



DAWN

Discussion Guide

About DAWN

DAWN is Reboot’s all-night interpretation of the magical and mighty holiday of Shavuot. We spend the night immersed in music, comedy, food, learning and conversation – all presented by some of the greatest artists, rabbis and thinkers of our generation. For years, Reboot gathered people in person, but in 2020, the pandemic shut down forced us to take the tradition online, connecting people across the world for disparate experiences together.

This year, we are offering [highlights](#) from past two online DAWN festivals and a marquee performance, “Round Midnight Reconsidered” by Bay Area guitarist composer John Schott. Reboot presented DAWN 2021 in partnership with the Jewish Emergent Network and LABA’s Into the Night Tikkun Layle Shavuot and DAWN 2020 in partnership with the Jewish Emergent Network.

To facilitate conversation and study, we have created this discussion guide to accompany our [2022 DAWN Playlist](#).



About Reboot

Reboot is an arts and culture non-profit that reimagines and reinforces Jewish thought and traditions. As a premier research and development platform for the Jewish world, we catalyze our Reboot Network of preeminent creators, artists, entrepreneurs and activists to produce experiences and products that evolve the Jewish conversation and transform society.



DAWN

Discussion Guide

I Am Not What I Am

A short documentary by William DeMeritt of interviews with Jews of Color sharing poignant life stories of negotiating the complicated boundaries of identity in a society that often pits identities against one another.

[Watch](#)

Discussion Questions

1. William DeMeritt ponders all of the customs, celebrations, and stories that make up the identity of Shavuot, and finds the parallels between that and his own identity. What are some of the pieces that make up your identity?
2. The customs of Shavuot have evolved over time. How have your traditions and rituals changed throughout your life?
3. What makes your Jewish identity unique?

Thou Shalt: Shavuot Sketches

Avi Amon and Lynne Marie Rosenberg present a series of music, film, and stop motion animation collaborations exploring the themes, images, and sounds of Shavuot, as creatively synthesized through an antique piano and one and half Jews.

[Watch](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Shavuot celebrates when the Jews received the Torah and the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. If you were to add a commandment, what would it be?
2. While many people know of the Ten Commandments, the Torah actually contains 613 commandments in total, laying out the practices of Jewish society in the time and place that they were written. What is outdated? Which ones could our society today benefit from?
3. What art form would you use to create a Shavuot piece?



DAWN

Discussion Guide

Drunk (and Possibly Stoned) History of Shavuot (Explicit)

Moderated by comedy writer Alex Grossman, join Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove of Park Avenue Synagogue in NYC, comedian Heather Pasternak and writer/comedian Joel Stein for a very not sober history of Shavuot.

[Watch](#)

Discussion Questions

1. How familiar were you with Shavuot prior to this year? What practices were you aware of, and what is new to you?
2. What do you think of this tradition of staying up all night? Do you have any unique rituals that you observe on Shavuot or other holidays?
3. Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove compares the celebration of Shavuot to reading and re-reading a love letter each year, searching for further meanings. What are you revisiting this Shavuot? What are you exploring deeper?

Dawn in Tel Aviv

Sunrise in Israel featuring Nadav Lev on guitar. Video by Elinor Milchan Concept, photography, editing and production by Ronit Muszkatblit. Produced by LABA Tel Aviv

[Watch](#)

Discussion Questions

1. If you plan to stay up all night for Shavuot, how will you mark the dawn?
2. According to the Talmud, on the morning the Israelites were to receive the Torah they overslept. Now to make up for our tardiness, we remain awake and study the Torah. What are some other reasons you have stayed up all night?
3. Like many Jewish holidays, Shavuot marks an important point in the agricultural calendar, and occurs at a time of year when the days are long and the nights are short. Are there midsummer/solstice holidays or rituals from other traditions that remind you of Shavuot?



DAWN

Discussion Guide

The Music of DAWN

A Compilation of musical performances from previous DAWN festivals. Featuring The Milk Carton Kids, Ethan Daniel Davidson, Luther Dickinson and Lamar Williams Jr, The Witch Ones, The Ten Commandments Rescored, Jo Lampert, and Mikey Pauker.

[Watch](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Music is an important part of every Jewish celebration. How do you incorporate music into your holiday rituals? What role does music play in your life?
2. How do these musical performances capture the spirit of Shavuot?
3. What song or songs would you add to a Shavuot celebration?

