



GOD'S FALL FESTIVALS—PART 3: FEAST OF TABERNACLES

A STUDY GUIDE FOR PARENTS TEACHING THEIR CHILDREN GOD'S WAY

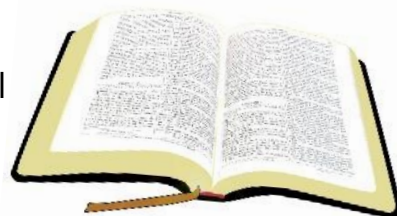
Artist: Diego Villafañá - Santiago, Chile

ONCE CHRIST RETURNS, and Satan is put away, it will be time for the real celebration to begin! On God's calendar, just a few days after Atonement, one of the most joyous and exciting times of the year begins: The Feast of Tabernacles!

Why do people get so excited about this Feast? Is it just a regular family vacation? Or is God giving us something much more exciting to look forward to than simply an eight-day family trip? Why did God include it in His plan to build a family? *Keep reading!*

THIS STUDY GUIDE is written for the purpose of helping parents teach their children vital Biblical topics in a focused, easy-to-follow format. Each section is not meant to be taught in one lesson, rather the topics are organized so parents can choose specific areas of focus and gear lessons toward the learning styles and ages of their children. Each topic is presented in a straightforward manner with accompanying verses for study.

The main study should always come from the Scripture itself, while these lessons can act as a guide for reading passages from the Bible. Each lesson packet includes memory verses, questions for meaningful discussion, and activities (added at the end of the packet). Also, though some things may be labeled as Level 1, 2, or 3, the activities, questions, and scriptures for memorizing can be used to fit the needs and learning levels for children of all ages. Enjoy!



FINALLY...

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES!

If you were to ask anyone in the Church of God what their favorite time of the year is, they will more than likely give you the same answer—"the Feast of Tabernacles, of course!" Planning for this feast often takes months of preparation. Perhaps you and your family have been preparing for these feast days all year long—maybe even since last year's feast! You might have your own feast countdown, and perhaps have highlighted these days on your calendar. Yes, the feast is a wonderful time to look forward to, but what is the Feast of Tabernacles really about?



Pause and think:

What is something new you learned about the Feast of Tabernacles just by reading about it in the book of Leviticus? Did anything surprise you?



OLD TESTAMENT

Just like the other holy days, the Feast of Tabernacles is listed as one of God's festivals in the book of Leviticus. God gave the people of Israel some special instructions on how to keep these days:

Read Leviticus 23:33-43

Artist: Jonathan Wilson—Indianapolis, IN

THE FEAST OF INGATHERING

Do you remember how the feast of Pentecost was related to the first harvest season of the year? (If you don't, you can do a quick review from our special edition Pentecost lesson.)

The Feast of Tabernacles is also connected with a harvest season. Unlike Pentecost, instead of a small harvest, this Feast has to do with the big, main harvest in the fall months. Right before the time of the Feast, in the autumn, the farmers gather in their main harvest of the year, reaping all the bountiful fruits and vegetables they had been working hard to grow all year. Have you ever tried growing something? Perhaps you have a garden or a few fruit trees. If you do, you know that growing anything takes hard work, but the reward is worth it! What is the reward? The fruit, of course!

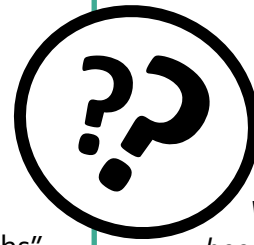


Consider this:

Have you ever grown anything? Did you get any fruit from it? What is your favorite part about growing things? What do you think it is like for a farmer to finally get to harvest his crops after many months of hard work?

DIFFERENT NAMES

Since the Feast of Tabernacles has to do with the main fall harvest, it is sometimes called the “Feast of Ingathering”. Can you guess why? This name relates well to the meaning of the feast, which we will talk about later. Another name for this special festival is the “Feast of Booths”. Did you notice what Leviticus said about “booths”? A booth is sometimes called a temporary dwelling. God told the Israelites that they were to make booths, or little buildings, to stay in during the days of the feast. God had a special reason for this as well.



What do you think?

What would it have been like for the Israelites to make booths and live in them for eight days? What do you think the people of the other nations would think if they saw them doing this?

Think about this:

How excited are you to keep the Feast each year? Imagine not being able to keep the Feast for a long time. What do you think it would be like for the people to finally get to keep the Feast again in the way God had asked them to do after being away from Jerusalem so long?



