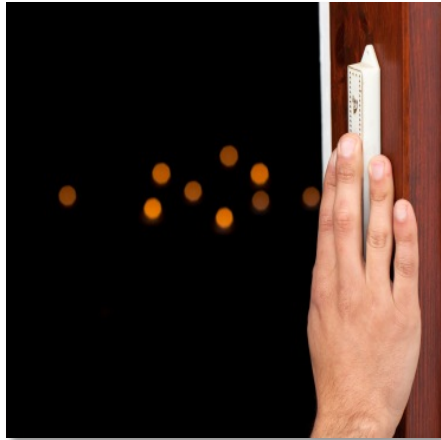


## Summer Out Door

By Christy Olson



Summer means lots of coming and going. Learn and talk about the Jewish traditional ritual of doorway blessing, mezuzah. Make a mezuzah for your household.

**For**  
Young Family

**Season**  
Summer

**Needed**  
Glue sticks, a family picture, Mezuzah Worksheet (see last page), popsicle sticks or colored paper to make a frame, scissors

### Prepare in Advance

Cut the Mezuzah Worksheet to separate the pictures and the Scripture passage

### Activity Plan

1. Gather at the main door of your home and say this prayer.

*Dear God, in the summer we go out this door many times. We go to summer fun.  
When we come back through this door, we come towards love.  
Bless our ritual of going and coming each day. Amen.*

2. Sit down inside or outside the main door of your home. Share how you feel when you go outside in summer. Talk about some of the things you can only do outside in the summer. Share how you feel when you come home.
3. Show Picture 1 of the mezuzah. Explain that it is a Jewish doorway blessing. Each mezuzah is different. Discuss these questions.
  - Where is the mezuzah located on this house? (By the door)
  - Why do you suppose the Jewish people put it by their doorway?
  - What might the picture be on the front?
4. Show picture 2
  - There is a hidden mystery in the mezuzah. What do you think might be in the hidden spot?
  - In each mezuzah is a Scripture passage called shema. Shema means “listen”. Read the Scripture passage aloud. Why is it important to listen to God as you go out the door in the summer and again when you come home?
5. Work together to make a mezuzah for your door.
  - Make a frame around your family picture by gluing on craft sticks or cutting strips of paper.
  - Fold the shema scripture to fit the back of your picture and glue it there.
  - Put your family mezuzah somewhere by the door.
6. Touch the family picture each time you go in or out the door. Remember to listen to God in each of your fun outdoor activities.

# Mezuzah Worksheet

## Jewish shema

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (Deuteronomy 6:5-9).

Picture 1



Cut here

Picture 2

