

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 4 • Unit 8 • Week 4

THE WAVESHEAF OFFERING AND PENTECOST

OBJECTIVE:

To teach the student about the wavesheaf offering during the Days of Unleavened Bread and the Day of Pentecost.

ATTENTION GETTER:

The Days of Unleavened Bread picture getting sin out of our lives (pictured by removing all leavening) and living as Jesus Christ did (pictured by eating unleavened bread). God knows that we need His help. We need the spiritual power of God's Holy Spirit to help us keep God's spiritual law, the Ten Commandments. This is the third step in God's plan of salvation. The Day of Pentecost, also called the Feast of Weeks or Feast of Firstfruits, pictures God giving us His Holy Spirit.

"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4).

Imagine the sight! This was what happened when the Holy Spirit first came to the members of the New Testament Church. They may have been a little overwhelmed by this new power. But soon they came to realize that this is what they needed to overcome sin.

Do: As a lead-in to the rest of the lesson, discuss what a harvest of grain is, how the farmers collect their crops when the grain is ripe. In the land settled by ancient Israel, there is a small spring grain harvest followed by a much larger late summer/early fall harvest.

BIBLE LESSON:

GOD'S PLAN PICTURED BY TWO HARVESTS

God's master plan of salvation is pictured by two annual agricultural harvests in the Middle East (the land formerly occupied by ancient Israel). Again, these two physical harvests symbolize two harvests of mankind. The first is a small harvest and the second a much larger one.

These two harvests show us that God is not dealing with most of the world's people at this time. God is calling only a few people now (the firstfruits), symbolized by the first small harvest in the spring. Those in God's Church today are a part of the coming small harvest to be reaped into God's family at the return of Jesus Christ.

Later, after the millennial reign of Jesus, the much larger harvest of people will occur. This is symbolized by the second larger physical harvest in the fall. This harvest will include the billions of people who have never had a chance to hear about Jesus and His way of life. They are the people who lived before Jesus came to earth as a human and those since then that have lived at times or places where they could not hear of His way of life. The second or fall harvest of people is pictured by the Last Great Day during the fall Holy Days.

THE WAVESHEAF OFFERING

The first harvest in the spring began with what is called the wavesheaf offering. On Sunday (the day after the weekly Sabbath) during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, a sheaf of barley was cut. A sheaf is several stalks of the barley grain tied together. The priest waved the sheaf into the air to be accepted by God. This sheaf was the first of the physical firstfruits (Leviticus 23:10-11). A male lamb was also offered as a sacrifice. This male lamb also represented Jesus (Leviticus 23:12).

Once the wavesheaf offering was performed, the springtime harvest could begin. The spring harvest ended by the time of the Feast of Firstfruits (Pentecost) 50 days later.

The wavesheaf offering seems like a rather strange ceremony to perform. Actually, it has great meaning and is tied to the resurrection of Jesus Christ! As always, God does not ask us to do anything without a purpose. What an awesome God we have!

JESUS IS THE FIRST OF THE SPIRITUAL FIRSTFRUITS

Jesus was the first person to be resurrected from the dead and be in God's Kingdom. Some others, such as Lazarus (John 11:38-44) were resurrected to physical life. But after Jesus was resurrected, He went up to heaven to be with God the Father. So Jesus was the "first of the spiritual firstfruits."

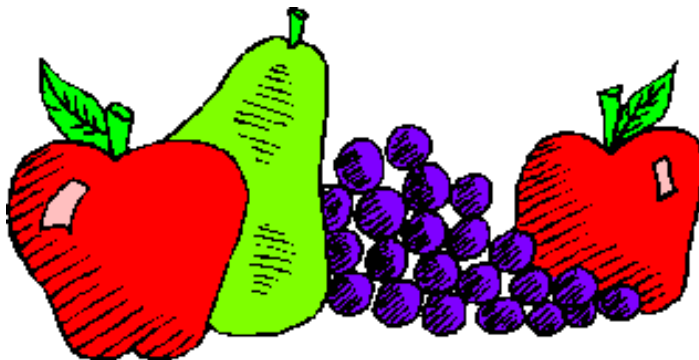
JESUS IS THE SPIRITUAL WAVESHEAF OFFERING

Jesus was crucified and died on a Wednesday. He was then resurrected three days and three nights later. No one saw His actual resurrection. So three days and three nights after Wednesday afternoon would be Saturday afternoon. The next morning (Sunday) the stone of Jesus' grave was rolled away and He was gone!

