

SABBATH SCHOOL

Level 5 • Unit 1 • Week 1

PLAN OF SALVATION: FALL FESTIVALS

OBJECTIVE:

To present the concept of what a plan is and provide an overview of the plan God has for all of mankind.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Prepare in Advance:

Make a copy of the lists/plans (on separate page at end of lesson) on poster board large enough for everyone to see.

Teacher: Who can tell me what the word "plan" means? [Let students respond.] Plan means to think out acts and purposes (goals) beforehand.

Teacher: Here are some examples of the different types of plans that people make. Here is a plan that a high school student has made for his future. It is a master plan of the steps (that's smaller plans) that he will follow in high school in preparation for college.

BIBLE LESSON:

Now that you have seen some of the types of plans we make, I want to show you the awesome plan that God has made for mankind's future. It is God's master plan of salvation. He began revealing important aspects of His plan long ago to Adam and Eve. Centuries later, God revealed more of His plan to Moses and His people, the Israelites. He used their experience of oppressive slavery to the Egyptians and their being freed to teach them His great plan.

God's great plan consists of seven steps. These seven steps are seven momentous events that have either taken place or will take place in the course of man's history. Each event is symbolized by one of God's Holy Days. They are also called feasts. They were to be observed each year, each on its proper day, forever, as a memorial. The ancient Israelites lived through the first three of the seven great events.

Some 1,300 years later, during the time of Jesus Christ, God's people were still observing His Holy Days.

Nearly 2,000 years have passed since the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and God's people are still faithfully keeping those same Holy Days that He began to reveal thousands of years ago.

Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost are the first three steps in God's master plan of salvation, and we will be learning about them in the spring when they are celebrated.

But now we will be learning about the last four Holy Days which we will soon be celebrating this fall. These are the last four steps in God's master plan.

Do: Provide a copy of the "THE SEVEN STEPS IN GOD'S MASTER PLAN OF SALVATION" for each student [on pages 4-6]. Read together in class.

Now we will take turns reading about the fall Holy Days which are the last four steps in God's master plan of salvation. As we read, pay close attention to the main points of each step so you can score high in the game we will be playing afterward.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Prepare in Advance:

1. Cut seven pieces of poster board—each piece measuring about 2 inches by 2 inches.
2. On each of the seven pieces print the name of a Holy Day.
3. Cut another 12 pieces of poster board—each measuring about 2 inches by 8 inches.
4. Cut out the following 12 sentences and glue one on each of the 12 pieces of poster board.

Do: Turn all the pieces face down and mix them up.

Teacher: Now we will play that game I told you about. Let's start with [name a child] and go around the room. The larger pieces are the steps in God's master plan—His Holy Days—we will start with them. Place them in their proper order with the first step on the bottom, the second step above the first, and so forth (like a set of steps).

Teacher: Now that we have placed God's Holy Days in order, let's continue around the room. The smaller pieces have sentences on them. We will match the sentence to the correct fall Holy Day and place it beside that Holy Day. We will only be doing the last four steps which are God's fall Holy Days.

Sentences for game:

They were to celebrate this Holy Day with a sacred assembly commemorated (to serve as a reminder) with trumpet blasts.

This Holy Day pictures the return of Jesus Christ to earth to put an END to the wars and suffering of mankind and ESTABLISH the Kingdom of God!

A great trumpet blast will announce His arrival.

These two goats were representations (symbols) of Christ and Azazel (Satan)

The first goat was killed as a sin offering for the people.

This is the one day that God has commanded us to fast (go without food and water for 24hours).

We are to stay in "temporary dwellings" to remind us of the ancient Israelites who lived in temporary dwellings after they were brought out from slavery in Egypt by God.

People will live in peace and harmony because Jesus Christ will be ruling instead of Satan.

During the Millennium, those who are alive at Christ's return, as well as their descendants, will be offered the opportunity for salvation.

This step in God's master plan pictures a time right after the Millennium when billions of people will be resurrected and given a chance to learn God's way for a period of 100 years.

God, being absolutely fair, will give everyone the opportunity to be born into His family and receive eternal life.

Only after every single human being has had his or her chance to know and accept God's way of life will God's plan for mankind will be completed.

MUSIC:

Teacher's choice from United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

Leviticus 23:1-2 "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, '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."'"

THE SEVEN STEPS IN GOD'S MASTER PLAN OF SALVATION

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS: Step 4

"The LORD said to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, saying: "In the the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD"" (Leviticus 23:23-25).

Several months had passed since the Israelites experienced the first Pentecost. They were still camped at the foot of Mt. Sinai because the cloud that guided them had not moved. It was almost fall and time for God to reveal the fourth step in His master plan of salvation. They were to celebrate the Feast of Trumpets with a sacred assembly commemorated (to serve as a reminder) with trumpet blasts.

