World.

Synopsis

The Sticky Shofar contains an eclectic collection of live action skits, video clips, and musical numbers:

- Musical parody of Hannah Montana entitled “Rosh Hashanah Hannah.”
- “Street interviews” in which English-speaking Israeli children share their thoughts on Rosh Hashanah.
- Live action video: Gali, a young Israeli girl describes how Rosh Hashanah is celebrated in her home.
- Animated letter, number, and Hebrew month segments featuring shin, resh, number 1, and Tishrei.
- Delightful studio story, divided into 4 segments, telling the tale of a curious muppet named Avigail who cannot resist touching and examining her friend Brosh’s new shofar. Because her hands are covered in honey, Avigail immediately becomes stuck to the shofar. Over the course of the DVD, Avigail must discover ways to make amends for her mistake and regain Brosh’s friendship.
- Video clip: two young boys apologize for breaking something by mistake.

Goals

This program strives to introduce families to the many different rituals, customs, and multi-layered meanings of Rosh Hashanah. Through hands-on activities and guided discussion, families will discover that Rosh Hashanah provides families with a yearly opportunity to review accomplishments, reflect on mistakes, apologize to others, and think of new ways to improve one’s self and the world. More specifically, the program hopes to increase families’ awareness of:

- Sounds and notes of the shofar and their underlying significance and meaning
- Rosh Hashanah as a time of new beginnings – A time to strengthen one’s resolve to create a kinder, more-environmentally friendly world.
- Guidance for using questions, conversation, and discussion to enrich a child’s TV/DVD viewing experience.

Submitted by:

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Note

Many of the activities listed below are identical to activities appearing in the book-based program for *Today is the Birthday of the World*. For maximum effectiveness, the entire program for *Today is the Birthday of the World* should be used as an introduction to The Sticky Shofar. If time or space does not allow this, one or more of the following activities may be used as an introduction to the DVD.

Plan in advance

Rosh Hashanah Resolutions

Materials

- Rosh Hashanah Resolution Worksheet (attached)
- Pencils, pens or markers
- Copy of suggestions of activities for helping the world (attached).

Mini Shofars

Materials

- Card stock, oak tag, or construction paper
- Crayons
- Sand paper or corrugated cardboard
- Stickers (optional)
- Paper towel/toilet paper tubes
- Wax paper
- Rubber bands



Advanced Preparations:

- If using paper towel tubes, cut them in half
- Cut a piece of wax paper large enough to cover one end of the paper towel tube, with a little wax paper hanging over the sides
- Place wax paper on one end of tube and secure by placing a rubber band around the tube and wax paper
- Cut out Shofar shapes



New Year Cards

Materials

- Card stock, oak tag, or construction paper
- Pens, markers
- Glue sticks
- Paint
- Paper bowls
- Apple slices
- Plastic forks
- Names and addresses of residents of local nursing homes
- Envelopes and stamps
- Copies of Rosh Hashanah sayings and greetings (i.e. *L'Shana Tova, Best Wishes for a Sweet New Year, L'Shana Tova Umetukkah*, etc.) to glue to the front of the card (optional)

Advanced Preparations

- Fold paper in half to construct cards
- Fill small bowls with paint (to minimize mess, sponges can be placed in bowls to absorb most of the paint. The sponges will function as ink pads).
- Slice apples (sticking a plastic fork in each apple slice minimizes the need to touch them directly).
- Arrange cut-outs of Rosh Hashanah greetings and glue sticks on table

Rosh Hashanah Tasting Party

Materials Needed

- 3 tables-One table for each type of food which is to be sampled
- Apples and honey
- Pomegranates
- Round Challah
- Small plates, large plates, and bowls
- Napkins
- Pitchers of Water and cups (for each table)-Optional

