

COGWA Youth Instruction

Feast of Tabernacles Lesson

Scripture Discussions

Note to Parents: Here is a list of scriptures to read and discuss with your children regarding the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles. As you discuss these concepts, be mindful of the maturity of your children and adjust the discussion based upon their level of personal development.

Feast of Tabernacles Observance Commanded

Leviticus 23:33-44; Exodus 34:22-23; Deuteronomy 16:13-17: This festival is to be held beginning on the 15th day of the seventh month.

- *Explain that “Feast of Booths” and “Feast of Ingathering” are two other names given to this specific festival.*
- *Explain that dwelling in booths (temporary housing) is to:*
 - *remind us that ancient Israel dwelled in booths in the wilderness before they entered the Promised Land.*
 - *teach us that this world is only temporary and that we are only heirs, not yet inheritors, of the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 15:50).*
- *Explain that we keep the Feast “in the place which He [God] chooses.” Where is the place the Lord has already chosen for the keeping of the Feast of Tabernacles during the Millennium? (See Zechariah 2:12.)*
- *Notice that God’s blessing will cause us to “surely rejoice.”*
- *Emphasize that God expects everyone to attend the entire Feast.*

Christ and the Apostles Kept the Feast of Tabernacles

John 7:2, 8: Christ instructed His brothers to go to the Feast of Tabernacles.

John 7:10-15: Christ taught at the Feast of Tabernacles.

- *Explain that Christ was present at the beginning of the Feast, even though He came quietly, behind the scenes. He began to teach openly in the middle of the Feast.*
- *Notice that everyone knew that Christ would be at the Feast.*
- *Emphasize that the authorities were looking for Christ, yet He obeyed the command of God and still went to the Feast regardless of the danger (John 7:1, 10).*

1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:6: Christ left us an example.

- *Explain that Christ always set the example of what we should do.*



- *Explain that Christ did not follow the incorrect traditions of the elders; He followed God's laws.*

Acts 18:21—Paul observed the Feast of Tabernacles.

- *Point out that some translations incorrectly omit—"I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem."*

1 Corinthians 11:1: Paul instructed us to follow Christ.

- *Explain/define "imitate."*
- *Explain that Paul instructed us to imitate him as he imitated Christ.*
- *Emphasize that Christ kept the Feast. Paul imitated Christ, so he kept the Feast. Therefore, we should imitate Christ (like Paul did) and keep the Feast.*

Establishment of the Government of God

John 5:19, 36; 7:16; 8:28: God the Father is supreme.

- *Explain that Christ performs God's will.*
- *Explain that Christ's authority has been given to Him from God the Father.*
- *Explain that God sent Christ to this earth to proclaim God's message.*
- *Explain that God and Christ are in complete agreement on all things.*

Jeremiah 3:17: Jerusalem will be called "The Throne of the LORD."

- *Explain that God's throne is in heaven (Matthew 5:34), and Christ's throne will be on earth.*
- *Where will Christ's throne be located? Locate Jerusalem on a map.*

Zechariah 14:9: The Lord shall be King.

- *Emphasize that Christ will rule all the earth.*

Luke 1:32-33: Christ will reign forever.

- *Who gives Christ the authority to rule and teach the nations?*

Jeremiah 30:9; Ezekiel 34:23-24: David will be king over the nation of Israel.

- *Explain that David will rule from the city of Jerusalem under Christ's authority.*
- *Explain that Jerusalem will be the model city that all nations will follow.*

Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:28-30: The 12 apostles will sit on thrones.

- *Explain that the apostles will sit on thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel.*
- *Emphasize that God's government will be orderly.*
- *Explain that the law of God will be the basis of how people will live.*

Revelation 20:4, 6: The saints will reign with Christ.



- Explain that the phrase “over such the second death has no power” indicates the saints will be spirit beings who have immortal life.
- Explain that all who rule with Christ and administer His law will be spirit beings.

Revelation 5:10; 20:4, 6: Blessings will be extended to the saints.

- Explain the varied responsibilities the saints will be given. They will be priests, kings, judges and rulers.
- What is the role of a priest? (See Malachi 2:7.)

Isaiah 9:7: The increase of Christ’s government and peace will have no end.

- Explain that the Kingdom of God will remain forever; it will continue to grow.

Isaiah 2:3; Micah 4:2: The law will go forth from Christ’s throne in Zion.

- Explain that the commandments, statutes and ordinances that God established from the foundation of the earth will be enforced. People will observe the 10 Commandments, the food laws, the holy days, etc. (2 Timothy 3:16).
- Discuss how different the world will be when God’s law is followed.
- Explain that God’s truth will spread forth from Jerusalem and eventually cover the entire world (Habakkuk 2:14).
- Explain that every kingdom must possess four elements:
 1. Ruler.
 2. Territory.
 3. Laws.
 4. Citizens.
- Discuss each of these necessary elements with your child. How will each of these components be fulfilled in the coming Kingdom of God? Download the supplement “Components of a Kingdom” which will help you study and discuss this concept.

