

COGWA Youth Instruction

Feast of Tabernacles Instruction Lesson

Objective: To teach that the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the 1,000-year reign of the Kingdom of God over the earth.

“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:2-3).

Note to Parents: We encourage you to read through this material with your children to provide an overview of the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles and what it pictures. Then choose appropriate materials from the supplemental pages that you feel will be helpful in teaching and reinforcing the meaning of the Feast.

Feast of Tabernacles

The sixth festival in God’s holy day cycle is the Feast of Tabernacles. This seven-day festival pictures and looks forward to the 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth, often referred to as “the Millennium” or “the World Tomorrow.” Under the supreme authority of God the Father, Jesus Christ will be King over all the earth; and His law, the law of God, will be taught and practiced. After Jesus Christ has returned to the earth, taken over rulership and banished Satan, God will replace human leaders with the resurrected saints who will then have charge of the earth (Luke 19:17; Revelation 20:4). Under righteous leadership, the world will quickly begin to change for the better. This will happen because God’s way will be taught all over the world to people who will then be teachable and want to do as God says (Isaiah 11:9).

Here are some of the ways the world will change for the better. The nation of Israel will be the first to set an example of obedience to God’s statutes and laws. Other nations will quickly want to learn how Israel is pleasing God so they can do the same (Micah 4:1-2). They will want to please God so they can also enjoy the blessings that come from obedience. Ultimately, all nations of the



world will journey to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles (Zechariah 14:16). Nations will send representatives to worship God and be instructed in His law. As they learn to obey God and practice His ways, the veil that has been upon their eyes will be lifted and God's laws will be written upon their minds and hearts (2 Corinthians 3:14-16; Jeremiah 31:33).

This change of heart will bring about universal peace because war, motivated by selfishness, will disappear. Nations who hated and attacked each other will then live together in peace and turn their war machines into farming tools (Isaiah 2:4, Micah 4:3). We are told that the nature of the animals will also be changed so that a lamb can live in peace with a wolf without fear of being attacked (Isaiah 11:6). A small child will not be in danger of losing his life through the bite of a poisonous snake (verse 8). There will be peace at every level—personal, local, national and international!

Living by God's laws will also bring about great prosperity. Prosperity means that everyone will have plenty to eat and a good place to live. This condition of plenty is symbolized by the words "But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid" (Micah 4:4). Crops will grow as never before, yielding great amounts of healthful foods in abundance (Jeremiah 31:12; Amos 9:13).

Just like the transformation that will take place within people, the physical creation will also experience dramatic change. Deserts will burst forth with life (Isaiah 35:1). God will remove the curse, which is upon the land, so that the hard, unproductive dirt will become tillable and produce fruit in abundance.

Along with the healing of the earth will come the healing of people. Ailments and handicaps, such as blindness and deafness, will be healed. People with injured arms and legs will be healed so that someone who couldn't walk before will now be able to leap like a deer (Isaiah 35:5). The curses that bring about sickness in the body will be removed as people learn to obey God and His law. Good health will be available to all people.

When we keep the Feast of Tabernacles, we picture the miraculous transformation that all of creation will experience under the millennial rule of Jesus Christ. God asks us to leave our homes and go to the place He has chosen to keep the Feast. This pictures the nations that come up to Jerusalem after Christ's return to learn God's way.

Those who are resurrected at Christ's return will experience the unique opportunity to work with Him to help all nations learn the way of God and build a relationship with Him. We keep the Feast of Tabernacles with purpose, preparing for the job that lies ahead—teaching others God's way in the World Tomorrow.

