

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 4 • Unit 1 • Week 4

WHERE HAVE ALL THE DEAD PEOPLE GONE?

OBJECTIVE:

To teach the student about the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day, including the millennial reign of Jesus Christ, the second resurrection and the Great White Throne Judgment of the Last Great Day.

ATTENTION GETTER:

It is estimated that by the year 2000 the world population will be over 6 billion and that one-third of the world's population claims to be Christian (1999 Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia). Looking at those numbers we can estimate that right now over 4 billion people know little or nothing about Jesus Christ. Acts 4:12 tells us, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." This means that unless you know Jesus Christ and follow His examples and the laws that He gave us, you cannot be in His kingdom.

So where have all the people gone who have died not knowing Jesus?

The common concept is that they have gone to hell with Satan the devil. Many of these people have not committed horrible crimes. They just have not had the opportunity to hear about and follow Jesus Christ.

Ask: What are some reasons that a person may not have had the opportunity to hear about Jesus?
[Ideas: Where they live (jungle, desert or poor nation); government would not allow them to read the Bible; their nation's religion would not allow any other religions to teach; in past history, communication was bad; some may have learning or physical disabilities; some may have died as children.]

The Bible tells us that God is fair to all people. His plan would not include the unfair punishment of any human being.

So where have all the people gone?

This lesson will explain the final steps in God's master plan of salvation. Then you will know where all the people have gone and where they will be going!

BIBLE LESSON:

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Leviticus 23:33-43 tells us about the Feast of Tabernacles. This Feast lasts for seven days with the first day a Holy Day (verse 35). God instructs us to live in "booths" or temporary dwellings (verse 42). God also commands us to rejoice at the Feast (verse 40).

Today, we keep the Feast of Tabernacles at sites all around the world. The leadership of God's church chooses these sites by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. When we go to the Feast, our "booths" are generally hotels, motels or campgrounds. There are plenty of family activities to attend and a lot to eat. Each day we hear sermons from God's ministry that inspire and teach us about God's way of life. Knowing God's way of life is very important. Loving God's way of life is what leads us to the ultimate destination—becoming spirit beings in His family and entering God's Kingdom.

Do: Have the students share with the class the scrapbooks that they made at home as a part of the Unit 1 Lesson 1 Family Activity sheet. If this was not performed, then have the students share with the class where they are going to the Feast this year and what they are looking forward to.

SECOND TITHE

Travel, lodging, activities and food cost money. Just how can we afford to go to the Feast of Tabernacles?

God commands us to save a tithe or 10 percent of our "increase" (usually money that is earned at a job) to go to the Feast (Deuteronomy 14:22-26). Ten percent is one tenth, or \$1 for every \$10 we earn. We save 10 percent of our money to spend on whatever our heart desires (Deuteronomy 14:26). In addition to our tithe, we are commanded to give an offering to God during the Feast (Deuteronomy 16:16-17).

THE MILLENIUM

The Feast of Tabernacles is an exciting time. With all the excitement, why would God have to command us to rejoice? God's command to rejoice pictures a fantastic period of time during His master plan for mankind.

The Feast of Trumpets pictures the time of Jesus Christ's return. Once He returns, He gets rid of Satan by having him chained in a dark pit as pictured by the Day of Atonement. There will still be some physical humans left alive on the earth. Jesus wants them in His family too! These people will have children and live in houses, towns and nations like we do today.

Jesus along with the resurrected saints will rule on earth for 1,000 years. This period of time is known as the Millennium. This is a period of great joy on the earth. God's government will be established on the earth. Jesus will be the King, and He will rule from Jerusalem. Each year, people from all nations will come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast and worship (Zechariah 14:16).

The animals will all be tame. The leopard will lie down with the goat and a calf will stand beside a lion. And that's not all. [Read Isaiah 11:6-9.] People and animals will live with one another in peace. The sick will be healed. [Read Isaiah 35:5-6.] Desert land will become fertile and there will be plenty of food for all (Isaiah 35:6-7).

For 1,000 years there will be peace and prosperity on earth like never before. Jesus and the saints will teach the people God's way of life! The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord (Isaiah 11:9).

But even with this joy on earth, some of the saints will want to see their loved ones who are not in God's family. So back to our question—where have all the other dead people gone?

THE SECOND RESURRECTION

The book of Revelation in the Bible provides us with the answer to what will happen to all the other people who have lived. Remember that those in the grave and those alive who have lived God's way of life, kept His commandments and believed that Jesus is their savior are changed to spirit beings at Jesus Christ's return. After the Millennium, God will resurrect the rest of mankind to physical life (Revelation 20:5). This includes people from the book of Genesis all the way through mankind's history. The book of Ezekiel chapter 37 tells a story of a valley of dry bones—picturing the dead. God brings these dry bones back to physical life. God puts skin on the bones and breathes life back into them. This story represents the time of the second resurrection.