What Will Happen to the Gentile Nations During the Millennium?

Zechariah 14:16-19; Isaiah 60:12: Refusal to keep the Feast will bring punishment.

- Explain that many nations will just be learning about obeying God. They will quickly learn the importance of worshipping the true God. Some may have to suffer punishment to help them to change.

Revelation 19:15; 2:27: Christ will rule with a rod of iron.

- Explain that initially the gentile nations will need to be corrected and forced to obey Christ’s authority on earth.

Isaiah 60:5, 11-12, 16; 61:5-6: Gentile nations will serve Israel.

- Explain that Israel will receive great wealth from the hands of the gentiles.
- Explain that Israel will inherit the world’s wealth due to obedience to God.
- Explain that Israel’s main focus will be teaching God’s ways to the other nations.



Micah 4:1-5: Many nations will come to learn God's way.

- *Explain that eventually the nations of the world will learn God's way and will freely submit to God and Christ.*

Psalm 86:9: All nations will worship before the Lord.

Changes to the Physical Creation

Zechariah 14:4, 8: The Mount of Olives will split in two.

- *Explain that this deep ravine will provide the channel for this mighty river to provide healing waters.*
- *Look at a map and find Jerusalem. The eastward flow of the river will empty into the Dead Sea, and the westward flow into the Mediterranean Sea.*
- *Compare the law of God and living waters going forth from Jerusalem. Both provide necessary spiritual/physical healing (Ezekiel 47:1-12; Revelation 7:17).*

Isaiah 51:3: There will be healing of the area around Zion.

- *Explain that "Mount Zion" or "Zion" is often used to represent Jerusalem.*
- *What do you think the Garden of Eden looked like?*
- *Draw a picture of what Mount Zion might look like once this scripture is fulfilled.*

Isaiah 55:13: There will be healing of the land.

- *Explain that God will remove the curse that is currently upon the land because of man's disobedience (Genesis 3:17-18).*

Isaiah 30:23-24; 35:1-2, 6-7: The earth will give forth tremendous increase.

- *Contrast this lush time to current drought conditions and unproductive land.*
- *Discuss the importance of the water that will be flowing from Jerusalem.*
- *Draw a picture of the desert blossoming like a rose.*

Amos 9:13: The one who plows the field will bump into the one still harvesting the previous crop.

- *Discuss the abundance that will pour forth with God's blessing upon His physical creation.*

Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:25: There will be a change in the nature of animals.

- *Discuss the enjoyment that will come from interacting with all the animals.*
- *Visit a zoo and discuss the changes that each animal will experience.*
- *What animal do you think will make the best pet?*
- *Draw a picture of you and your "new pet" in God's Kingdom.*

Ezekiel 34:25-31; Hosea 2:18: There will be a covenant of peace.



- *Explain/define “covenant.”*
- *Work your way through each verse, noting all the changes.*

Changes to Mankind

Isaiah 29:18; 32:3-4; 35:5-6: There will be healing of physical blindness.

- *Discuss the complete joy that those who have to endure disabilities today will experience upon being healed.*

Isaiah 42:16, 18; 25:7: There will be healing of spiritual blindness.

- *Discuss what a blessing it is to know and understand God’s plan for mankind.*

Isaiah 2:3-4; Micah 4:3: War will be abolished.

- *Discuss how large amounts of human resources go towards developing weapons for war and protection from enemies today. Contrast how mankind will use his ingenuity for good during the Kingdom.*
- *Discuss the physical, mental, emotional, financial and spiritual destruction war has heaped upon mankind.*

Isaiah 30:19-22: Spiritual training and knowledge will be readily available.

- *Explain that people will be trained within the safety and confines of God’s law.*
- *Emphasize the tremendous spiritual, emotional and mental blessings that will be received by knowing and living God’s way of life.*

Jeremiah 31:31-34: God will put His laws in their minds.

- *Explain/define “covenant.”*
- *Explain that God’s way of life will cause dramatic changes in people’s thinking and actions. God will reshape, remold and refashion man’s mind and heart.*

Ezekiel 36:26-28: God will give people a new heart and a new spirit.

- *Contrast a heart of stone to a heart of flesh. Contrast being stubborn versus being teachable—rebellious versus willing to listen and learn.*
- *What is the new spirit?*

Parables/Stories Relating to the Feast of Tabernacles

Revival under Ezra, Nehemiah 8:13-18: Ezra read the law of God to the people. This led to the restoration of the holy days and the keeping of the Feast of Tabernacles in booths.

Parable of the long journey, Luke 19:11-27: Wise management of resources led to a reward of rulership.



Parable of the mustard seed, Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19: The Kingdom of God will know no end—it will fill the entire earth.

Memory Verse

Habakkuk 2:14: For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the water cover the sea.

