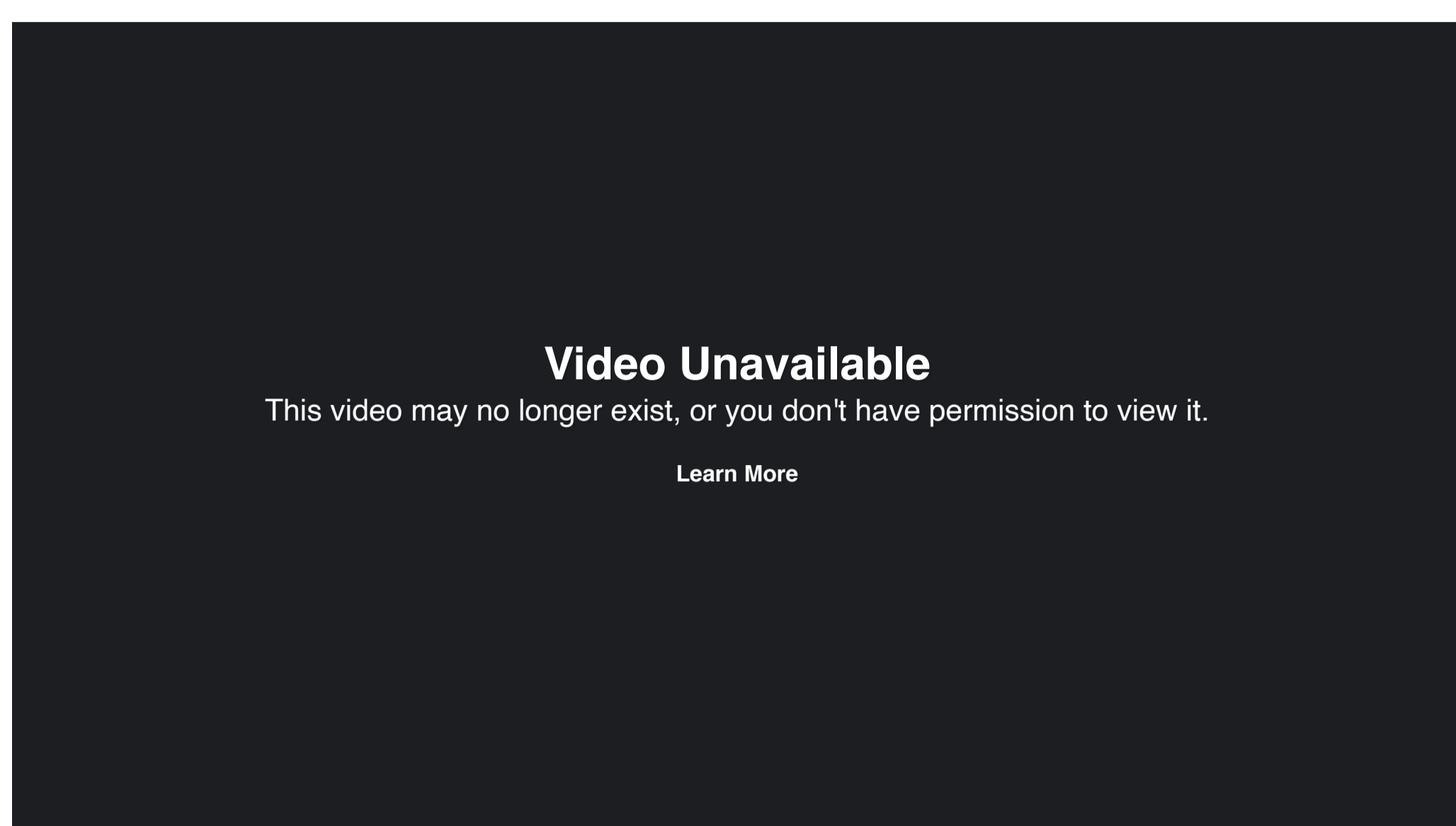


Siyum for Firstborns in the Age of Corona



Join us below as we celebrate a live *siyum* online on the Eve of [Passover](#), April 8, 2020 at 9:30AM ET / 6:30AM PT:



Question

There is an ancient custom for Jewish firstborns to fast on the day before Passover ([read why here](#)) until they participate in a *siyum* (the completion of a tractate of [Talmud](#)) or another *mitzvah* celebration. It is customary to arrange a *siyum* in the synagogue after morning prayers to allow the firstborns to eat for the remainder of this very busy day.

