

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 2 • Unit 1 • Week 4

FEAST OF TABERNACLES/LAST GREAT DAY

OBJECTIVE:

To show how the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day picture the growth of God's family in the world tomorrow.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Do: Give each of the children a doughnut or bagel on a plate or a napkin. Ask them not to eat it until later.

Say: Who can find the beginning of their doughnut? Who can find the spot where the circle ends? Some questions are just difficult to answer, aren't they?

Ask: How can it be that God has no beginning and no end? How can He live forever?

Say: We as humans can't understand this very well because we think everything has to come from something. We can look forward to a time when we will be able to understand all about eternal life and other mysterious subjects.

[The kids may want to eat their doughnut during the lesson.]

BIBLE LESSON:

Ask: Did you know that God wants to make His family bigger by giving people eternal life? What is eternal life? [Eternal life means to live forever.]

Say: God wants us to live forever like He does. Jesus Christ is His first Son and will be our oldest Brother if we become part of God's family.

Say: Many believe that people already have eternal life. Some think that when people die, their "soul" lives on—going either to heaven or hell or becoming some sort of a ghost. We know,

however, that people are physical and when they die, they are really dead. Only God has the power to resurrect or bring back to life. When the time is right God will give new life to many of those who have died.

Ask: What does resurrect mean? [To bring back to life.]

Say: The first group of people that God plans to resurrect is made up of those that He called and worked with before they died, and who stayed faithful to Him. You may have had a grandparent or loved one in the church who died. Perhaps he or she will be in this group called the “first resurrection.” They will rise and meet Jesus in the air at the time of His return to earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Won’t it be exciting to see these people again! We were so sad when they died, but after Jesus’ return, death won’t be able to take them away again. They will be resurrected or “born” into God’s spirit family!

Ask: What about those called and faithful ones that are still alive at the time of Christ’s return?

Say: They will join the first group we just talked about and will be changed in a moment into spirit beings. All of these new members of God’s family—called the elect— will help teach God’s way to everybody. Since the elect have been faithful in their physical lives, they have proven to God that they can be trusted with the power and responsibility that comes with eternal life. Jesus Christ will lead them in setting up a new world government of justice and peace.

Say: “What on earth will they be doing?” is a very good question because that is where they will be—on earth. And their mission will be to teach the good news of a better way to the survivors of the awful problems of the past world.

Ask: If you were a teacher in the world tomorrow, what do you think would be the most important thing to teach people? [Allow each student to suggest something.]

Say: This task or mission of teaching a better way to mankind will go on for one thousand years. Since the word “millennium” means one thousand, we sometimes call this time period “the millennium.” During this time, each person has the chance to accept God’s calling and be given eternal life as a member of God’s family. People will grow in the understanding of the way that will make them happier, as they learn to get along with each other.

Ask: Will the people that accept the message taught by the elect get to be in God’s spirit family too?

Say: Yes, God wants a very big family!

Ask: Is there a special time for us to celebrate the chance to be in God’s family?

Say: Yes, it is called the Feast of Tabernacles. This festival is a happy and a fun time. As we eat and drink at the Feast we can look forward to the time when all the people who survive the terrible end-time events will finally have a chance for happiness—in the new world set up by Jesus Christ.

Ask: Did you know that the last day we observe while we are away at the Feast is actually a separate Holy Day with a special meaning of its own? It is called the “Last Great Day.”

Ask: Did you know that this Holy Day represents how God will give everybody a fair chance to be in His family?

Say: We've talked about how the end-time survivors will be taught God's way. What about the many people throughout history who never knew God's way—who are dead now? They will be given their chance to be part of God's family at the second resurrection, which is also called the "Great White Throne Judgment" (spoken of in Revelation 20:11-15). Hopefully most people will cooperate and receive eternal life as children of God.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Ask: Who have you known that might be in the first resurrection? (This may be someone you knew who died in the faith—who may "come back to life" at Christ's return.)

Discussion of Resurrection of Important People from History

Talk about the second resurrection of those who lived and died without being called. Have each child name someone in history that he/she would like to meet—and may very well have the chance! Ask each what he/she might say to that person (Examples: Alexander the Great, Benjamin Franklin, Queen Elizabeth I or Cleopatra.)

Craft Activity

Supplies Needed: Strips of colored paper, glue sticks, pencils or markers.

Give several strips of paper to each child. Have the children write on each strip the name of someone they knew who died, or some famous person they would like to see in God's family or brought back to life in the future. Each child may then form his/her paper strips into a chain by gluing the strips.

MUSIC:

Learn and sing the song "It Won't Be Long Now" by Ross Jutsum.

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Corinthians 15:55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades [grave], where is your victory?"

Do: Explain that "Hades" means the grave.

Say: In this life death is a major concern. People worry about sickness and dying. When a loved one dies it upsets us a lot. This verse tells us that death will no longer be a worry to those born into God's family of spirit beings. This is very good news!

family activity

THE POINT:

The Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day picture times of growth in God's family in the world tomorrow.

ASK ME...

What does "eternal life" mean?

What does "resurrect" mean?

What does the Feast of Tabernacles picture?

What does the Last Great Day picture?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Create tangible memories for your child. Buy him/her a small photo album to fill with postcards, ticket stubs etc. from the feast. You may want to purchase a disposable camera and let him/her take the pictures. Be sure and have them developed soon afterward so he/she can show them to friends the following week at church.

Encourage your child to use the Festival Activity booklet provided every year before the Feast season.

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Corinthians 15:55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades [grave], where is your victory?"