EZRA AND NEHEMIAH: REBUILDING JERUSALEM

The Feast of Tabernacles is mentioned several times in the Old Testament books. After the time of the kings of Israel and Judah, the Israelites had gone into captivity and were taken away from their homeland. The Jews, who had also gone into captivity, were finally given permission to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the city and the temple. When the people returned, they kept the Feast of Tabernacles once again!

Read Ezra 3:1-7
Read Nehemiah 8

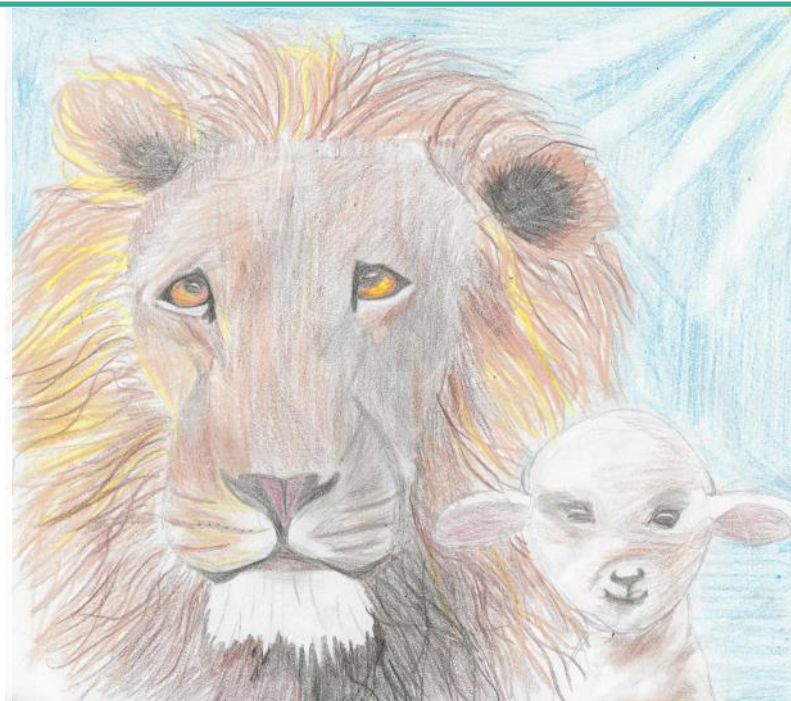
THE PROPHETS AND THE FEAST

So why do we keep the Feast anyway? What does it mean? Some of the books of the prophets give us some clues about God’s plan and why He wants us to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

Read Isaiah 2:1-4; 11

Have you ever been to a zoo? Why are the animals kept in cages? What might happen if there were no cages for the animals? Isaiah talks about a time that is coming when the animals will be peaceful and friendly to people—and even to other animals! He also talks about a time when there will be peace between people. Can you imagine a world with no more fighting? How would things be different?

Read Zechariah 14:16-21



Artist: Jude Hunter—Albany, NY

Just think...the Bible says that one day ALL nations and ALL people will keep the Feast of Tabernacles! What an amazing promise! Think about all the people in the world going to the Feast each year. What do you think that will be like?

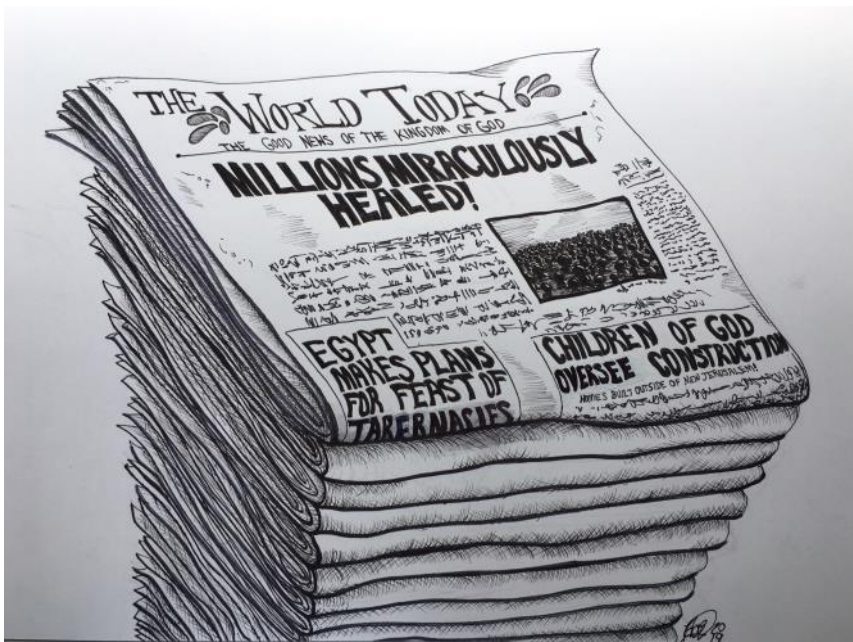
But when will this happen? We can look at the New Testament to learn more about this future time!