Mary Magdalene saw Jesus that morning (John 20:14-16). At this time, Mary could not touch Jesus

because He had not yet gone up to heaven to be accepted by God the Father (John 20:17). That morning, the priests were to perform the wavesheaf offering, and at the same time Jesus was ascending to God the Father in heaven. Jesus was accepted by God the Father just as the wavesheaf offering was to be accepted.

"Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week [Sunday], when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, 'Peace be with you'" (John 20:19). Jesus had returned to be with the apostles. By then, Jesus had been accepted as the firstfruit, the "firstborn" Son of God.



THESE COULD BE FIRSTFRUITS OF THE PHYSICAL HARVEST!

JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HIS FOLLOWERS

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that [the Holy Spirit] may abide with you forever" (John 14:16). Jesus told His followers that He would send the "Helper" or the Holy Spirit to guide them and teach them.

"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, 'which,' He said, 'you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now'" (Acts 1: 4-5). Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to be given to them.

PENTECOST

The word Pentecost means "50th" day. It is the only Holy Day that is figured out by counting. Counting 50 days beginning with Sunday (the day after the Sabbath) during the Days of Unleavened Bread, we arrive at Pentecost. That means that Pentecost is always on a Sunday.

Pentecost is the anniversary of the beginning of God's Church. It was on Pentecost that God sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit helps us overcome sin. God has given us a "human" spirit that gives us the ability to think and make decisions. The Bible refers to this human spirit as the "spirit in man."

When we become older and God calls us, we can become members in God's Church. We must first repent, which means to turn away from our sins. Satan's way is the "get" way of life. God's way is the

“give” way of life. When we are ready to make a commitment to obey God and live His way, then we can be baptized into His Church.

At the time of baptism, the minister lays hands on us. That means he places both hands on top of our head. He then prays that God will give us His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit then unites with our “spirit in man” and begins to transform our thinking. That is when our new spiritual life begins.

Sometimes we don't always follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in our lives and we sin. It is then that we must again repent of the sin and ask God for His forgiveness. We won't be perfect, but God expects us to grow spiritually and the Holy Spirit is the power we need to do so. We must continue to grow spiritually all our lives. If we remain faithful to God until the end of our lives, then we can be a part of His Kingdom at the return of Jesus Christ.

CHILDREN IN GOD'S CHURCH ARE SPECIAL

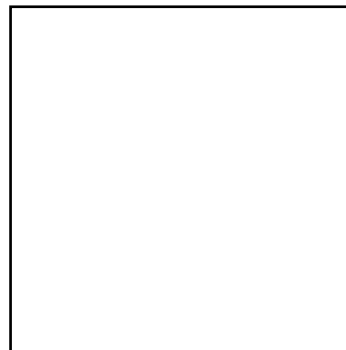
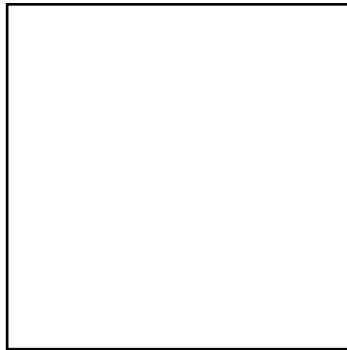
Being baptized is a very important decision to make in life. A person must fully understand the commitment he or she is making to God. That is why only mature individuals are baptized. But what about the children in God's Church right now?

God has put you in a special group. Even though God's Holy Spirit is not in you, the Holy Spirit is with and around you. You are still able to communicate with God in prayer and He watches and protects you. If at least one of your parents is in the Church, you have a special blessing of being able to learn God's way of life (1 Corinthians 7:14). You learn the importance of keeping God's Commandments and observe His Holy Days. Then when you become old enough, God will give you the opportunity to become a part of His Church as well.

