

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

## Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide SB 09.26.2021

### FEAST OF TABERNACLES

#### 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.

Feast of Tabernacles, or Sukkot, is a week-long harvest celebration and a time the Jews would build booths (temporary shelters of branches) to camp under the stars. This provided a reminder to the Jews of how they lived under God's care during their forty years in the wilderness. In sharp contrast to the solemnity of Yom Kippur, five days earlier, this eight-day feast is occasionally referred to as "the season of our rejoicing." There are seven days of continual, joyous celebration followed by a day of sacred assembly. In the same way God tabernacled with the Jews, Jesus wants to tabernacle with us. He cares for us and deeply desires a personal relationship with us. As John writes, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (tabernacled), and we beheld his glory, the glory as the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1, 14). Let's get into our study...

1. Describe a time you may have gone camping outdoors and simply marveled at God's creation of the heavens and earth.
2. There are seven days of continual joyous celebration in Sukkot. What are you joyful for today?
3. What stood out to you during this week's study?

#### Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

##### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LEVITICUS 23:33-44

One custom that took place during Sukkot was the water-pouring ceremony. Each day of the feast, a priest came down from the Temple to the pool of Siloam carrying a golden pitcher. The priest would then fill the golden pitcher with water from the pool and return to the Temple with festive blasts of the shofar. Following the priest would be a large crowd of celebrating pilgrims waiving a lulav and chanting, "We will gather water from the wells of salvation" (Is. 12:3), and "Hosanna" (Psalm 118:22-24) meaning "save us now". The priest would make one circuit around the altar, then pour out the water thanking God for the abundance of rain and praying for more rain the next year. However, on the last day, the priest would return to the Temple as before, but now the priest would circle the altar seven times. With each circuit the crowds would grow louder and louder in their cry for their provision and salvation of God.

1. A lulav is one palm branch, two willows, and three myrtle branches bound together (Lev. 23:40). The Lulav signified God's provision of the harvest. How has God's ultimate provision already been given to us? (James 1:17, John 12:12-13).
2. When Jesus attended the Feast of Tabernacles, on the last day of the feast He said, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him" (John 7:37-38). What are streams of living water? (Eph. 1:13-14).
3. Have you ever noticed that after a severe drought when it rains heavily there are no puddles left on the ground? Why?
4. No matter how long one might be in a Spiritual drought, scripture promises there is grace through Jesus, enough to overflow (1 Tim 1:14). How does this encourage you?
5. Our nation is in a Spiritual drought. What are some ways we can be a vessel of this living water with springs overflowing to a lost world? (Matt. 22:39-39).

## **Visitation/Restoration in 2021**

On the first day of Sukkot, seventy-five-foot-high candlesticks were lit in the Court of the Women, where the treasury was located. In celebration and anticipation, the holiest of Israel's men danced and sang psalms of joy and praise, before the Lord. The huge candles reminded the people of the pillar of fire that had guided Israel in their wilderness journey. All night long the light shone their brilliance, it is said, illuminating the entire city. However, on the eighth day the lights were extinguished. How dim and dark it must have appeared after such a brilliant and joyous celebration. It was then and there Jesus spoke at the treasury, near the great but extinguished candles (John 8:20). Jesus declared, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of life (John 8:12).

6. Imagine that you are in ancient Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles. Visualize seeing these massive candles giving a tremendous amount of light. Then, on the eighth day, the candles are extinguished. Describe the perceived feelings of being in the darkness. What does it mean to walk in darkness? (1 John 1:6).
7. Now imagine the impact of the words said by Jesus in the Temple courtyard when he announced, "I am the Light of the world." Describe the perceived feelings of being in the Light. What does it mean to walk in the Light of life? (1 John 1:7).
8. Read Psalm 119:105. How are we to walk in the Light?
9. Why do we need to let the light Jesus reflect in us? (Matt. 5:14-16).

### **Applying God's Word**

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

According to the Talmud: "He who has not seen the rejoicing at the Place of the Water-Drawing has never seen rejoicing in his life." The Feast of Tabernacles is to be a joyous occasion when the Jews remember how the Lord tabernacled with them in the wilderness. The Lord desires to tabernacle with us today. Jesus is the well of our salvation. If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Jesus and drink. Whoever believes in Him, streams of living water will flow from within him" (John 7:37-38). Jesus also declared, "I AM the Light of the world" (John 8:12). As such, we need to let the light of Jesus reflect fully in our lives as a city on a hill (Matt. 5:14-16). So let us rejoice in the Lord and be glad! (Ps. 32:11).

1. Whoever believes in Jesus, streams of living water will flow from within him" (John 7:37-38). Are you experiencing the Spirit filled life? Ask Him to fill you and empower you and He will!
2. Jesus' purpose is to be a "light to the nations" (Luke 2:32). We are also to be a light to the world, reflecting His light in a world of darkness (Phil. 2:15). What steps will you take this week to fully reflect Jesus?

### **PRAYER**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who has kept us in life, and preserved us, and has enabled us to reach this season. Thank You for Jesus. May Your Holy Spirit fill us with streams of living water. Help us to be a light on full display that we may bring You glory. Amen.

### **A Hymn of Praise**

*And in that day, you will say: "O Lord, I will praise You; Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.'" Therefore, with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

*And in that day, you will say: "Praise the Lord, call upon His name; Declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, For He has done excellent things; This is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!" (Isaiah 12).*