NEW TESTAMENT

We learn in the Gospel books that Jesus Christ and His family kept the Feast of Tabernacles.

Read John 7

This is an amazing thing to think about because we learn that Jesus went up to keep the Feast, even though it was dangerous for Him to do so at that time. It shows that He put God's commandment to keep the Holy Days first.



Artist: Hannah Wolford—Bristol, VA

Christ will begin His reign on the earth for 1,000 years—for one millenium! To us, that seems like a very long time! Does the Bible say what we will be doing at that time? It does indeed! The Scripture says that the saints, God's chosen people who are obedient to Him—the ones who were changed into spirit beings (remember from the Feast of Trumpets)—will be reigning with Christ, as kings and priests! **What an incredible opportunity!**

THE MEANING

Like the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement, we learn more about the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles in the book of Revelation. Just like the first two fall holy days, the Feast reminds us of a time that will happen in the future. On God's calendar, the Feast of Tabernacles comes after the Day of Atonement, so we know that the special time the Feast represents will come after Christ returns to the earth and after Satan is locked up in a deep pit. But what is this time?

Read Revelation 20:4-6

Earlier in Revelation 20, we read that Satan will be chained up in the bottomless pit and we learned that it would happen on the Day of Atonement. So, what comes right after he is locked up?

Consider this:



Have you ever wanted to be a king or queen? What is the job of a king or queen? God promises that His faithful saints will become royalty in His family, serving as kings and priests! (Revelation 5:9-10 records a special song about this.)

HOW DO WE KEEP THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES TODAY?

If you have ever been to the Feast with your family, then you probably have a pretty good idea about how exciting it is. There are usually lots of friendly people, fun family activities, exciting messages about the Kingdom, and heaps of yummy food! Just like the other Holy Days, the things we do at the Feast have a very important purpose. God gave us some instructions on how the Feast should be kept:

- The first day kept as a holy convocation (Leviticus 23)
- The Feast kept for seven days (the eighth day is a separate Holy Day)
- Special offerings are to be made during the Feast
- The people are to dwell in booths (or temporary dwellings)
- The people are to rejoice!

Read Deuteronomy 14:22-27



Think: *God tells us to set aside a tithe (tenth) of our increase every year so we can use it at the Feast. That means out of all the money we make during the year, God wants us to save a part of it (10%) to be used only at the Feast. God tells us we need to spend it on whatever our heart desires! We usually call this "second tithe". Are you saving up your tithe for the feast?*

What desires of your heart do you think you would like to spend it on?

The Feast of Tabernacles certainly represents a wonderful time, but there is one more Holy Day on God's calendar, and what an exciting one it is!





QUESTIONS FOR MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION



Level 1

1. God tells us to rejoice at the feast! What does it mean to rejoice?
2. One way we can rejoice at the Feast is by sharing and serving others to help them rejoice and have a wonderful time! What is something you could do for someone else to help them have a great Feast?
3. God's people save for the Feast with "second tithe," just as God commands us. He wants us to use the money only at the Feast so we can rejoice! He tells us to spend that money on whatever our heart desires. What things might you desire at the Feast? What might you desire to give someone else at the Feast?

Level 2

1. God chooses where His Feast of Tabernacles should be kept (Deuteronomy 12:21). Write a list of all the sites where you have kept the feast. What made those feast sites so special? Now, write a list of places that you think would make good feast sites and where you might like to go someday for the Feast of Tabernacles. Think Big! What would make these places good feast sites? Would they help God's people think about how wonderful the millennium will be?
2. Why do you think God wants us to rejoice at the Feast? What does this say about who He is?
3. In the millenium, God tells us that it will be so peaceful that even the animals will be tame. What wild animals are you looking forward to being gentle in the Kingdom? Would you like to have any as pets? What would you do with the animals in the Kingdom?