LESSON APPLICATION:

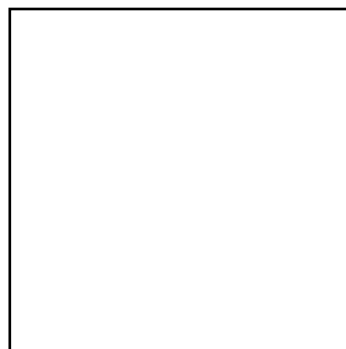
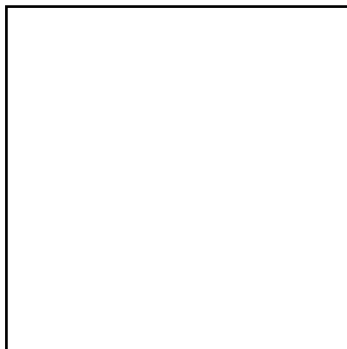
CREATE A CARTOON

Using the first cartoon box below, create the remaining frames of the cartoon. This cartoon covers the wavesheaf offering.



The barley is cut for the wavesheaf offering.

Using the first cartoon box below, create the remaining frames of the cartoon. This cartoon covers the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrection and the giving of the Holy Spirit.



The Holy Spirit appears as tongues of fire.

MUSIC:

Sing "God Is Calling Children," page 51 of the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that [the Holy Spirit] may abide with you forever."

family activity

THE POINT:

To teach the student about the wavesheaf offering during the Days of Unleavened Bread and the Day of Pentecost.

UNSCRAMBLE THE MEMORY VERSE:

Unscramble the words below verse and see if you can find which one it is from the lesson.

"DnA I liwl yrap het ethraF, dna eH ilwl vige ouy teanroh lpHeer, ahtt het oyHI irStip aym ideab hitw ouy erverof." (nohJ 14:16)

RIDDLES:

- I am made of stalks of barley. The priests bundled me together and waved me before God.
- This is the power of God. Without it, we cannot overcome sin by ourselves.
- I happen twice a year. God uses me as a symbol of how people will be saved into God's Kingdom.
- I am symbolized by a lamb. I am the Son of God.
- You have to count 50 to find the date I land on.
- I like the "get" way of life. I am evil and responsible for sin.
- Breaking me is called sin. There are ten of me.
- I am one of many of the first people to be called. God uses a special term for me that relates to the harvest.
- I am sometimes referred to as a building. I am actually a group of called-out people.
- I am a special person. Although I don't have God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit is around me and watches over me.

POWER OF GOD:

Answer the questions and see the Power of God!

There are two _____ of grain.

The wavesheaf _____.

God's chosen people—ancient _____.

The wavesheaf was made of stalks of _____.

The first harvest happens in the _____ of the year.

The third step in God's plan is pictured by _____.

We must count _____ days to get to Pentecost.

The people in God's _____ observe the Holy Days.

Jesus is the _____ of the firstfruits.

The _____ Commandments define sin.

ANSWERS

SCRAMBLED MEMORY VERSE:

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that [the Holy Spirit] may abide with you forever.

RIDDLES:

I am made of stalks of barley. The priests bundled me together and waved me before God.

WAVESHEAF OFFERING

This is the power of God. Without it, we cannot overcome sin by ourselves. **HOLY SPIRIT**
I happen twice a year. God uses me as a symbol of how people will be saved into God's Kingdom.

HARVEST

I am symbolized by a lamb. I am the Son of God. **JESUS**

You have to count 50 to find the date I land on. **PENTECOST**

I like the "get" way of life. I am evil and responsible for sin. **SATAN**

Breaking me is called sin. There are ten of me. **TEN COMMANDMENTS**

I am one of many of the first people to be called. God uses a special term for me that relates to the harvest. **FIRSTFRUIT**

I am sometimes referred to as a building. I am actually a group of called-out people. **CHURCH**

I am a special person. Although I don't have God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit is around me and watches over me. **ME (A YOUNG PERSON IN GOD'S CHURCH)**

POWER OF GOD

Harvests

Offering

Israe**L**

Barle**Y**

Spring

Pentecost

Fifty

Chu**R**ch

First

Ten