

# The Sh'ma & Her Blessings

Beit Midrash Prayer Guides

## Bar'chu

Yotzer Or / Ma'ariv Aravim  
Ahavat Olam / Ahavah Rabah  
Sh'ma  
V'ahavta  
Mi Chamocha

Introductory Prayers

**The Sh'ma & Her  
Blessings**

Amidah

Torah Service

Concluding Prayers

The second section of the service begins with a prayer often nicknamed

# The Call to Worship

What does it mean to “Call” someone?



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The second section of the service begins with a prayer often nicknamed

# The Call to Worship

What does it mean to “Call” someone?



To get them on the phone  
or from across the room

# The Call to Worship



What is a “**Call**,” as a noun, rather than as a verb?

- In Google, type in “define:call”  
(without any spaces)
- What’s the first definition  
that’s listed as a **noun**?



A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed teal border and rounded corners, intended for the user to write their answer to the question.

# The Call to Worship



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**call**

/kôl/ 

*noun*

1. a cry made as a summons or to attract someone's attention.

"a nearby fisherman heard their calls for help"

*synonyms:* cry, shout, yell, roar, scream, exclamation, vociferation; *informal* holler

"I heard calls from the auditorium"

# The Call to Worship

Circle all the words that could be **synonyms** for “Worship”:

**Synonyms** are words that mean the same thing as each other – like “cold” and “chilly.”



Use Google’s “define:\_\_\_\_\_” feature for this word, too, if you’re not sure!

Prayer

Praise

Shouting

Help

Honor



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Prayer

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בְּרָכוּ



# The Call to Worship

So a “**Call** to **Worship**” is a way to **attract someone’s attention** for **prayer**

Whose attention is the Bar’chu trying to attract – ours, or God’s?



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# The Call to Worship

So a “**Call** to **Worship**” is a way to **attract someone’s attention** for **prayer**

Why do you think we, as human beings, might need to have our **attention attracted** to our **prayer**?



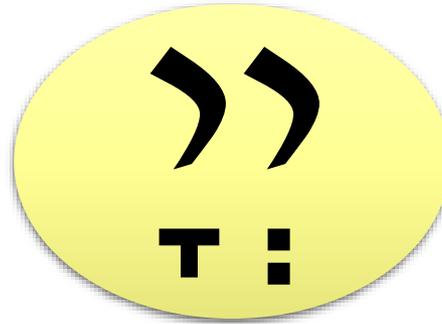
# The Call to Worship

After some introductory prayers to get us in the mood, this is the first prayer we say in the service.

Why do you think it makes sense to begin our service with a “**Call to Worship**”?



The Bar'chu usually uses a “symbol-word” twice:



We don't read that word like it's written.

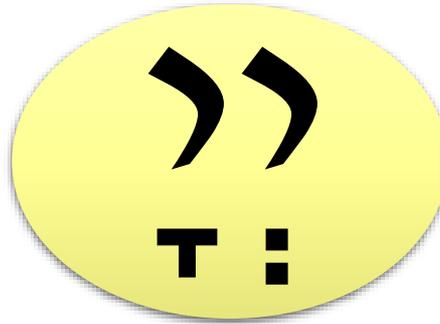
It stands for a name that is  
*so super-duper holy*

That we don't write it out *just in case* the  
book or piece of paper gets thrown out.

Whose name would you guess it stands for?

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We don't read that word like it's written.

It stands for a name that is  
*so super-duper holy*

That we don't write it out *just in case* the  
book or piece of paper gets thrown out.

Whose name would you guess it stands for?

God's (we usually say "Adonai" during prayers)

Now read through the words of the Bar'chu:

1 בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ!

2 בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ לְעַלְמֵי וָעַד!

Judaism has a very uncreative method of naming most of our Hebrew prayers: we pick the first word of the prayer and make that the name of it.

So, knowing that, write out the Hebrew name for this prayer on a piece of paper and show it to your teacher through the webcam!



1 בְּרָכוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ!

2 בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ לְעַלְמֵי וָעַד!

Do you recognize any words in the prayer?

What do you think they mean?

1 בָּרְכוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ!

2 בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ לְעֹלָם וָעֶד!

Every time someone bows in this prayer, the word is made **bold** in the copy above.

How many times does someone bow during this prayer?

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Now think back to the last time you heard this prayer at a service, or watch this YouTube video of the Bar'chu being led in a service:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3ZaR93fnBo>

(or search for “Bar’chu Shabbat Unplugged” and click the first result)

1. Who says the first line and bows on its first word?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who says the second line and bows on its first word?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. If the first line is the “Call,” how would you describe the second line? \_\_\_\_\_

1 בָּרְכוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְבָרְךְ!  
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*The service leader*

2. Who says the second line and bows on its first word?

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*The whole congregation*

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3. If the first line is the “Call,” how would you describe the second line? *The Response*

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# Translate It!

Fill out the translation from the Word Bank at the bottom!