With most synagogues shuttered and communities in lockdown, how is a firstborn to proceed?

Response

Study Talmud: The best idea would be for every firstborn to study a tractate of Talmud, concluding the final lines on the morning of the day before Passover. No *minyan* is required and *kaddish* need not be said.

On a practical level, [Tractate Tamid](#) (which deals with the daily routine in the Holy Temple) is quite short and easy to learn (it is mostly *Mishnah*, but contains some *Gemara* as well). If you are not super comfortable in Hebrew/Aramaic, you can learn it in English online, including our video classes, which you can [watch here](#) (starting at minute 18).

Also note that one may make a *siyum* after learning a portion of [Maimonides' Mishneh Torah](#), [which can be accessed in English](#).

Study Mishnah: If this is beyond your grasp, under the current circumstances we can rely on those who rule completing a tractate of Mishnah warrants a *siyum* celebration. A familiar tractate is *Avot* ([Ethics of the Fathers](#)), which you can learn online.

Note that it is not enough just to read the words. You must actually understand what you are reading, something easily achievable with the plethora of study aids available these days.

Over the Phone or Internet: While this is surely not ideal, if you cannot study a tractate (and do not have a household member who can do so for you), our rabbinical advisors have ruled that you may participate in a *siyum* over the telephone or streamed over the Internet, and then break your fast.

Wishing you a *kosher*, happy, and healthy Passover!

By [Chabad.org Staff](#)

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A Anonymous North Miami April 8, 2020
Thanks for posting this chabad! saved me some hungry hours getting ready for tonight!
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H H April 8, 2020
Thank you
[Reply](#)

M Meir Brooklyn April 8, 2020
Why couldn't you leave the siyum for us latecomers to watch. It would have been better than nothing!
Happy kosher Pesach.
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R Robert April 8, 2020
Thank you!
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O Omid Beverly Hills April 8, 2020
Link not working for me
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Chabad.org Staff April 8, 2020
in response to Omid:
Please try reloading the page, it is working.
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A Anonymous April 5, 2020
What's the source for relying upon a siyum of a sefer on mishna torah or a masechta of mishnayos? I always thought you had to finish a seder of Mishnayos...
[Reply](#)

Anonymous BROOKLYN April 8, 2020
in response to Anonymous:
This is the ruling of four of the later authorities (R. Nahman Kahana, Orhot Hayyim, second edition, Jerusalem, 1962, Orhot Hayyim 551, subpar. 35; R. Israel Abraham Alter Landa, Responsa Beit Yisrael, second edition, New York, 1976, No. 47; R. David Sperber, Responsa Afarkasta D'anya, Satu Mare, Romania, 1940, No. 154, parag. 3; R. Shlomo ha-Kohen, Responsa Binyan Shlomo, Part 1, Vilna, 1889, No. 59). They based themselves on the simple meaning of the text in Shabbat 118b-119a: Abbaye (Babylon, ca. 325 c.e.) said: May I be rewarded, for when I see a Sage who completes a massekhet (tractate), I make a Yom Tov for the Sages. Abbaye was doing a siyum on a Tractate of Mishnah since, in his time, the Babylonian Talmud did not yet exist.
[Reply](#)

חנה סיגל Ma'aleh Adumim April 5, 2020
Too late for this year!
[Reply](#)

R Reuven BS"D April 3, 2020
How much Rambam should be studied to make a siyum? (I have been doing 3 perakim/day since the new schedule started last summer)
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