

Lesson 4

Feast of Tabernacles

Leviticus 23:33–43

Memory Verse

“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water’”
(John 7:37,38)

Teacher’s Objective

At the end of the session, the students should be able to:

Define the biblical commandments concerning this festival

Locate several places in the Bible where the Feast of Tabernacles is spoken of

Describe the different names given to this feast and their meanings

Express in their own words why this feast is important

Teacher’s Bible Study

This festival analogously acts out the Millennium—the thousand years of Christ’s reign on earth. The true harvest of mankind can now take place. Without the source of evil around, Satan, all nations can be brought to God. For a thousand years, a Golden Age shall reign: happiness and peace shall be a reality and worldwide salvation shall be possible. This harvest of persons is far larger than the first one, just as the fall harvest is the much larger harvest season in the agricultural cycle. The Millennium shall be the time when God sets His hand to save the world. It shall be a time of rebuilding, the forging of a new modern society under God’s laws.

An interesting interpretation of the Feast of Tabernacles as symbolic of the millennial reign of Christ is found in the writings of the late third century Catholic commentator, Methodius. Although he evidently did not keep the festival himself, he perceived it—perhaps reflecting an earlier tradition—as picturing a time when the “earthy tabernacle” would be put off and Christians made immortal would celebrate the true feast (*Symposium* 9.1).

While actual booths are no longer built, the same symbolism is maintained by the fact that we, Church members, live in temporary dwellings (motels, hotels, campsites) away from home. Of course, in order to spend the eight days away from home, as well as meet the expense of travel to and from the place of assembly, saving ahead is necessary (Deuteronomy 14:22–26).

The following are names given to this festival: *Feast of Booths* (II Chronicles 8:13; Ezra 3:4; Zechariah 14:16,18–19; John 7:2). This festival was given this name because the Israelites were commanded to live in booths during the seven-day observance. *Feast of the Harvest* or *Feast of Ingathering* (Exodus 23:16; 34:22). The festival was given this name because it was held after the ingathering of the harvest. *Feast of the Lord* (Leviticus 23:39; I Kings 8:2; II Chronicles 5:3). Because it was the most important or well known festival it was given this name.

Exodus 23:16
Leviticus 23:33–43
Deuteronomy 16:13–15

31:10–13
Nehemiah 8
Zechariah 14:16–19

To prepare for this week’s lesson, each day read the following scriptures:

Presenting the Bible Story

Leviticus 23:33–36

Names given
to this festival :
Feast of Booths
Feast of the Harvest
Feast of Ingathering
Feast of the Lord

Leviticus 23:37,38

Leviticus 23:39–43

Deuteronomy 16:13–17

The *Feast of Tabernacles*
closely follows the
Day of Atonement,
which pictures the
binding of Satan.
The prophetic event to
follow the binding of
Satan is the Millennium

Revelation 20:1–4

Hebrews 11:8–16; 38–40

Matthew 16:28; 17:9

Exodus 34:22

The Feast of Tabernacles was celebrated for seven days, from the 15th through the 21st of the seventh month. The first day of the feast was a day of rest and a sacred assembly. Everyday work was not to be performed on this feast day. A special offering was to be presented to God. Read Numbers 29:12-38. This festival commemorates several important things. It is a feast that gives thanks to God for the fall harvest. It is a celebration of God's care over the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness for forty years and it is a reminder that just as the booths were temporary dwelling places for the Israelites, our existence here on earth is of a temporary nature.

These offerings that were to be given were in addition to the weekly offerings for the Sabbath. Freewill offerings were to be given.

The Feast of Tabernacles and how the Israelites were to conduct their lives during this time is restated. The construction of the booths may have been done with palm fronds, leafy branches, willows, and poplars. "This is to be a lasting ordinance." This statement is an indication of how important this festival was. This portion of Scripture about the feast is then concluded with "I am the Lord your God."

There are biblical commandments relative to this festival.

1. It is probably the greatest of the three pilgrim feasts the Israelites kept.
2. You are to be joyful and celebrate with your family (verse 14).
3. God is generous to His people (verse 15).
4. We are to appear before the Lord in a place which He chooses. This means traveling (verse 16).
5. We are to give special thanks to God for all the blessings we have received (verse 17).

The Feast of Tabernacles carries meaning for Christians today. This meaning is very similar to the original concept. Even as Israel of old, we dwell in tabernacles (our bodies) as we sojourn between Egypt (sin) and the Promised Land (God's Kingdom).

"Being strangers," "dwelling in tents," "sojourning," and "pilgrims" had special meaning to New Testament writers. Abraham, for example, was uprooted from a stable environment and spent the rest of his life as a nomad dwelling in tents. Abraham will receive his inheritance, just as we will inherit eternal life if we will keep focused, looking forward to the return of Jesus Christ. Read Revelation 21:2, 9–27.

The disciples did see a connection between "tabernacles" and the Kingdom of Christ. What Peter, James and John saw was a vision of the Son of Man in His kingdom. When Jesus returns, Moses and Elijah will be

alive and reigning with Him (Revelation 20:4).

Only the Feast of Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles are mentioned in this verse because they are both harvest festivals. Pentecost, the “feast of firstfruits” early in the season, and Tabernacles, the “feast of ingathering” at the end of the season. This is one of the most profound truths of God’s Word. After the time of “firstfruits” is closed—after Christ has returned and set up His kingdom—there is yet to come a harvest of souls into God’s kingdom.

Art and Activities

Explore with
your students
the following
questions:

Always close your
class with prayer

Teaching Activities

Young Children

Provide copies of the Activity Page suitable for your students.

Older Children

Provide copies of the Activity Page suitable for your students.

