

COGWA Youth Instruction

Fall Festival Instruction Lesson

Overview of the Fall Holy Days

Note to Parents: We encourage you to read through this material with your children to provide an overview of the meaning of the fall holy days and what they picture. Then go through each festival in detail, along with whatever supplemental pages you feel would be helpful in teaching and reinforcing the meaning of the days.

God's Plan Illustrated in the Fall Holy Days

God's desire is to build His family. He is doing this through people! This is the reason God created people in the first place. God plans to bring many people into His family by helping them build holy, righteous character and later changing them into spirit beings who will live forever with God. This is called God's plan of salvation.

How do we know this is what God is doing? God has given us an outline of His plan by giving us special days to observe, called holy days. Each of these days explains a part of God's plan to us. These days are kept once each year to remind us of God's work. They illustrate the steps God is taking to complete His family. By keeping these days holy, we show honor to God, we learn what God is doing, and we learn about the major events coming in the future. Jesus set an example for us by keeping these days holy. So did His disciples.

Holy means "sacred" or "set apart." So when God labels these days as "holy days," we treat them very special because they are important to God. He commands us to do several things on these days: rest, meet with God's people and celebrate! We are happy and celebrate on these days because of what they mean—they teach us the steps in God's plan. The holy days that God gives us to observe in the fall season (in the northern hemisphere) teach us important steps in God plan.

The Feast of Trumpets teaches us that God is going to send His Son, Jesus Christ, back to the earth with great power and glory. Jesus will take control of the earth as king so that He can bring peace, safety and happiness to the whole world. He will set up the Kingdom of God on the earth and begin to help people learn what is right and good by teaching them His law.



He wants help with this job; so when He returns, He will resurrect His faithful people who have died and make them spirit beings who will live forever. Those of God's people who are still alive when Christ returns—the true Christians who have God's Holy Spirit—will be changed from physical into spirit beings who cannot die. These resurrected and changed people will live with Jesus and help rule the world. They will help the humans who are left to start to live the right way—God's way. By learning and living the right way now, you are being prepared to help teach others how to live at that time.

The Day of Atonement is the next step in God's plan to bring many people into His family. The Day of Atonement shows us what God will do to get rid of the one who constantly encourages people to sin—Satan the devil. After Jesus returns to begin ruling the earth, He will remove that being who always tries to entice people to turn away from God and to sin. The devil is a mean-spirited, angry being who is the enemy of God. He wants to see people reject God and fail. The Day of Atonement shows us that, in order to have a pure, peaceful and happy world, God will remove Satan from influencing people.

The Feast of Tabernacles is the next step in God's plan to build His family. The Feast of Tabernacles is a seven-day festival, beginning with a holy day, that shows us what the world will be like after Jesus returns as King of Kings and sets up the Kingdom of God here on earth. God wants us to imagine what the world will be like after Jesus returns when everyone is living according to God's law. It will be a time of great happiness, prosperity and fun! To help us look forward to this time—to picture and imagine it—God instructs us to leave our homes, go to a place He has chosen (where He sets His name) and be with His people for seven days. By experiencing living in peace and prosperity with everyone who is trying to live as God teaches, we see a bit of what it will be like for the people who will be alive once Jesus rules the world. When they commit to living God's way, very good things will happen.

The final holy day is attached by God right at the end of the Feast of Tabernacles. Because the Feast of Tabernacles is seven days long, God refers to the holy day that immediately follows these seven days as "the eighth day." We also call it the Last Great Day. By having us keep this day holy, God teaches us what He will do for all those people who never had a chance to learn His way—those who lived and died without correctly knowing God and His way. God promises to bring all those people back to life and teach them His way. Then they will have a full chance to learn and live by God's law and to show God they want to be in His family. This day shows that God is very fair and will give all people a full chance to know Him and live His way.

Now let's go on for more details about each of God's fall holy days.

