

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 2 • Unit 1 • Week 1

FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE:

God's festivals teach us how the Father and Jesus help us become part of God's family.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Show the children the invitation card and read it.

[See the sample of the card at the end of the lesson.]

On front of card:

A Special Invitation

Inside:

Please join
God the Father and His Son
for seven special occasions:
Passover
Days of Unleavened Bread
Pentecost
Feast of Trumpets
Day of Atonement
Feast of Tabernacles
Last Great Day
R.S.V.P.

Say: Jesus is especially looking forward to these great days and He wants to know if you will join Him.
That is what the initials R.S.V.P. mean.

Ask: Do you want to join Him? [Let students respond.]

Say: We must let Him know that, so later we will send Him a reply.

BIBLE LESSON:

Prepare in advance: Cut out seven “stepping stones” from brown paper bags. Print on them:

1. Passover—Jesus gives His life for all people. His blood will wash away all of our bad deeds.
2. Days of Unleavened Bread—We must put sin out and live by God’s Word.
3. Pentecost—Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit to help us live by His laws.
4. Feast of Trumpets—Jesus returns to earth from heaven while the nations of earth are at war.
5. Day of Atonement—Jesus will one day put Satan away so we can be at one with the Father with Jesus as High Priest.
6. Feast of Tabernacles—Jesus will be King over all the earth, and there will be peace and happiness in God’s Kingdom.
7. Last Great Day—The rest of mankind will be invited and prepared to be in God’s Family.

Say: God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son have planned these seven special occasions, called Holy Days, very carefully. They give us a picture of how God will invite all people to become a part of His family. Jesus, God’s firstborn Son, will be happy to have them as brothers and sisters.

Ask: Do you know anyone that is expecting a baby?

Say: When parents expect a baby they are happy. They make special plans, like buying clothes, getting a bed, a high chair and other baby things. Jesus and His Father have made special plans to invite all people to become part of Their family and Their kingdom.

Ask: What plans do you think They might make?

Say: Today we will learn how these special days will help us to be children in God’s family.

Do: Hand out stepping stones made from brown paper bags.

[Note to teacher: Be sure that the children do not become confused that the Passover is a Holy Day. There are actually two Holy Days during Unleavened Bread. Passover is a holy occasion, but not a High Day.]

Say: I have given you the stepping stones that lead to God’s Kingdom—to being part of God’s family. There are seven steps. The first three are in the spring.

Ask: Who has the first one? Do you know what the first one is?

Say: Yes. [Have the child read the description on the stone and then put the stepping stone down. You can give a hint by saying what is on the stone.]

Do: For each Holy Day in turn, have the child read the stepping stone to the class. Then lay it on the floor about a foot apart from the other ones.

When all the stones are laid, walk on them and count them. At the end of the stepping stones, place a door or gate made from two sides of a box. Then walk through the gate.

Say: When God's plan is complete, everyone who wants to will be in His kingdom as members of His family. Everything will be NEW! It will be a fun adventure!

Do: Start at the beginning of the walk, and as you step on the first stone...

Ask: What is the first holy occasion?

Say: To be in God's family and never die, we are asked to obey all of God's laws 100 percent. We as humans cannot do this. When we disobey God's laws, even in little ways, we must have that disobedience forgiven and washed away. Jesus lived as a human and died for us so that He could take that disobedience and wash it away. Then in the future we can live forever. He will wash that disobedience away forever when we say we are sorry, trust in the work of Jesus and try hard not to disobey God again. Passover is a time when we especially remember Jesus' death, because that is how He saved us from death from disobedience.

Do: Continue stepping on the rest of the stones as follows:

Ask: What is the second holy occasion?

Say: The Days of Unleavened Bread come next. They last for seven days. Jesus, who is our oldest Brother, was a perfect example of how to live. He obeyed His Father 100 percent. When we put leaven out before these seven days, it reminds us to put out our bad ways and try to be like Jesus. We eat unleavened bread for seven days to remind us to know and live by God's Word. Then we can more fully obey the Father.

Ask: What is the third holy occasion?

Say: Pentecost is the day Jesus began His Church and sent the Holy Spirit to His first followers. Jesus knows how hard it is to be 100 percent obedient, so when He went to heaven to be with His Father He sent the Holy Spirit to help His followers on earth. Now we who are part of His Church can also receive the Holy Spirit.

Say: Now we come to the fall Holy Days.

Ask: What is the fourth occasion?

Say: It is the Feast of Trumpets. This day starts the fall Holy Days. It reminds us that while the nations and people on earth are at war Jesus will return to earth to conquer those who are His enemies. He will then be King of kings over all the earth, so that He can set up His kingdom to bring peace and happiness for everyone.

Ask: What is the fifth holy occasion?

Say: This day is called Atonement. This day reminds us that Satan will be put away and chained up in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years so he cannot lead people to disobey God. That way people can be at one with God. They will change their ways and not want to disobey God anymore. They will be able to have their sins forgiven and be God's friends.

Ask: What is the sixth holy occasion?

Say: The Feast of Tabernacles is truly a feast. It is celebrated for seven days. We are to attend this feast to have a joyous time with our families and the church family. It pictures the time of much fun and joy when we will be in God's family and God's Kingdom will reign on earth.

Ask: What is the seventh holy occasion?

Say: The Last Great Day is the last step in building God's family. This day shows that there will be a second resurrection. God will invite the rest of mankind to become His special children and be part of His family. Everyone who accepts God's invitation and overcomes will be born into that family. God the Father will be very happy. The angels of heaven will also be happy.

Do you want to attend all the special occasions God and Jesus planned for us? Then let's make a reply to Them, which means a promise to do our best to be present at Their Holy Days.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Copy the sample card or create a reply card they can color and sign. It should state:

In response to your invitation

To seven special occasions:

_____ I will attend

_____ I will not attend

Signed _____

Music:

Sing the following round-style song to the tune of "Make New Friends."

Make us new.

Bring us to you.

And in your family we shall be.

Alternate Song: "God Our Father, Christ Our Brother," page 39 in the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

Leviticus 23:4 "These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations [gatherings] which you shall proclaim at their appointed times."



*Please join
God the Father & His Son
for seven special occasions*

*Passover
Days of Unleavened Bread
Pentecost
Feast of Trumpets
Day of Atonement
Feast of Tabernacles
Last Great Day
R.S.V.P.*

Created
just for you
by

AMERICAN GREETINGS
CreaCard

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In response to your invitation

To seven special occasions:

_____ *I will attend*

_____ *I will not attend*

Signed _____

In response to your invitation

To seven special occasions:

_____ *I will attend*

_____ *I will not attend*

Signed _____

family activity

THE POINT:

God's festivals teach us how the Father and Jesus help us become part of God's family.

ASK ME...

What special occasions did God and His Son invite us to?

When all seven parts of God's plan are finished what will the end result be?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Put the "reply card" on the wall or table.

Discuss family goals and plans for the upcoming Holy Days.

MEMORY VERSE:

Leviticus 23:4 "These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations [gatherings] which you shall proclaim at their appointed times."