God taught ancient Israel how to use trumpets to communicate important messages because they could be heard great distances. Silver trumpets were used to announce each Feast and to call God's people to assemble. Along with the silver trumpets, a ram's horn trumpet was also blown on the Feast of Trumpets.

This ram's horn trumpet, called a shofar was used to sound a warning of danger and warfare. Unlike the melodic silver trumpets, the ram's horn trumpet was loud, hard on the ears and got everyone's attention.

The Feast of Trumpets pictures the return of Jesus Christ to earth to put an END to the wars and suffering of mankind under Satan's rule and ESTABLISH the Kingdom of God! He qualified to be the ruler of the earth when He was still a human and He will replace Satan at this time. (Satan has been ruling the earth since before the time of Adam and Eve.) A great trumpet blast will announce Christ's arrival. At His return, those chosen by God, both living and dead, will be raised to eternal life. This is the first resurrection.

The Feast of Trumpets is a day of great happiness because it is the day that pictures the beginning of true peace, happiness and plenty for everyone. This day pictures the time when the Kingdom of God will be set up on earth and Jesus, King of Kings, will rule.

This fourth step represents the beginning of a new era. It is the ending of the present age of mankind and the beginning of a time when Christ will play a more direct part in world events. The time in history that this fourth step represents has not yet occurred.

DAY OF ATONEMENT: Step 5

"And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 'Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God'" (Leviticus 23:26-28).

God gave certain instructions to ancient Israel on how to observe His Holy Days This was done in order to give His people a deeper understanding of His plan for saving mankind from the destruction brought on by Satan. For the Day of Atonement the high priest was instructed to select two goats for a sin offer-

ing. Then, the high priest took the two goats and presented them before God. Lots (an appeal to God to decide) were then cast upon the two goats. These two goats were representations (symbols) of Christ and Azazel (this is another name for Satan).

The goat, which God selected through the casting of lots to represent Christ, was to be slain—just as Christ was slain (crucified). The other goat selected by God to represent Azazel (Satan) was to be driven alive into an uninhabited wilderness just as Satan will be driven away from the presence of God after Christ returns to earth.

Then the high priest offered a sin offering for himself and his family so that he could represent Christ our High Priest. The first goat was killed as a sin offering for the people. After the high priest finished the ceremony of reconciliation, Azazel, the goat representing Satan, was brought in. The high priest then laid both hands upon the live goat, Azazel, and confessed over him all of the sins of the children of Israel putting them upon the head of the goat. Satan is the originator of sin. When this was finished, Azazel was then led away by a fit (qualified) man into the wilderness. The fit man then washed his clothes and bathed before returning to camp. The ancient Israelites also fasted on this day.

This fifth step of God's plan pictures deposing (removing from office) Satan the devil from his present position as world ruler, and removing him to a place completely apart and away from mankind. He will be bound for one thousand years, no longer able to deceive the nations.

God's people have kept the Day of Atonement from the time of Moses to this present time. This is the one day that God has commanded us to fast (go without food or water for twenty-four hours). By fasting we come to understand how very dependent we are upon God to provide those things we need in order to live. We are commanded to assemble together on this day to be taught from the Word of God—the Bible. This day represents the time when we will be AT-ONE (reconciled) with God.

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES Step 6

"Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, '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. On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it"' (Leviticus 23:33-35).

The word "tabernacles" means temporary dwelling places and God tells us to dwell (live) in booths (motels, tents, campers, condominiums, etc.) during the time we are at the Feast. We are to stay in "temporary dwellings" to remind us of the ancient Israelites who lived in temporary dwellings after they were brought out from slavery in Egypt by God. He guided and protected them during the 40 years in the wilderness and gave them the land of Canaan, a land of bountiful harvests.

This sixth step of God's plan of salvation pictures a time when the earth will be restored to the way it was when God first created Adam and Eve. This festival lasts seven days and pictures the 1,000 years that Jesus Christ will reign on earth. This 1,000-year period referred to is also called the Millennium. This is a time when all people will learn God's way and the land will again produce a bountiful harvest. People will live in peace and harmony because Jesus Christ will be ruling instead of Satan. Even the nature of

the wild animals will be peaceful. They, too, will not fight and kill but will be tame and make wonderful pets.

During the Millennium, those who are alive at Christ's return, as well as their descendants, will be offered the opportunity for salvation.

THE LAST GREAT DAY Step 7

"For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it." (Leviticus 23:36)

The seventh and last step in God's master plan of salvation pictures a time right after the Millennium when billions of people will be resurrected (brought back to human, physical life) and given a chance to learn God's way for a period of perhaps 100 years. Most of the people who have lived throughout history have not understood God's plan. Many have not even heard about God or Jesus Christ. God, being absolutely fair, will give everyone the opportunity to be born into His family and receive eternal life. Those who are training now to be in God's family will be able to help teach all those billions who have lived and died without learning His truth. They will then have to decide whether to live His way or not. God wants everyone to qualify and be in His family. Only after every single human being has had his or her chance to know and accept God's way of life will God's plan for mankind be completed.

