

SABBATH SCHOOL

Level 4 • Unit 1 • Week 1

GOD'S ANNUAL FEASTS

OBJECTIVE:

To review the seven annual festivals and emphasize the fall feasts.

ATTENTION GETTER:

God gave us many special days throughout the year. These days are called God's festivals. God has commanded us in Leviticus 23:4 to observe these festivals each year to keep us constantly reminded of His great master plan for the salvation of mankind. The Holy Days also remind us that God created all things and owns all things (John 1:3). During the Holy Days we show God our love by observing them (1 John 5:3). On these special days, we are commanded to give God an offering (Deuteronomy 16:16-17). This offering of money shows God we respect Him. Done properly, this offering also shows God our love.

The seven festivals created by God for all mankind are listed in the 23rd chapter of Leviticus in your Bible.

Do: Pass out paper and pencils.

Say: Open your Bible and try to list the seven festivals. [L3U1Wk1 page 6 has a useful overview.]

These seven festivals of God are divided into two seasons—the spring and the fall. The first group in the spring is made up of the Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost. The fall group consists of the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day.

This lesson focuses on the fall festivals. In God's plan of salvation the fulfillment of the fall festivals has not yet occurred.

BIBLE LESSON:

JESUS KEPT THE FEASTS

Before Jesus came to earth the first time, He was with the Father in heaven. They—we call them God (like a family name)—agreed with each other on all things. Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. Without Him, we could not be saved or be in God's Kingdom. Once we are in God's Kingdom, we will forever be a part of His family!

John 1:3 states that "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." Jesus, with the authority of the Father, created all things including the Holy Days. In addition to creating the Holy Days, Jesus kept them when He was on earth.

Do: Read John 7:8-10, 14, 37.

We see from these verses that Jesus kept the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day.

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

Trumpets were used in ancient Israel to alert the people. The ancient Israelites used a shofar, or horn of a ram, as a trumpet. The way the trumpet was blown may have signaled an approaching army or danger. It could have been blown to assemble the people for a special announcement.

Do: Read Numbers 10:9.

The Feast of Trumpets is a day for rejoicing because it pictures two important events. First, it pictures the return of Jesus Christ to the earth, when true Christians who have God's Holy Spirit and are alive will be changed into spirit beings. Those Christians that have already died will be raised from the dead and also be changed into spirit beings (1 Corinthians 15:52). The Bible often refers to the children of God as saints. Second, it pictures Christ's return to replace Satan's evil government. Christ's government will be one of love, peace, joy and prosperity. Christ will rule as "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Revelation 19:11-16) and sit on His throne ruling over the earth.

The great blast of a trumpet will announce to the whole world that Jesus is coming (1 Thessalonians 4:16 and Revelation 11:15). This event is in the future—but may occur in our lifetimes.

Do: If the class is in an area where noise is not a problem, have the students make trumpets by rolling up a piece of paper (store-bought party horns will also work). Have each student blow his or her horn and then read Revelation 11:15.

DAY OF ATONEMENT

God will make it possible for humans to be AT ONE with Him after Jesus returns. This is the meaning of the word atonement (AT+ONE+MENT). God will allow us to be AT ONE with Him by getting rid of Satan and his evil influence. Satan is the chief cause of all of mankind's sins since the days of Adam and Eve. When Christ returns, He will remove Satan from the throne of this world, and Satan will be bound in a dark pit for 1000 years (Revelation 20:1-3).

This festival day is a solemn feast day and God tells us to fast on this day (Leviticus 23:27-32). The word or phrase "afflict your soul" can also mean to fast. David afflicted his soul or humbled himself by fasting (Psalm 35: 13). To fast on this Holy Day means to go without food or water from sunset to sunset. This also teaches an important lesson of how much we depend on God for our lives. If God didn't provide us with food or water, we would die.

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The Feast of Tabernacles is a great time of rejoicing for the whole family. God tells us to keep this festival by leaving our homes and living in temporary dwellings or "booths" (Leviticus 23:42). Today, we attend feast sites chosen by God's Church and we can stay at a motel, hotel or campground.

God commands us to rejoice (Leviticus 23:40) for seven days during this feast. But why should we rejoice? This feast pictures the 1000-year reign of Christ on earth—the Millennium. There will be great prosperity and peace on the earth during the Millennium. The blind will see, the deaf will hear and the crippled will walk. The animals will all be tame. Lions will eat straw, snakes won't bite and a little child will lead them (Isaiah 11:6-9).

God has created a plan to help us rejoice at the Feast. God tells us to save one tenth, or tithe, of our money so we can attend and enjoy the Feast. Every time we earn money, a tenth should be set aside for the Feast of Tabernacles. If we earn ten dollars, then we would set aside one dollar for the Feast.

During the Millennium, the government of God will rule on the earth. We will have the opportunity to rule with God on earth during this time. Everyone will have a job to do in the Kingdom of God. And God can use us as His leaders during the Millennium because we wanted to live God's way of life.

THE LAST GREAT DAY

The Last Great Day is the last of God's festivals. It is the eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles, but is actually a separate Holy Day. Jesus spoke to a crowd at Jerusalem on the Last Great Day in His time (John 7:37).

After the Millennium, God's plan turns to the billions of people who have never had the opportunity to live God's way of life. People have been blinded throughout history by Satan the devil (2 Corinthians 4:4). God is completely fair to all humans and wants them all to have the opportunity to be in His Kingdom (2 Peter 3:9).

The Last Great Day pictures the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15). This judgment period, perhaps 100 years (Isaiah 65:20), will give humans who are at this time resurrected (brought back to physical life) their first chance to really know and live God's way of life. Jesus, along with His saints, will teach them the true way of life from God's Word, the Bible. The Last Great Day pictures the judgment period for most of mankind.