Advanced Preparations

- Peel and slice apples (optional: sprinkle with lemon juice to prevent browning)
- Cut several pomegranates in half, separate the seeds, and place in bowls (submerge a cut pomegranate in a large bowl of water and separate seeds while the pomegranate is covered in water to speed up the separation process and prevent spraying).
- Cut a challah into small pieces
- Fill bowls with honey
- Prepare table signs explaining the symbolism behind each of the foods. List the blessings which can be recited over each food.
- Prepare signs stating *L'shana Tova Umetukah-May you have a sweet New year* (optional)
- Set up Tasting stations/tables:

Apple and Honey table- Several plates of apple slices and several small bowls of honey. Small plates, lots of napkins (and possibly wipes for cleaning very sticky hands). Several unpeeled, unsliced apples, and a jar of honey to serve as a table centerpiece.

Pomegranate Table- Several bowls filled with pomegranate seeds, serving spoons for the seeds, small plates, napkins, and one or two whole and sliced pomegranates to serve as table centerpiece.

Challah Table- Several plates containing small challah chunks or slices, bowls of honey, one or two round challahs and a bottle of honey to serve as table centerpiece.

Introduce with an activity

Record Rosh Hashanah Resolutions

Intro Remarks

Today, when we watch **The Sticky Shofar** we will learn that the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah is a time for New Beginnings. It is a time to think about all which has happened over the past year and to think ahead to the New Year. On Rosh Hashanah, we try to think about ways in which we can help others in the upcoming year. Today we are going to give you a special piece of paper that contains a picture of Grover and an Israeli muppet named Avigail (whom you will meet in our DVD). In the picture at the top of this page, Grover and Avigail look as if they are thinking about the New Year. Like Grover and Avigail, we would like you to think about some of the ways in which you'd like to help others and take care of the world in the year ahead. (An adult can help you write your ideas on your paper). We hope that you'll take this paper home and hang it in your room or on the refrigerator to help you remember some of the caring behaviors that you would like to try in the year ahead.

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123
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In the year ahead I hope to

help others by:

help the world by:

Directions

Please complete this form with your family (each family may complete his/her own form, or family members can prepare one form for the entire family).

Make Mini-Shofars

Intro Remarks

Today, when we watch **The Sticky Shofar** we're going to meet an Israeli boy named Yuval who is learning how to blow a shofar-the special ram's horn which we sound 100 times on the holiday of Rosh Hashanah. Right now, we'd like to give you the chance to make your own shofar.

Directions

1. Decorate shofar. For texture, place the shofar on top of the sand paper or corrugated cardboard. Rub crayon and observe the patterns which emerge. Add stickers.
2. Using a stapler, attach shofar to paper towel tube.



Make New Year Cards

Intro Remarks

On Rosh Hashanah, we often send cards to our friends and family wishing them a Happy New Year. In our DVD today we will meet a girl named Gali who makes cards for her parents and teacher. Today, we want to give you a chance to make your very own card. We will use apples to help us make our cards, because apple dipped in honey is one of the special foods which we eat on Rosh Hashanah.

Directions

1. Think about for whom you would like to make your card.
2. Write a personalized New Year greeting on the inside of the card
3. Decorate outside of the card with words (glue on a prepared greetings or create your own greetings)
4. Decorate card with apple prints-Dip apple slice in paint and then press it firmly onto the paper.
5. Choose a name and address from our list of local nursing home residents and prepare a card for them.



Watch the DVD

Hints for Sharing the DVD

- **The Sticky Shofar** may be shown in its entirety or you may opt to show selected scenes from the DVD.
- An important goal of this program is to model interactive viewing practices- some amount of discussion should proceed or follow specific segments of the DVD.
- If the DVD is shown in its entirety, plan for moments when you will pause the DVD in order to initiate discussion on some of the topics outlined below
- Plan on a minimum of one and a maximum of three discussion sessions (topics below).
- Selected segments from **The Sticky Shofar** are available on the Shalom Sesame website: www.shalomsesame.org

Sending New Year Cards - Selected Scene

Following the Segment

Did you like meeting Gali and her family? How did Gali and her family prepare for the holiday of Rosh Hashanah? For whom did Gali make New Year's Cards? To whom would you like to send New Year's Cards? What words or wishes would you like to write in your card? (If the children have made cards as an introductory activity, ask several children to share their cards with the group).



