בס"ד

# Is One Obligated to Wear Tzitzit While Playing Basketball?

*Source Sheet by* [*Danny Strassman*](https://www.sefaria.org/profile/daniel-strassman)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**Numbers 15:37-41**](https://www.sefaria.org/Numbers.15.37-41)

|  |
| --- |
| (37) The LORD said to Moses as follows: (38) Speak to the Israelite people and instruct them to make for themselves fringes on the corners of their garments throughout the ages; let them attach a cord of blue to the fringe at each corner. (39) That shall be your fringe; look at it and recall all the commandments of the LORD and observe them, so that you do not follow your heart and eyes in your lustful urge. (40) Thus you shall be reminded to observe all My commandments and to be holy to your God. (41) I the LORD am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I, the LORD your God. |

1. **What message does G-d tell Moses to pass on to the Israelites?**

**2. What is the importance behind the fringe? What does G-d want the Israelites to be reminded of? (Explain)** | [**במדבר ט״ו:ל״ז-מ״א**](https://www.sefaria.org/Numbers.15.37-41)

|  |
| --- |
| (לז) וַיֹּ֥אמֶר ה' אֶל־מֹשֶׁ֥ה לֵּאמֹֽר׃ (לח) דַּבֵּ֞ר אֶל־בְּנֵ֤י יִשְׂרָאֵל֙ וְאָמַרְתָּ֣ אֲלֵקֶ֔ם וְעָשׂ֨וּ לָהֶ֥ם צִיצִ֛ת עַל־כַּנְפֵ֥י בִגְדֵיהֶ֖ם לְדֹרֹתָ֑ם וְנָֽתְנ֛וּ עַל־צִיצִ֥ת הַכָּנָ֖ף פְּתִ֥יל תְּכֵֽלֶת׃ (לט) וְהָיָ֣ה לָכֶם֮ לְצִיצִת֒ וּרְאִיתֶ֣ם אֹת֗וֹ וּזְכַרְתֶּם֙ אֶת־כָּל־מִצְוֺ֣ת ה' וַעֲשִׂיתֶ֖ם אֹתָ֑ם וְלֹֽא־תָתֻ֜רוּ אַחֲרֵ֤י לְבַבְכֶם֙ וְאַחֲרֵ֣י עֵֽינֵיכֶ֔ם אֲשֶׁר־אַתֶּ֥ם זֹנִ֖ים אַחֲרֵיהֶֽם׃ (מ) לְמַ֣עַן תִּזְכְּר֔וּ וַעֲשִׂיתֶ֖ם אֶת־כָּל־מִצְוֺתָ֑י וִהְיִיתֶ֥ם קְדֹשִׁ֖ים לֵֽאלֹהֵיכֶֽם׃ (מא) אֲנִ֞י ה' אֱלֹֽקֵיכֶ֗ם אֲשֶׁ֨ר הוֹצֵ֤אתִי אֶתְכֶם֙ מֵאֶ֣רֶץ מִצְרַ֔יִם לִהְי֥וֹת לָכֶ֖ם לֵאלֹקִ֑ים אֲנִ֖י ה' אֱלֹהֵיכֶֽם׃ (פ) |

 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**Menachot 44a:16-17**](https://www.sefaria.org/Menachot.44a.16-17)

|  |
| --- |
| Whoever does not put on tefillin violates 8 positive commandments and whoever doesn't wear tzitzit violates 5 positive commandments.... |

 | **מנחות מ״ד א:ט״ז-י״ז**

|  |
| --- |
| כל שאינו מניח תפילין עובר בשמונה עשה וכל שאין לו ציצית בבגדו עובר בחמשה עשה |