Only after this period of time will God's master plan of salvation be complete. All people who have lived throughout all time will have had a chance to understand this plan and to accept God's way of life. If they choose to obey God, they then may eat of the tree of life (Revelation 22:14).

You have this opportunity today to understand God's plan and enter His Kingdom. And God's festivals lead you down the road to that wonderful coming Kingdom.

Do: Ask the students where their favorite Feast site is and why.

LESSON APPLICATION:

The following activity sheet can be completed in class or sent home as part of the Family Activity.

MUSIC:

Sing to the tune of "God Speaks To Us."

Christ will return, with a great trumpet sound!
Satan is chained, in a dark pit he's bound.
Our Lord will rule, over earth a thousand years!
Our Lord will rule, over earth a thousand years!

After the thousand years, here comes the Last Great Day.
The rest of mankind, will now be taught God's way!
Our Lord will rule, with His great family.
Our Lord will rule, with His great family.

MEMORY VERSE:

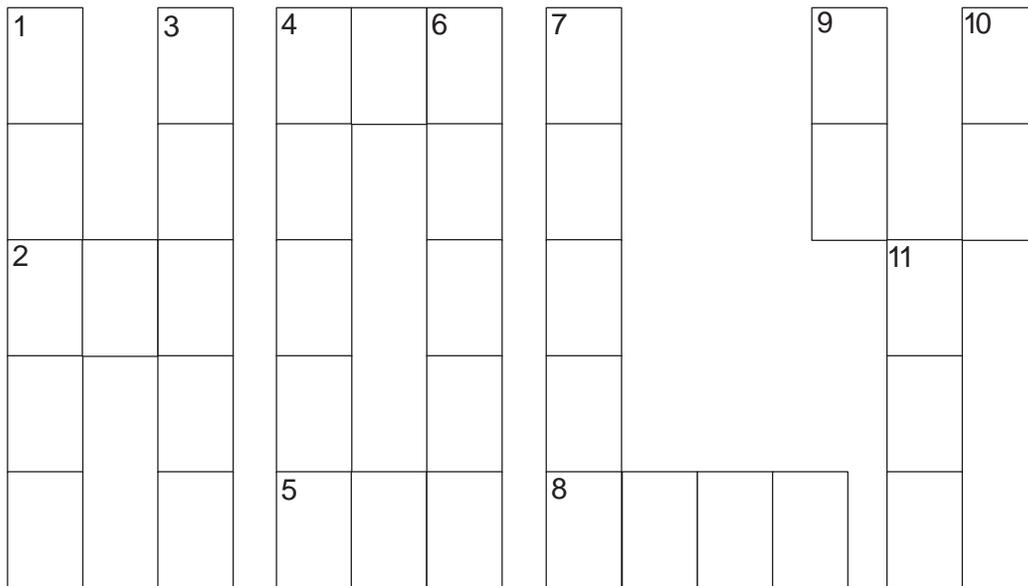
Leviticus 23:2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.'"

FALL HOLY DAYS—ACTIVITY SHEET

MATCH

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 1. | Feast of Trumpets | A. | Money given on a Holy Day |
| 2. | Day of Atonement | B. | Created the Holy Days |
| 3. | Feast of Tabernacles | C. | Ten percent |
| 4. | Last Great Day | D. | Shofar |
| 5. | Tithe | E. | Booths |
| 6. | Jesus | F. | Fast |
| 7. | Offering | G. | Judgment for most of mankind |

CROSSWORD



DOWN

1. The _____ of Tabernacles
3. The Last _____ Day
4. Our Lord and Savior
6. Jesus will return with the _____ of a great trumpet
7. Child of God—true Christian
9. Day _____ Atonement
10. Feast _____ Tabernacles
11. The Father and Jesus (family name)

ACROSS

2. He _____ a lot of food at the Feast
4. We will all have a _____ to do in God's Kingdom
5. Jesus will _____ on His throne
8. Animals will be _____ in the Millennium

FALL HOLY DAYS—ACTIVITY SHEET ANSWERS

MATCH

1. — D.
2. — F.
3. — E.
4. — G.
5. — C.
6. — B.
7. — A.

WACKY CROSSWORD

DOWN

1. The FEAST of Tabernacles
3. The Last GREAT Day
4. Our Lord and Savior JESUS
6. Jesus will return with the (BLAST)
of a great trumpet
7. Child of God/true Christian (SAINT)
9. Day OF Atonement
10. Feast OF Tabernacles
11. The Father and Jesus (family name)
GOD

ACROSS

2. He ATE a lot of food at the Feast
4. We will all have a JOB to do in God's
Kingdom
5. Jesus will SIT on His throne
8. Animals will be TAME in the
Millennium

WORD SEARCH

Secret Message: Where do you want to be? THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

family activity

THE POINT:

To provide the student with an overview of the fall Holy Days. The student should also understand that our Lord and Savior created the Holy Days and kept them while He was on earth as a human.

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Parents and children may want to read together the Leviticus 23. After reading the chapter, distinguish between the spring Holy Days and the fall Holy Days. See if you can memorize the fall Holy Days in order.

ACTIVITY:

Make a family scrapbook. Children love to share their experiences with others. This activity allows the student to make a scrapbook of past Feast of Tabernacle experiences. The class can bring in their scrapbooks and share them during or after the lesson on THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES & LAST GREAT DAY.

The scrapbook can consist of photos (if available), drawings, the sites and years of attendance, and some favorite activities at the site. Let the student put his or her own ideas into the scrapbook. The parent may want to remind them of past activities or interesting events that occurred.

MEMORY VERSE:

Leviticus 23:2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.'"