

Lesson: Sheaf of Wheat

Summarized Content:

- **Review:** God told the Israelites to eat only unleavened bread during for 1 week starting with the Passover.
- **Review:** We (and the Israelites) were told by God to remove all leavened products from their homes during this time.
- **Review:** Leaven in the Bible symbolizes the sin in our lives. Sin puffs us up like yeast puffs up bread.
- **Review:** This is the process of sanctification God asks us to do each year as we examine ourselves before God, much like spring cleaning. Sometimes we have to look hard to peel back sin that is well-hidden.
- The last part of this sanctification process is when the Sheaf of Wheat is raised. This represents God's raising of His Son for sanctification (First Fruits) and how our process of sanctification will be at the 1st resurrection. Our sanctification will lead to the implementation of the Kingdom of God upon the earth and eventual sanctification of the whole earth at the White Throne Judgment.
- We should also be giving something of value to God on this day representing our "first fruits" of harvest.
- John 15:16 symbolizes how God has chosen the perfect sheaf of wheat for sanctification.
- In order to be one of His first fruits and to earn our crowns, we must spend the time we have on Earth working to overcome sin in our lives with His power. This is a continuous process of refinement, which the Days of Unleavened Bread represent.

Scriptures:

- **John 15:16**
- **Rev. 20:6**
- **Romans 8:13-15**
- **Rev. 3:12**
- **Rev. 22:14-15**
- **Luke 13:24-28**

Activities:

Exploring God's Word:

- Read John 15:16 and talk about the choosing of the sheaf of wheat. Look at the pictures of wheat for a greater understanding of what it is.
- Review how putting leaven out of our lives for a week is part of sanctification. Talk about the correlation with Christ ascending into Heaven for sanctification and how it foreshadows our sanctification process as well.
- Read the rest of the scriptures and discuss how God explains our goal (kings and priests), and that He chose us, and then explains how we can get obtain this crown through the power of God's spirit.

Understanding God's Word (choose from the activities below):



Sheaf of Wheat Color By Number: Have children color the sheaf of wheat worksheet. Discuss the meaning of the sheaf of wheat as you color.



Cleaning Out the Old: Show the children an old box of unusable junk. Have them help you clean out and identify each piece. Allow them to help you refinish the box and place new items neatly within the box. This can be done in small groups with several boxes if needed to keep all involved. Discuss how it felt to clean out the old and replace those items with new things. Talk about how this is part of how Christ wants to sanctify us.



Gift to God – First Fruits: Bring a wrapped box with a bow on it to the class. Talk with the children about how God provides for us like He did for the Israelites. Ask children to think of ways they can honor God with their “first fruits”. Ask children to place on a small piece of paper the “first fruits” (talents, kind words, actions, obedience, or allowance) they want to give God today. Place the papers in the box to signify the gift for God.



Clinging to God's Truths with the Belt of Truth: We are called to overcome sin in this world through God's power. Read Ephesians 6:11-13 and talk about how God's truths can help us resist Satan. On the worksheet, color the belt of truth or make your own belt of truth out of cardboard and strips of cloth or neckties. Read Ephesians 4:24-25 and complete the bottom part of the worksheet. Talk about the importance of telling the truth as part of being Christ's child.



Know God's Truths: There are many truths of God, but part of resisting Satan is knowing what these truths are and where to find them in the Bible. Create matching cards for God's truths (document). Mix up the Bible references and have children read the Bible verse and match it to the correct truth. Younger children can choose one of God's truths and draw a picture of it. Use these scriptures as a starting point for the Scripture Memory Challenge below.



Crown Magnets or Key Chains: When we work to obtain a goal, having a visual of that goal is often helpful so we can maintain our focus. Have children paint and decorate a small wooden crown, a symbol of that goal. Talk about the path to the crown and what that is like for each of us. The wooden crowns can be made into magnets or key chains.



Scripture Memory Challenge: Part of combating the enemy is memorizing scripture. Create a weekly challenge as well as a chart for each child for his/her notebook. Allow them to vote each week on a scripture of the week to learn and then "test" them weekly to see how they did. Have them graph their progress in some way each week and by the season. Use certificates of accomplishment for those who reach their personal goals weekly and every season (each child can be different with goals depending on age and maturity).