THE LAST GREAT DAY

The Last Great Day is the final feast day in God's master plan for salvation. It is the eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles, but it is a separate Holy Day. Jesus stood up to teach in Jerusalem on this day (John 7:37-38). Jesus told the crowd that if they were thirsty that He would give them living water.

The Last Great Day is tied to the second resurrection. This feast pictures the time, perhaps 100 years (Isaiah 65:20), that Jesus and the saints will teach those resurrected to physical life the real truth of God. The resurrected will be taught from the Bible (Revelation 20:12) and be given their opportunity to follow God's way of life. Jesus will judge them from His throne. That is why the Last Great Day is connected with the Great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20:11. God is fair to all people and wants them to enter His Kingdom (2 Peter 3:9). God wants all people to be in His family!

Unfortunately, some people will refuse to accept God's way of life. God will mercifully send them into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:13-15). Anyone not "at one" with God in spirit and attitude would otherwise be unhappy for eternity. Thus they will die in the lake of fire. This is called the second death.

Only after this period of time will God's master plan of salvation be completed. All people through time will have had a chance to understand this plan and to accept God's way of life. Those who have accepted can then eat of the tree of life (Revelation 22:14).

GO FOR THE KINGDOM

You have the opportunity to learn about God's way of life. Jesus Christ is our savior and through Him we can have eternal life. God has given us a set of commandments that, if we obey, will bring us peace and joy. When we keep God's commands, we also show Him how much we love Him. God has given us knowledge through His word the Bible. This knowledge will steer us through the gates of His Kingdom and into His family!

The seven feasts of God show us His master plan for salvation. With Jesus Christ ruling the earth we can truly look forward to the world of tomorrow.

Music:

Sing to the tune of "Row, Row, Row, Your Boat."

Joy, joy, joy you'll have
On the Holy Days.

Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily
When we keep God's ways.

MEMORY VERSE:

Isaiah 11:9 "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."

LESSON APPLICATION:

One or more of the following activities can be performed during the class.

- Do: Have each student write a paragraph (or a poem if time permits) on the Kingdom of God and what it will be like.
- Do: The Bible begins with a story about the trees in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3) and ends with the story of the tree of life (Revelation 22:14). These are serious subjects about trees, but the following is a little lighter quiz to test your knowledge of trees. (Note to teacher: This activity is light and humorous, but does not tie in directly with the lesson. Use only if desired.) Answers are in parentheses).
1. What tree is near the sea? (Beech)

2. What tree is on the calendar? (Date)
3. What tree will keep you warm? (Fir)
4. What is the kissing tree? (Tulip)
5. What tree is used in a bottle? (Cork)
6. What tree equals two? (Pear)
7. What is the crying tree? (Weeping willow)

Do: Play Tic Tac Toe (need at least two players).

Prepare in Advance:

Make a Tic Tac Toe board out of white construction paper. Make 6 Xs and 6 Os out of black construction paper. On the following page are questions. Cut the questions into strips and place them in a hat.

Have the students divide into two teams. One member from each team draws a question and tries to answer. If they answer correctly, they get to place one of their Xs or Os. If they miss the question, the other team gets a try at the question (except the "true or false" questions). Continue the game until someone wins following the normal rules for Tic Tac Toe.

What Feast do we keep where we stay in booths?

True or false: We fast while we attend the Feast of Tabernacles.

What is our ultimate destination?

How many days does the Feast of Tabernacles last?

If we have ten pennies, how many do we set aside for a tithe?

True or false: We never give an offering on a Holy Day.

True or false: We should be sad during the Feast of Tabernacles.

How many years does the Millennium last?

Who will be King during the Millennium?

How will the animals act in the Millennium?

True or false: Animals will still kill people during the Millennium.

True or false: During the Millennium people will have plenty to eat.

From what book will God and the saints teach the people during the Millennium?

True or false: During the second resurrection, people will be resurrected to physical life.

What is the name of the final festival?

True or false: God is unfair to most people.

True or false: Those who choose to never obey God will be thrown in the lake of fire.

Who is our Savior?

True or false: Keeping God's Commandments is not important.

How many feasts are there in both the spring and the fall?