 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**Shulchan Arukh, Orach Chayim 24:1**](https://www.sefaria.org/Shulchan_Arukh%2C_Orach_Chayim.24.1)

|  |
| --- |
| (1) If a person does not wear a garment with four corners then he is not required to wear fringes (tzitzit). However, it is good and proper that a person should be cautious to wear a small tallit every day, in order that he should remember the mitzvot at every moment. Thus, there are five knots in accordance with the five books of the Torah, and there are four corners, so that in every direction he faces he will also remember. It is proper to wear tzitzit on his garments, and at the very least, it is proper that one should wear tzitzit at the time of prayer.  |

 | [**אורח חיים כ״ד:א׳**](https://www.sefaria.org/Shulchan_Arukh%2C_Orach_Chayim.24.1)

|  |
| --- |
| (א) אִם אֵין אָדָם לוֹבֵשׁ טַלִּית בַּת אַרְבַּע כְּנָפוֹת, אֵינוֹ חַיָּב בְּצִיצִית, וְטוֹב וְנָכוֹן לִהְיוֹת כָּל אָדָם זָהִיר לִלְבֹּשׁ טַלִּית קָטָן כָּל הַיּוֹם, כְּדֵי שֶׁיִּזְכֹּר הַמִּצְוֹת בְּכָל רֶגַע. וְעַל כֵּן יֵשׁ בּוֹ חֲמִשָּׁה קְשָׁרִים כְּנֶגֶד חֲמִשָּׁה חֻמְּשֵׁי תּוֹרָה, וְאַרְבַּע כְּנָפַיִם שֶׁבְּכָל צַד שֶׁיִּפְנֶה יִזְכֹּר וְנָכוֹן לְלָבְשׁוֹ עַל הַמַּלְבּוּשִׁים. לְפָחוֹת יִזָּהֵר שֶׁיִּהְיֶה לָבוּשׁ צִיצִית בִּשְׁעַת הַתְּפִלָּה.  |

 |

**3. Why do you think some people consider not wearing tzitzit regularly as a major problem? Would you ever consider wearing tzitzit everyday? Why or why not? (Explain)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**Mishnah Berurah 19:2**](https://www.sefaria.org/Mishnah_Berurah.19.2)

|  |
| --- |
| "Exempt from tzitzit" - Even though it says "and you shall make tzitzit on the corners of your clothing", nevertheless it says in another posuk "You shall make tassels on the four corners of the garment with which you cover yourself", which indicates only a garment that you actually wear |

 | [**משנה ברורה י״ט:ב׳**](https://www.sefaria.org/Mishnah_Berurah.19.2)

|  |
| --- |
| (ב) (ב) פטור מציצית - אע"ג דכתיב ועשו להם ציצית על כנפי בגדיהם מ"מ מדכתיב קרא אחרינא גדילים תעשה לך על ארבע כנפות כסותך אשר תכסה בה משמע דוקא כשמתכסה בה: |

 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**Mishnah Berurah 17:5**](https://www.sefaria.org/Mishnah_Berurah.17.5)

|  |
| --- |
| And you should know, that we pasken that tzitzit is an obligation on the person and at the same time it is not an obligation on the person, and both are leniencies.  It is an obligation on the person in that any time you are not wearing a four cornered garment, you are exempt.  And it is not an obligation on the person in that you are not obligated to buy a four cornered garment so that you will be obligated to put tzitzit on it.  You are only obligated if you have a four cornered garment and and wear it. |

 | [**משנה ברורה י״ז:ה׳**](https://www.sefaria.org/Mishnah_Berurah.17.5)

|  |
| --- |
| ... ודע דאנן פסקינן גבי ציצית חובת גברא ולאו ח"ג ותרוייהו לקולא חובת גברא לקולא למעוטי חובת מנא שכל זמן שאינו לובש הטלית אע"פ שיש לו ד' כנפות פטורה מציצית לאו חובת גברא שאינו חייב לקנות לו טלית כדי שיתחייב בציצית רק אם יש לו טלית מד' כנפות ולובשו אז חייב בציצית עיין סי' י"ט: |

 |

**4. When does the Mishnah claim you are exempt from wearing tzitzit?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Blessing for those who wear Tallit:**Blessed are you Adonai our God,Sovereign of the universe,who hallows us with mitzvot,commanding us to wrap ourselves in the fringes. | **ברכת ציצת**בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָאֶלֹהֵֽינוּ מֶֽלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָֽׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיווְצִוָּֽנוּ לְהִתְעַטֵּף בַּצִּיצִת. |

**5. Reflect upon the meaning of the blessing before putting on the Tallit. Rewrite the blessing in your own words.**