Prefix	Suffix	Noun	Verb	Adjective / Adverb
--------	--------	------	------	--------------------

הַמְבָרָךְ!	יְי	אֵת	בְּרַכּוּ	1
<u>        </u> Blessed One!	God,	(has no English translation)	<u>                    </u>	

וְעַד!	לְעֹלָם	הַמְבָרָךְ	יְי	בְּרוּךְ	2
<u>        </u> ever!	forever	<u>        </u> Blessed One,	God,	<u>                    </u> is	

## Word Bank

הַ-	בְּרַכּוּ	בְּרוּךְ	וְ-
the (prefix)	Bless (verb, as a command, like "Hey you, Bless!")	Blessed (adjective)	and (prefix)

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וְעַד!	לְעֹלָם	הַמְבָרָךְ	יְי	בְּרוּךְ	2
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# Translate it!

The translation chart goes right-to-left with the Hebrew.

הַמְבָרָךְ!	יְי	אֶת	בְּרַכּוּ	1
<u>the</u> Blessed One!	God,	(has no English translation)	<u>Bless</u>	



Can you put the words in left-to-right order so it's easy to read in English?



Bless		
-------	--	--

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Bless	God,	
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<u>the</u> Blessed One!	God,	(has no English translation)	<u>Bless</u>	



Can you put the words in left-to-right order so it's easy to read in English?



Bless	God,	the Blessed One!
-------	------	------------------

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וְעַד!	לְעַלְמֵי	הַמְּבֹרָךְ	יְיָ	בְּרוּךְ	2
<u>and</u> ever!	forever	<u>the</u> Blessed One,	God,	<u>Blessed</u> is	



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Blessed is				
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Blessed is	God,			
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Blessed is	God,	the Blessed One,		
------------	------	------------------	--	--

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וְעַד!	לְעַלְמֵי	הַמְּבֹרָךְ	יְיָ	בְּרוּךְ	2
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Can you put the words in left-to-right order so it's easy to read in English?



Blessed is	God,	the Blessed One,	forever	
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Can you put the words in left-to-right order so it's easy to read in English?



Blessed is	God,	the Blessed One,	forever	and ever.
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<u>the</u> Blessed One!	God,	(has no English translation)	<u>Bless</u>	

וְעַד!	לְעַלְמִים	הַמְבָרָךְ	יְי	בְּרוּךְ	2
<u>and</u> ever!	forever	<u>the</u> Blessed One,	God,	<u>Blessed</u> is	

What would you say are the two most important Hebrew words in this prayer?

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think so?

# T'fillah Taxonomy

Most Jewish prayers also fall into one (or two) of three types...



**Praise**

“WOW,  
GOD!!”



**Petition**

“HELP, GOD!!!”



**Gratitude**

“THANK YOU,  
GOD!!”

# T'fillah Taxonomy

Which “type” of prayer do you think the Bar’chu could be?  
Why do you think so?



1. Bless God, the Blessed One!
2. Blessed is God, the Blessed One, forever and ever!

1 בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ!

2 בָּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ

לְעַלְמֵי עֵד!

# T'fillah Taxonomy

Most Jewish prayers are either

## Personal Prayers

*Can still be said along with a community...*

*...but talk about ideas that are of a **personal and individual** nature, not for the whole Jewish people.*

For example: a prayer for healing, or a prayer for wisdom.

What might be another **personal** topic for a prayer?

or

## Communal Prayers

*Can still be said when alone...*

*...but talk about ideas that are of a **communal and group-related** nature, not just for one person.*

For example: a prayer for rain, or a prayer to remember our ancestors.

What might be another **communal** topic for a prayer?

# T'fillah Taxonomy

Most Jewish prayers are either

## Personal Prayers

*PRO TIP:*

Look for “I” and “me” in the translation – it’s likely this is a personal prayer!

**or**

## Communal Prayers

*PRO TIP:*

Look for “we” and “us” or mentions of the “people of Israel” in the translation – this could be a communal prayer!

# T'fillah Taxonomy

Plenty of Jewish prayers are a little bit of both

**Personal** and **Communal**

But the Bar'chu is *very* much more of one than the other!

Read through the translation again:  
is the Bar'chu more personal, or more communal?

1. Bless God, the Blessed One!
2. Blessed is God, the Blessed One, forever and ever!

1 בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ!

2 בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ

לְעֹלָם וָעֶד!

# Taxonomy Trivia

1 בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְבָרָךְ!

2 בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְבָרָךְ לְעֹלָם וָעֶד!



Which word(s) in the Bar'chu's translation makes it easy to see this as a **communal** prayer?

- (A) Bless    (B) Adonai    (C) The Blessed One    (D) Our God    (E) Forever  
בְּרַכּוּ            יְיָ            הַמְבָרָךְ            אֱלֹהֵינוּ            לְעֹלָם

Which word(s) in the Bar'chu's translation makes it easy to see this as a **praise** prayer?