How many feasts are there in the fall?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

What feast do we keep where we stay in booths? Feast of Tabernacles

True or false: We fast while we attend the Feast of Tabernacles. False

What is our ultimate destination? The Kingdom of God

How many days does the Feast of Tabernacles last? Seven

If we have ten pennies, how many do we set aside for a tithe? One

True or false: We never give an offering on a Holy Day. False

True or false: We should be sad during the Feast of Tabernacles. False

How many years does the Millennium last? 1,000

Who will be King during the Millennium? Jesus

How will the animals act in the Millennium? Tame

True or false: Animals will still kill people during the Millennium. False

True or false: During the Millennium people will have plenty to eat. True

From what book will God and the saints teach the people during the Millennium? Bible

True or false: During the second resurrection, people will be resurrected to physical life. True

What is the name of the final festival? Last Great Day

True or false: God is unfair to most people. False

True or false: Those who choose to never obey God will be thrown in the lake of fire. True

Who is our Savior? Jesus

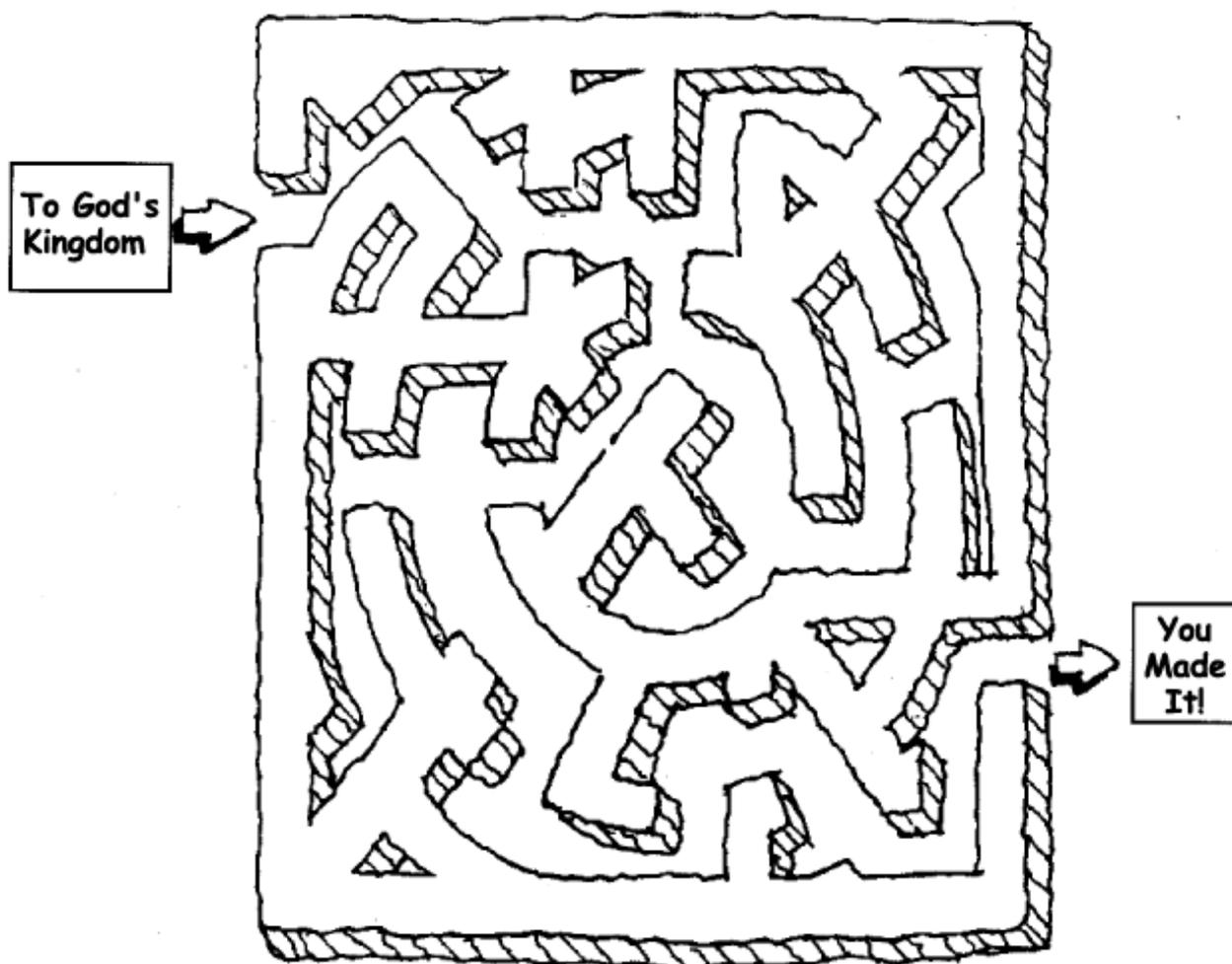
True or false: Keeping God's Commandments is not important. False

How many feasts are there in both the spring and the fall? Seven

How many feasts are there in the fall? Four

ACTIVITY:

Find your way to the Kingdom!



MEMORY VERSE:

Isaiah 11:9 "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."

ANSWERS TO FAMILY ACTIVITY SHEET

SCRAMBLED WORDS:

LOVE
LAMB
TITHE
TRUTH
THRONE

Answer to riddle: He has a REVELATION

SECRET DECODER:

GO FOR THE KINGDOM!