Understanding the Shofar – Selected Scene

Prior to showing the segment

As we watch our DVD we're going to hear some loud, special noises that are just like the noises we hear on Rosh Hashanah.

- *What noises do you think we might hear?*
- *Why do we blow a shofar on Rosh Hashanah?*
- *What do the sounds of the shofar tell us to do?*

(The New Year is coming. Think about what behaviors we'd like to exhibit in the New Year.) There are several different types of noises or notes which we play on a shofar. Very soon we're going to meet a boy named Yuval who is learning to blow a shofar. Let's listen carefully to his shofar blowing and see if we can learn some of the names and sounds of the different notes.



Following the Segment

Do you think that we could practice the Shofar notes just as Yuval did? (If children made shofars as an introductory activity, you can encourage them to blow into their shofars as they learn the notes). Does anyone remember some of the names of the shofar notes? Each note has a very different sound. Let's see if we can learn the notes right now:

Tekiah -one long note

Shevarim - three short notes

Teruah - 9 very, very short notes

Rosh Hashanah as a Time of New Beginnings – Selected Scene

Following the Segment

In the DVD, Gali notes that Rosh Hashanah is a time to celebrate new beginnings. Do you remember some of the new beginnings which Gali and her brother will experience in the upcoming year? On Rosh Hashanah, as part of the celebration of new beginnings, we often decide on new actions and activities which we would like to try in the New Year. Do you remember the “Looking ahead to the New Year” form which you filled out (the one with Grover and Avigail on the front)? This Rosh Hashanah what will your New Beginning be? What actions will you try to carry out in the upcoming year? How will you help others? How will you help the earth/world?

Rosh Hashanah Street Interviews & Child Testimonials – [View Scene](#)

Following the Segment

How do some Israeli children celebrate Rosh Hashanah? What types of things do they do? What types of food do they eat? Do you remember that some of the children talked about their hopes and plans for the New Year? What did these children hope to do? Today, you also made plans for the New Year. Can you tell us about some of the actions which you wrote down on your “Looking Ahead to the New Year form (the one with Grover and Avigail on the front)?



Grover and Avigail Studio Story – Selected Scene

Following Part 2 of the Story

(where Grover tries to help Avigail with her “sticky problem”)

Rosh Hashanah is a time for thinking about our actions and behaviors, and planning how we can behave better in the year ahead. Can you tell us one or two of the behaviors that you wrote on your Rosh Hashanah Activity sheet? How do you plan on helping others in the year ahead? How will you help the world?



Rosh Hashanah is also a time for thinking about the mistakes which we may have made during the past year, and trying to decide how we might fix those mistakes. So far, have we met anyone in the video who has made a mistake? How could Avigail fix her mistake? Let's watch more of our video. We'll learn more about Rosh Hashanah, and we'll see if Avigail is able to fix her mistake.

Following Part 3 of the Story

(where Brosh returns and Avigail admits her mistake)

Why was it so hard for Avigail to tell Brosh what she had done? What did she think was going to happen? What actually happened when Avigail told Brosh that she had made a mistake and was sorry? Can you think of anything that you might have done in the past that you needed to say sorry for? What happened when you apologized (said sorry)?

Apology – [View Scene](#)

Following the Segment:

Rosh Hashanah is a time for thinking about our actions and behaviors, and planning how we can behave differently in the year ahead. It is also a time for apologizing to our friends and family. What does the word “apologize” mean? To whom did the boys in the DVD need to apologize? What had the boys done? At first, did they want to tell their mother what they had done? Can you think of anything that you might have done in the past that you needed to say sorry for?



