

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 10.01.2023

GOD WITH US AND IN US— LEVITICUS 23:39-43

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Today, we’re going to be studying the Feast of Tabernacles which is the seventh and final feast on Israel’s calendar. We study all the feasts of the Lord because of what they teach to us about the Lord’s work on the cross and for what they reveal about God’s plan to redeem the world. If you want to fall more in love with Jesus or know where we sit on the prophetic calendar, you need to study the feasts! Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from Pastor Daniel’s sermon?
2. What is your favorite holiday and why?

Part of God’s plans for His covenant people included several festivals and holidays that served as a time for the people to gather together and worship God. All of the instructions God laid out for His people in Leviticus were intentional, and each of these holidays had important significance for the people and their relationship with God. As God’s children today, we can see that each of these special feasts also pointed forward to the person and work of Jesus. God has and always will be at work to deliver, protect, and provide for His people.

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LEVITICUS 23:4-8.

1. Leviticus 23:4-8 described the **Passover celebration**, which gave the people a chance to reflect on God’s deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. **How does this feast bring to mind the work of Christ?** Read Isaiah 53:5-6, 1 Corinthians 5:7, and 1 Peter 1:18-19 for additional insight.

The original Passover feast took place the night before the exodus, when God delivered the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt. Each subsequent Passover commemorated that night and God’s deliverance of His people. It was during the Passover Festival that Jesus was crucified, signaling that He was the unblemished lamb that was sacrificed for all humanity.

2. Leviticus 23:9-14 describes the **Feast of First fruits**. **What was the point of this feast, and how did it point forward to Jesus’ ministry?** Read 1 Corinthians 15:20 also.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LEVITICUS 23:15-25

1. The next feast mentioned in Leviticus 23 was the **Feast of Weeks**. What was the purpose of the Feast of Weeks?
2. What connection do you see between the Feast of Weeks and Jesus? Read John 6:22-35.
3. Why is it also significant that God chose this festival as the time to send His Holy Spirit to indwell His people? How is the Spirit like bread in our lives?

“PROMISES” in 2023

During the Feast of Weeks, also known as Pentecost, the Jews were supposed to show gratitude for God’s provisions by bringing gifts, by setting aside times for worship, and by making provision for the poor. Originally this festival was connected to the wheat harvest; the people were completely dependent on God for a prosperous harvest, and therefore for life itself. Just as bread sustains a person’s physical life, a relationship with Jesus Christ gives spiritual life. When we come to saving faith in Jesus, we also receive the Holy Spirit who continues to nourish our souls day after day.

4. In Leviticus 23:23-25 we read about **the Feast of Trumpets**. Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16. Who blows the trumpet in these verses, and what will happen to us when it is blown?

The Feast of Trumpets celebrated the end of the harvest. During the postexilic time, this day became the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah). The sound of the trumpet reminded the Israelites to assemble in God’s presence for spiritual service. Trumpet blasts are important in the end time when events surrounding Christ’s second coming will be preceded by angels blowing trumpets announcing His arrival and His final work over sin.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LEVITICUS 23:26-44.

1. What was the purpose of **the Day of Atonement**, and how is it connected to Jesus?

The Day of Atonement was set aside as the only day of the year when the high priest could enter the holy of holies and appear before the Ark of the Covenant. On the Day of Atonement, the high priest offered sacrifices to seek God’s forgiveness for the sins of the people. The Day of Atonement served this purpose until the crucifixion of Jesus, at which time animal sacrifices for sins were no longer required thanks to the bodily sacrifice of Jesus Himself.

2. What was the purpose of **the Feast of Tabernacles**, and what stands out to you about the people’s celebration? Read Exodus 40:34-38 for the historical context to the tabernacle.
3. Read John 1:14-18. How does this passage explain the connection between the Feast of Tabernacles and Jesus?

The Feast of Tabernacles was primarily a thanksgiving festival showing gratitude for God’s provision (Ex 34:22) and closing out the agricultural year. This feast also emphasized God and man dwelling together, since it pointed back to the time in the wilderness when God dwelt among His people in the tabernacle. Through Jesus, God took up residence among His people, and Jesus sent His Spirit to do the same thing today.

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

One of the many titles given to Jesus is Immanuel, which means ‘God with us.’ That’s who Jesus is. He takes the God who is out there and brings Him down here. In Jesus, the eternal Word wrapped Himself in flesh and blood, the infinite became finite, the invisible became visible, the unknowable became knowable, the transcendent became intimate, and the untouchable became touchable! He tabernacled among us, and we look forward to the day we tabernacle with Him in the Millennium.

1. Why is it important for our faith that we see the connections between the Old Testament feasts and celebrations and Jesus?
2. What new truths about God did you learn from Leviticus 23? How can those truths enhance your worship?
3. Is there an event in your life or the life of your family that you should be commemorating as a set aside time to worship God?

“PROMISES” in 2023

PRAYER: Close in prayer, thanking God that Jesus was always a part of His plan as the means for our salvation and eternal life.

“On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.” (John 7:37)