

# Mezuzah Ceremony

A Mezuzah ceremony is a fun and easy way to get started as a Disciple of the Commandments.

The ceremony includes:

1. Reading the contents of the Mezuzah and a few scripture passages.
2. Hanging a framed list of the Ten Commandments in a prominent place in your home. Optionally hanging the Commandments in bedrooms, studies and other rooms.
3. Hanging the Mezuzah on the doorpost(s) of your home. You may optionally hang Mezuzahs on doorposts of bedrooms and other interior rooms.
4. And of course, following the ceremony, it is only appropriate to enjoy some food, friendship, and good conversation. In other words, make it a party. So, invite extended family members, members of your parish family, friends & neighbors. Having them attend offers you a natural opportunity to invite your guest to learn more about the Commandments.

To prepare, gather the items you will need for the ceremony.

1. You will need one Mezuzah for the main door to your home. You can optionally get Mezuzah's for other entrances to your home and each of the bedrooms and other interior rooms. Mezuzah's can be ordered on the Internet (I.E. MezuzahStore.com) and come in all price ranges.

To add to the experience, you can make your own Mezuzahs. They are small rectangular boxes, decorated any way you and your children want. They can be as simple as a decorated matchbox, or as elaborate as you like. Search for 'Mezuzahs' on Pinterest for ideas.

Inside the Mezuzah is placed a small parchment scroll with the scripture passages of Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21.

2. Make or purchase one or more framed lists of the Commandments to be hung in a prominent place in your home. You can have additional lists to hang in bedrooms, offices, and other rooms too.

We provide free printable Ten Commandments lists in a variety of styles on our website (<https://IfULoveMe.org/resources>) that are suitable for framing. To make your own, search for 'Ten Commandments' on Pinterest for ideas.

Optionally, have extra copies of the Ten Commandments to offer guests to take with them.

3. Gather the tools and materials to hang the Mezuzahs and Ten Commandment lists, such as a hammer, nails, picture hangers and tape.

4. Before the ceremony, identify where you are going to hang your Mezuzah. Mezuzahs are to be hung on the right doorpost, as you are walking into the house from the outside. If you are hanging them in interior rooms, they should be on the right doorpost as you are entering the room. The Mezuzah is to be hung about one-third from the top of the door frame, which is about eye-level for most people. Based on the height of those living in the home or using the interior rooms, adjust the height to be about eye-level and easy to reach for everyone. Also, the Mezuzah should be angled so, as you enter the room, the top of the Mezuzah is pointed slightly into the house/room.
5. Next, determine where you will hang the Commandments and prepare the wall and frame for easy hanging during the ceremony.
6. In your bible, mark each of the scripture passages listed in the instructions below and ask others to help during the ceremony, by reading the passages at the appropriate times. This is a great way to get children involved.

**The Mezuzah Ceremony:** We encourage you to involve as many of the family members and friends as possible, such as taking turns reading. The steps below are suggestions on how to conduct the ceremony. Feel free to adjust and enhance the ceremony to fit your style and group.

1. Briefly explain that you have been learning how the Commandments are not a list of rules imposed on us by a demanding God, but rather a recipe for a wonderful life and you have decided to display the Commandments in your home and hang the Mezuzah on your doorpost to learn and remember the Commandments and the blessings that come by ordering your life according to the Commandments.
2. Quickly explain what will happen during the ceremony and let everyone know the ceremony should take about 20 minutes.
3. Begin with an opening prayer. Play or sing a spiritual song, if you like.
4. Standing near where you will hang the framed Ten Commandments in a prominent place, read aloud Deuteronomy 5:1-21 which is when Moses gave the Commandments to the Israelites.
5. Hang the framed Ten Commandments. If you have framed Commandments for other rooms, you can have just a few people go hang them now, or you can wait until the ceremony is finished.
6. Standing at the main door of your home, read aloud Deuteronomy 6:1-9 which is Moses' instructions to the Israelites to teach the Commandments to their children and hang them on the doorposts of their homes.
7. Just before the Mezuzah is hung, the person who is the head of the house reads the following blessing:

*Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to affix a Mezuzah.*

8. Hang the Mezuzah at the location you determined prior to the ceremony.
9. Read aloud Deuteronomy 30:15-20 which is Moses' final instructions to the Israelites to never forget the Commandments and follow false gods but rather obey the Commandment which lead to life and prosperity.
10. Explain to everyone that the tradition is to touch the Mezuzah and kiss your hand as you enter and leave the home/room. This tradition is a reminder that God and His Commandments go with you on your journey and that He protects you when you return. It is similar to dipping your hand in holy water and making the Sign of the Cross when you enter and leave the church or your home.
11. At this point the ceremony is over and it is time to celebrate.