Follow Up activities

Rosh Hashanah Tasting Party

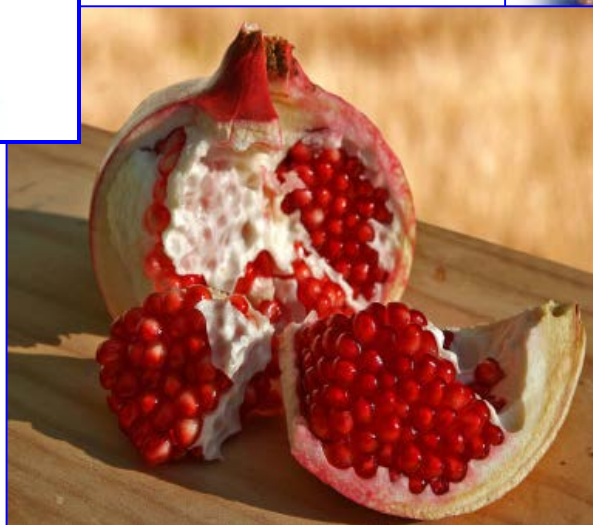
Intro Remarks

In our DVD we learned about many different foods which are often eaten on Rosh Hashanah. Do you remember some of the foods which you saw? Right now, we're going to have a chance to try a few of these foods. (Hold up each food item individually and ask: What food is this? Why do we eat it on Rosh Hashanah?)

- Apples and Honey-We eat apples dipped in honey to express our hope that we will have a good, sweet New Year.
- Pomegranate- Display a cut half (Caution – pomegranate juice stains). Show the seeds and demonstrate how to eat one. We eat pomegranates because in the year ahead we hope that we will be able to do as many mitzvot/good deeds as there are seeds in a pomegranate. Can you think of a good deed which you would like to do in the year ahead?
- Round Challah-The challah which we eat on Rosh Hashanah looks a little different from the challah which we eat all year round. (If possible, display each type of challah). What is the shape of the Rosh Hashana challah? A Rosh Hashanah challah is round in order to show that every year, the months and seasons of the year go round and round. Right now the season is summer/fall. What comes after fall? What comes after spring? Eventually we always come back to the season with which we started. On Rosh Hashanah not only is it a custom to dip apples in honey, but we also dip our challah in honey. Again, we use the honey to show that we would like to have a good, sweet New Year.

Directions

1. Walk from table to table, sampling the foods at each table.
2. As you eat, remind children of the symbolism of each food item.



Resources for parents, teachers, families

Nurturing the Family

After the program, contact families, thanking them for coming to the program and asking them to send in pictures of their family carrying out some of their New Year's resolutions.

Remember to provide families with schedules and information about the various Rosh Hashana programs which will be held at local synagogues.

Provide families with a few interesting links to learn more about the holiday. Here are some potential links:

[Rosh Hashanah 101](#) on *My Jewish Learning*

[Rosh Hashanah: What's it all about?](#) on *Kveller.com*

[Shofar info](#) on *My Jewish Learning*

[Sounds of the Shofar](#) on *Akhlah.com*

[Rosh Hashanah Crafts, Music and Cooking activities](#) from *JCCA*

Some Activity Suggestions for the New Year

Suggestions for Helping Others:

- Cleaning up toys without being asked
- Setting the table
- Helping to put clothes in the washer/dryer
- Playing quietly while an adult talks on the phone
- Sweeping the floor
- Calling grandma/grandpa on the telephone once a week (to wish them a "Shabbat Shalom")
- Donating old toys and clothes to Goodwill or another charitable organization

Suggestions for Helping the World:

- Using cloth grocery bags
- Remembering to turn off the lights when leaving a room
- Recycling
- Composting
- Conserving water-not letting the water run during tooth brushing, face washing, etc.
- Planting a garden/butterfly bush
- Cleaning a nearby park
- Using "green" cleaning products (i.e. baking soda on a sponge)



In the year ahead I hope to

help others by:

help the world by:

be the best I can be!