

The special Friday night service which introduces the שַׁבָּת is called קְבָּלָת שֶׁבָּת The word קְבָּלָה means "receive." It also means "accept." As we chant קְבָּלָת שֵׁבָּת, we welcome שַׁבָּת our community. We also accept and agree that, for us, שַׁבָּת has officially begun.

The heart of קְּבְלַת שֵׁבְּלַת שֵׁבָּ, though, is the song לְכָה דוֹדִי. In א קֹכָה דוֹדִי, we joyously welcome שַׁבָּת. With words from the Talmud - לְכָה דוֹדִי לִקְרַאת כַּלָּה - we greet שַׁבָּת בּלָה דוֹדִי



ילָכָה דוֹדִי was composed in the 1500's by Rabbi Shlomo Halevy Alkabetz. Shlomo Halevy lived in Safed, a hilly and ancient town about 40 miles north of Jerusalem. On Friday afternoons, he and his students would go out into the nearby fields. At the first hint of sunset, they would greet the שָׁבָּת into this line from the Talmud. This line became the refrain of יָכָה דוֹדִי. The song has nine stanzas. The first, second, and ninth stanzas (below) are about שָׁבָּת

לְכָה דוֹדִי לִקְרַאת כַּלָּה, פְּגֵי שֵׁבָּת נְקַבְּלָה.



לִקְרַאת שַׁבָּת לְכוּ וְגַלְכָה, כִּי הִיא מְקוֹר הַבְּרָכָה, מֵרֹאשׁ מִקֶּדֶם נְסוּכָה, סוֹף מַעֲשָׁה בְּמַחַשָּׁבָה תְּחִלָה. לְכָה דוֹדִי...

> בּוֹאִי בְשָׁלוֹם עֲטֶרֶת בַּעְלָה, גַּם בְּשִׂמְחָה וּרְצְחֲלָה, תּוֹדְ אֶמוּנֵי עַם סְגָלְה, בּוֹאִי כַלְה, בּוֹאִי כַלְה. לְכָה דוֹדִי...

לְכָה דוֹדִי

Key Phrase

לְכָה דוֹדִי לִקְרַאָת כַּלְה, פְּגֵי שֵׁהָת נְקַבְּלָה. Let's go, my friend, to greet the bride. The presence of Shabbat, let us welcome.



קבל

The last word in the refrain of this song, גְקַבְּלָה, is built out of the root for receive/accept - קבל. This root also helps form the name of our introductory Friday night service - קַבְּלָת שֵׁבָת.

קבל, receive and accept the key words on the previous page by studying them with a partner. Then translate into English, below.



פְּנֵי שֵׁהָת

When we recite the last stanza of לְכָה דוֹדִי, beginning with the words בוֹאָי בְשָׁלוֹם, enter in peace, we stand and face the door. It is as if we are turning to greet the arriving \dot{y} .

Reading Game: Get a stopwatch. Call out a student's name and the first sound of a line from the prayer (letter plus vowel). How long does it take that person to find and complete the word? (Example: Leader - "Sarah, in line $1 - \frac{7}{2}$ ". Sarah - " $\frac{7}{2}$ "). (Try it also on page 8.)





Like other poets of his time, Rabbi Shlomo Halevy Alkabetz signed his name to his song by making it an acrostic. The first letter of the first eight stanzas spell out his name -- Shlomo Halevy. Can you find this name in the first two stanzas on page 6, and in the rest of the prayer on page 8?

Another way to play with letters is a crossword puzzle. Use the English clues and the choices at the bottom of the page to complete the crossword by filling in the squares with Hebrew letters. You do not need to include vowels.



Reading Drill

The fourth through eighth stanzas of לְכָה דוֹדִי speak of Jerusalem and of the different stages of redemption.

ַמִקְדַשׁ מֶלֶךְ עִיר מְלוּכְה, קוּמִי צְאִי מִתּוֹדְ הַהְפֵכָה, רַב לְךְ שֶׁבֶת בְּעֵמֶק הַבְּכָא, וְהוּא יַחֲמוֹל עְלַידְ חֶמְלָה.

ַהְתְנַאֲרִי מֵעָפְר קוּמִי, לִבְשִׁי בִּגְדֵי תִפְאַרְתֵּדְ עַמִּי, עַל יַד בֶּן יִשַׁי בִּית הַלַחְמִי, קַרְבָה אֶל נַפְשִׁי גְּאָלָה.

הַתְעוֹרְרִי הַתְעוֹרְרִי, כִּי בָא אוֹרֵדְ קוּמִי אוֹרִי, עוּרִי עוּרִי שִׁיר דַּבָּרִי, כְּבוֹד יִיָ עַלַיִדְ נִגְלָה.

לא תִבוּשִׁי וְלֹא תִכְּלְמִי, מַה תִּשְׁתוֹחַחִי וּמָה תָּהָמִי, כְּךְ יֶחֻסוּ עֲנִיֵּי עַמִּי, וְנִבְנְתָה עִיר עַל תִּלְה.

> ַרְהִיוּ לִמְשִׁסְּה שׁאסְיִדְ, וְרְחֲקוּ כָּל מְבַלְעָיִדְ, יְשִׁישׁ עְּלַיִדְ אָּלֹהִידְ, כִּמְשׁוֹשׁ חְתָן עַל כַּלָה.

יָמִין וּשְׂמֹאל תִּפְרוֹצִי, וְאָת יְיָ תַּעֲרִיצִי, עַל יַד אִיש בֶּן פַּרְצִי, וְנִשְׂמְחָה וְנָגִילָה.

> I have mastered לְכָה דוֹדִי

When you have completed the chapter, and have your לְכָה דוֹדִי reading lines checked off, your teacher will give you a sticker!

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