- (A) Bless    (B) Adonai    (C) The Blessed One    (D) Blessed (is)    (E) Forever  
בְּרַכּוּ            יְיָ            הַמְבָרָךְ            בְּרוּךְ            לְעֹלָם



# Taxonomy Trivia

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Which word(s) in the Bar'chu's translation makes it easy to see this as a **communal** prayer?

- (A) Bless בְּרַכּוּ (B) Adonai יְיָ (C) The Blessed One הַמְּבָרָךְ (D) Our God אֱלֹהֵינוּ (E) Forever לְעֹלָם

Which word(s) in the Bar'chu's translation makes it easy to see this as a **praise** prayer?

- (A) Bless בְּרַכּוּ (B) Adonai יְיָ (C) The Blessed One הַמְּבָרָךְ (D) Blessed (is) בְּרוּךְ (E) Forever לְעֹלָם



# Break It Down



1. Bless God, the Blessed One!
2. Blessed is God, the Blessed One, forever and ever!

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Some prayers are *so important* to say with the community that Jewish tradition only allows us to say them at all if the service

has a **מִנְיָן** (usually spelled “*minyan*” in English).



Google “**define:minyan.**” Fill in the blanks for the definition of *minyan*:

**Minyan:** *noun.* A \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (or, in some synagogues, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_) over the age of \_\_\_\_\_ required for \_\_\_\_\_ Jewish \_\_\_\_\_.

Now use the same “define:\_\_\_\_\_” search method for the **second word** in the definition for “*minyan.*” Fill in the blanks for the beginning of that definition:

\_\_\_\_\_ : *noun.* The \_\_\_\_\_ number of \_\_\_\_\_ of an \_\_\_\_\_ or society that must be \_\_\_\_\_...

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**Minyan:** *noun.* A quorum of ten men (or, in some synagogues, men and women) over the age of 13 required for traditional Jewish public worship.

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Now use the same “define:\_\_\_\_\_” search method for the **second word** in the definition for “*minyan.*” Fill in the blanks for the beginning of that definition:

Quorum: *noun.* The minimum number of members of an assembly or society that must be present...

# Break It Down



1. Bless God, the Blessed One!
2. Blessed is God, the Blessed One, forever and ever!

1 בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ!  
2 בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ לְעֹלָם וָעֶד!



**Minyan:** *noun.* A quorum of ten men (or, in some synagogues, men and women) over the age of 13 required for traditional Jewish public worship.

Quorum: *noun.* The minimum number of members of an assembly or society that must be present ...

**In your own words,** what would be the simplest way to define a “*minyan*”?

Why do you think we need a *minyan* to say this prayer?



## Break It Down



1. Bless God, the Blessed One!      1 בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ!
2. Blessed is God, the Blessed One,  
forever and ever!      2 בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ  
לְעַלְמִם וָעַד!

Why do you think we start every public *t'fillah* service with this prayer (after a few introductory prayers to get us in the mood)?

Practice, Practice, Practice!

Practice reading & singing the Bar'chu until you're ready to sign off with your teacher!

1 בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְבָרֵךְ!

2 בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְבָרֵךְ לְעֹלָם וָעֶד!

### Practice Resources:

1. In **ShalomLearning**, practice with the JiTap soundboard directly in your browser!
2. Go to <http://jitap.net/activities/g3li/play/> or open the **JiTap app** and search for “**Bar'chu**” to find the Tap-and-Hear soundboard to practice.
3. Or search **YouTube** for “**Bar'chu Prayer Karaoke**” – the videos should have a white background and black→blue letters.

Direct Links: [Read](#) | [Chanted](#) | [Sung \(Siegel melody\)](#) | [Sung \(Aronson melody\)](#)

*Note: The Bar'chu has a **lot** of different tunes! There are only JiTaps & videos for a few of the most common tunes, but if you can read the words really well, you can follow any tune your community uses!*

# Get Creative!

*Illustrate a comic strip of yourself getting ready to pray:*

*Ask your teacher to send you the PDF of the Comic Strip page if you need it!*

First I make sure I'm awake...	
Then I get my body...	...and mind...
	prepared to talk to God.
I gather with my community—the service leader calls to us:	
"Bless God, the Blessed One!"	
And we respond, ready as ever:	
"Blessed is God, the Blessed One, forever and ever!"	

Take a photo or scan your  
comic strip and either  
(1) send it to your teacher

or

(2) upload to Instagram  
with the tags #Barchu,  
#LovePrayCreate, &

#JLearnHub



# The Sh'ma & Her Blessings

Beit Midrash Prayer Guides

## Bar'chu

Yotzer Or / Ma'ariv Aravim  
Ahavat Olam / Ahavah Rabah  
Sh'ma  
V'ahavta  
Mi Chamocha

Introductory Prayers

**The Sh'ma & Her  
Blessings**

Amidah

Torah Service

Concluding Prayers

By Rae Antonoff, MAJE