Explore the Subject

Read Zechariah 14 and answer the following questions:

1. What is the time setting of the prophecy? (Zechariah 14:1).
2. Is it the time of the return of Christ and the establishing of His Kingdom? (Zechariah 14:3–11).
3. Will the Feast of Tabernacles be observed during this time? (Zechariah 14:16–19).
4. Will the feast be observed by Gentiles? (Zechariah 14:18).

Respond and Reinforce

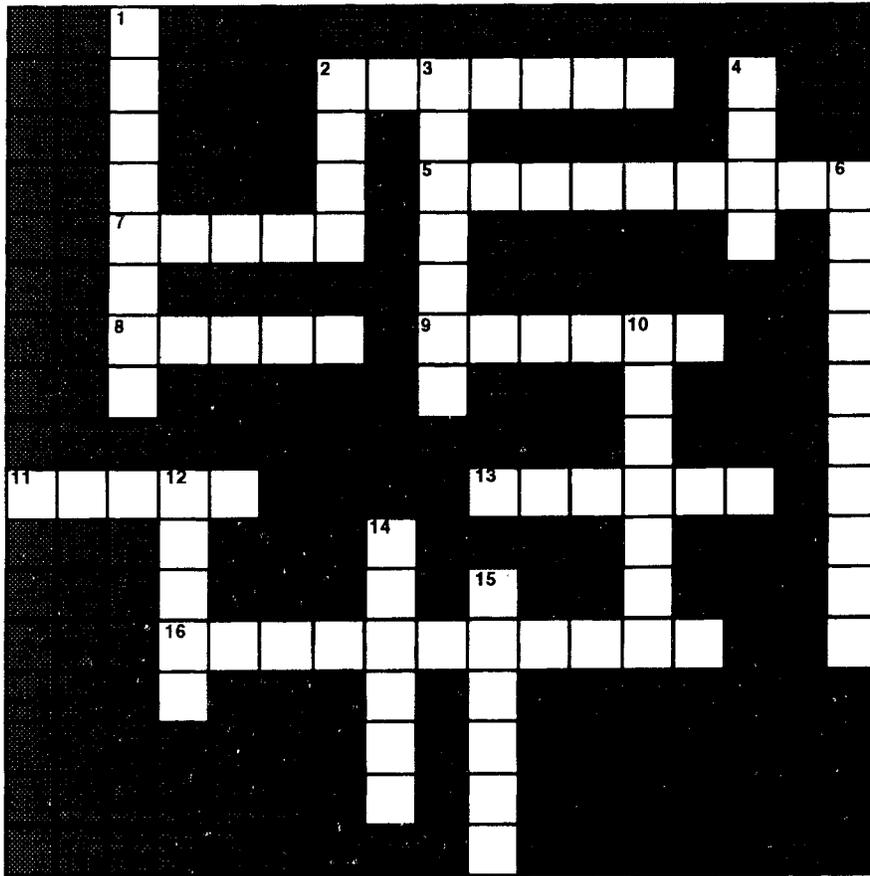
1. The Feast of Tabernacles has not been done away with. If it had, none of this would make any sense.
2. During Old Testament times, this festival included a ceremony in which water was poured out and prayers were made for good rains for the coming season. Jesus is now the *Living Water*.
3. Discuss Memory verse.

Activity

Feast of Tabernacles

Leviticus 23:33-43

Read the scriptures. They will help you solve the crossword below.



Across

2. Without ending.
5. Ancient holy city for Jews, Christians, and Muslims.
7. To live or stay as a permanent resident.
8. Moses led the children of Israel out of _____.
9. To select from a number of possibilities.
11. The prophet who delivered the Law from tablets of stone.
13. Temporary shelter of boughs.
16. Feast of _____.
(Houses of God).

Down

1. Offspring.
2. The season that follows summer.
3. To feel joy or gladness.
4. Hallowed.
6. A time of peace, happiness, and abundance after Christ's return.
10. Permanent rule established to govern.
12. This planet we live on.
14. Name given to Jacob.(Genesis 32:28).
15. Group of related individuals or things

Earth; 14. Jerusalem; 15. Family.

Across: 2. Forever; 5. Jerusalem; 7. Dwelt; 8. Egypt; 9. Choose; 11. Moses; 13. Booths; 16. Tabernacles. Down: 1. Children; 2. Fall; 3. Fejoice; 4. Holy; 6. Millennium; 10. Statue; 11.

Activity Page

Feast of Tabernacles

Leviticus 23:33-43

Find the words in the puzzle below. They are hidden up, down, across, backward, and diagonally.



CHILDREN

SERVILE

DAY

DELIVERED

GENERATIONS

ISRAEL

SACRIFICE

FOREVER

LORD

FIRE

FEAST

GIFTS

DWELL

REJOICE

FIFTEENTH

TABERNACLES

VOWS

BOOTHS

FAMILY

MOSES

HOLY

FREEWILL

STATUTE

CHOOSE

KEEP

CONVOCAION

SEVEN

MILLENNIUM

ETERNAL

JERUSALEM

OFFERING

EIGHTH

EGYPT

SIN

EARTH

Activity Page

Feast of Tabernacles

Leviticus 23:33-43

Color the picture.

But the earth will be filled
with the knowledge...

Habakkuk 2:14



Activity Page

Feast of Tabernacles

Circle the four names given to the Feast of Tabernacles
(John 7:2; Exodus 23:16; Leviticus 23:39; Exodus 34:22)
Then list at least three things you enjoy about the Feast of Tabernacles.

**The Feast of
Booths**

The Feast of the Harvest

Feast of Rejoicing

The Feast of the Kingdom

**The Feast of
Ingathering**

The Feast of Families

Feast of the Lord

Feast of Plenty

My Favorite Things About the Feast of Tabernacles:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Answers: The Feast of Booths; The Feast of the Harvest; The Feast of Ingathering; The Feast of the Lord