THE APOSTLES KEPT THE HOLY DAYS

Jesus kept the Holy Days and His apostles followed His example. Paul told his followers in 1 Corinthians 11:1—"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." There are many scriptures in the Bible that tell us about the apostles keeping the fall festivals as well as the spring festivals. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Paul uses the theme of the Feast of Trumpets to encourage the brethren in Thessalonica, indicating that he kept the Feast. In the book of Acts, Luke referred to the Day of Atonement, when he mentioned that it was after the "Fast: and travel by sea was dangerous because the winter season was coming on" (Acts 27:9). In John 7 we are told that the apostles kept the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day in Judea. Jesus also attended, but in secret because the Jews there were waiting to take His life. After Christ was crucified, the apostles continued keeping the Holy Days and teaching that they should be kept.

God has blessed you with the knowledge of His master plan and the understanding of why He has commanded you to observe these days and keep them holy. God wants you to know, remember and never forget why He has made you and where your life is leading. By observing His Holy Days each year, you are reminded of why you were born! It is a wonderful privilege to know and understand the meaning of God's Holy Days.

family activity

THE POINT:

This week's lesson presented the concept of what a plan is in order to help your child better understand that God plans and has a great master plan for the salvation of man. The seven annual Holy Days reveal God's master plan.

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Teach your child how to plan by letting him help in planning for the Feast of Tabernacles.

Start by making an overall plan for the Feast—a master plan. Then break it down into subplans.

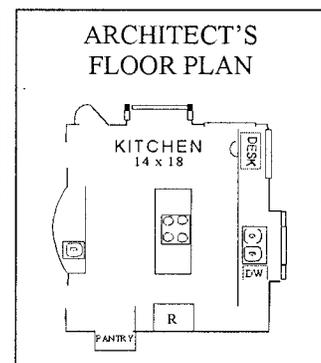
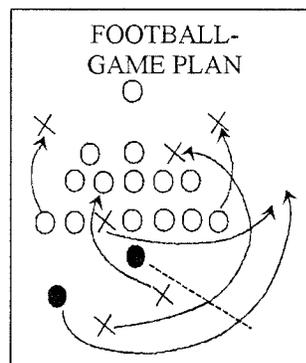
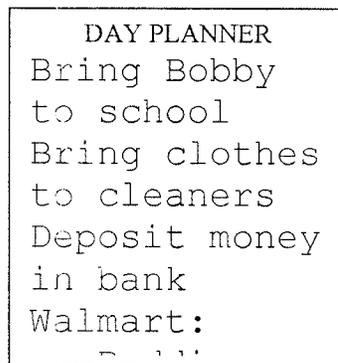
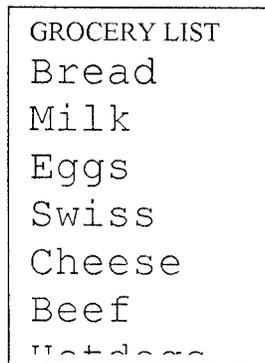
Give your child the responsibility of making an organized list for one of the sub-plans. Perhaps he/she could make an organized list of the items he/she will need to take to the Feast or plan his/her travel time (homework, reading, games, etc.) to and from the Feast. Then oversee the gathering of the needed items and let him/her pack them.

The planning list should answer the questions: WHAT do I need for the Feast? WHERE can I buy it (if it is something that needs to be bought)? WHEN can I go to buy it?

MEMORY VERSE:

Leviticus 23:1-2 "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, '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.'"

Samples of Plans and Lists



Master Plan for High School

1. Take necessary courses in preparation for college.
2. Study hard in order to earn a scholarship.
3. Get part-time job after school.
4. Get full-time summer job.
5. Check out the scholarships offered by each college.
6. Check out the colleges and what they each have to offer.
7. Always keep goal (college) in mind.

Freshman Year

1. Take Computer I and any other subject needed.
2. Allow enough study time.
3. Get part-time job after school and during summer (yard work, rake leaves, etc.)
4. Stay focused on goal.

Sophomore Year

1. Take Computer II.
2. Allow enough study time.
3. Get part-time job at a supermarket.
4. Increase work hours during summer.
5. Stay focused on goal.

Junior Year

1. Take Computer Science.
2. Allow enough study time.
3. Get part-time job that has to do with computers (get full-time work in summer).
4. Check into scholarships and college.
5. Stay focused on goal.

Senior Year

1. Take Computer Engineering.
2. Allow enough study time
3. Get part-time work with a computer company and full-time work in summer.
4. Apply for scholarships and college.
5. Stay focused on goal.