Level 3

1. All of God's faithful people who have ever lived will be in the millenium. Which people are you looking forward to meeting? Are there any characters in the Bible who you would like to talk to? What questions would you ask them?
2. The millennium will be a time of peace and blessings for all nations. There will be no more war, or hunger, or sickness. What kind of businesses do you think won't need to be in the Kingdom? What kind of businesses do you think will grow or become more popular in the Kingdom?
3. In the Kingdom, everyone will be keeping all God's Holy Days, including the Sabbath and the Feast of Tabernacles! What do you think that will be like? What are you looking forward to about everyone keeping the Sabbath in the millenium?



MEMORY VERSES

FOR THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Level 1

Leviticus 23:34 Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the Lord.

Level 2

John 7:37-38 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

Level 3

Revelation 20:11-13 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

ACTIVITIES

FOR THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Activity 1: Crowns for the Royal Family

In the Millenium, those who have been called, chosen, and faithful will get to reign with Jesus Christ as kings and priests. All who are born into God's royal family will have a crown of their very own. What do you imagine yours will look like? Design and create your own crown as you think about the soon coming kingdom and what it might be like to be a king and priest!

Related Bible Verses: Revelation 2:10; 3:11; 20:4-6; 1 Corinthian 9:25; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4

Suggested crown crafts:

- Option 1:** Use a poster board to cut out a long strip with a wide jagged edge for the shape of a crown that will fit any size head. Decorate away!
- Option 2:** Design and decorate your own tiara on a blank sheet of paper. Cut out and glue onto a strip of paper that can be used as the headband. Adjust to fit your head!
- Option 3:** Using a brown paper lunch sack, draw a jagged edge around the whole bag and then cut it out. Decorate! You may need to adjust the size to fit your head.
- Option 4:** There are many options to create your personal crown. Be creative and think about how beautiful your crown might be in the Kingdom when God designs one just for you!

Activity 2: Kingdom City Planner - You design the city!

Often at the Feast of Tabernacles, we hear about how in the Kingdom we will be ruling over cities. Have you ever dreamed of designing a city in the Kingdom? This activity may be the perfect one for you!

Related Bible Verses: Amos 9:14; Isaiah 61:4; Ezekiel 33:10; Genesis 1-2; 1 Corinthians 14:13; Isaiah 5:8; Proverbs 25:17

Directions:

1. Consider this first: What will cities be like in the Kingdom? Look in the Bible for descriptions of what the millennium will be like.
2. God lets us be creative within His boundaries. What are some of God's boundaries for designing a city? (You might be able to get some ideas from Dr. Scott Winnail's sermon "[Feast of Tabernacles 2014: Building Cities in God's Kingdom](#)", and Dr. Douglas Winnail's article "[Cities of Tomorrow](#)")
3. Start Planning! Think about each of these elements and write a list of specific answers for each of them.
 - ☐ Where will your city be? (i.e. next to a lake? On a mountain? Beach? All three?)
 - ☐ Transportation – How will people get from place to place? What will the roads be like?
 - ☐ Water – How will people have access to fresh water?
 - ☐ Food – How will people be able to access good, healthy food?
 - ☐ Electricity – How will people get their power? Will they need it? How will lighting work in their houses?
 - ☐ Housing - Where will people live? What will houses look like?
 - ☐ Plumbing – What will be done with the waste?
 - ☐ Garbage – What will happen to trash? Will there be trash? What if something breaks?

Activity 2: Kingdom City Planner - You design the city! (cont.)

- ❑ Sports – Will there be places in your city for these kind of activities? Will you have new sports or different kinds of activities in your city?
- ❑ Animals – Will there be animals in your city?
- ❑ Businesses – Make list of businesses that you probably will need in your city. If people are following God's way of life, what businesses will you not need in your city?

Some principles to think about:

Beauty – God makes things beautiful, so if we are planning things, we should try to make things beautiful as well.

Organization – God is very organized and does things in an orderly way (1 Corinthians 14:33)

Variety – God loves variety within order! Just think about all the different kinds of butterflies there are, for instance. You can tell all of them are butterflies, but they all are made with different colors and sizes.

Communities – God wants us to love our neighbor, which means we need to know our neighbor in order to love them. Make sure your city has lots of places where people can gather, or see each other a lot – perhaps even when they are working.

Churches – Where will people meet on the Sabbath to worship God? Will you have lots of places where people can meet for church so they can easily walk there? Or one big church to where everyone travels each week?

Once you have a list of all the things you want in your city, decide how you want to represent your design. A drawing? A 3D model? A computer animation? A Lego town? A table model? Think about your resources at home and your favorite mediums to design things, then get designing!! Remember, you are only limited by Godly principles and your own imagination!



Artist: James Yowell—Winchester, VA