

First Century Fellowship

Lesson: First Day of the Feast of Tabernacles

Summarized Content:

- Jesus kept the feast of Tabernacles. (John 7:10)
- The Feast of Tabernacles lasts 7 days plus the Last Great Day.
- The feast is for rejoicing, fellowship, feasting, worship, and studying God's Word.
- The feast pictures the coming 1,000 year reign of Christ and His saints on Earth.
- On the first day of the feast, as well as the Last Great Day, we are to get together and bring an offering to God.
- The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd tithes should all be figured from the time of your baptism. They are an important part of following God.
- God will be transforming the Earth during His 1,000 year reign: move mountains, establish His government, establish His feast days, rebuild His temple, establish peace, establish an agricultural society, tames wild animals, restores human life spans, restores Earth to what it was like in the Garden of Eden.
- God reminds us during this feast, by having us stay away from home, that our bodies are temporary and our homes will be changing.

Scriptures:

- **Lev. 23: 33-44**
- **I Chron. 16:29 (give offering)**
- **Malachi 3:10 (1st tithe)**
- **Deut. 14:22-27 (2nd tithe)**
- **Deut. 14: 28-29 (3rd tithe)**
- **Rev. 21:3-5**

Activities:

Exploring God's Word:

- Read Lev. 23:33-44 and discuss overall idea of the Feast of Tabernacles. Discuss the bodies that we have and how a temporary dwelling reminds us that these temporary physical bodies will one day be replaced with physical bodies.
- Explain that God does many things during this 1,000 year reign. Use sentence strips to hang these events on the wall for the week.

- Talk about the difference between tithes and offerings. Read scriptures about the 3 tithes and talk about each one. Ask each child to share how he/she keeps track of 1st and 2nd tithes.
- Read Rev. 21:3-5 describing the 1,000 year reign and describe it together with eyes closed.

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



Practicing Tithes & Offerings with Play Money: Pair an older child with a younger child. Explain how to determine 10% of a number. Hand out the play money, one bag per pair. Let the children count their money first. Then pass each pair a card with a dollar amount signifying their paycheck. Ask them to give their first tithe to God. Repeat only with the first and second tithe. On a timeline, show when the third tithe takes place. Now ask the children to give an offering as is required on a Holy Day.



Match 1,000 year Reign Events to Scriptures: Create a set of matching cards for the scriptures and the events during the 1,000 year reign. In pairs, have the children look up a scripture for each of the things God will do during the 1,000 year reign, and match the scripture card with the event card.



1,000 Year Reign Scavenger Hunt: Use the event cards from the activity above to have the pairs look for an object that symbolizes the event (see Scavenger Hunt Event List). Have children each collect one of each item and discuss each together.



Lions and Lambs Popsicle Puppets: The 1,000 Year Reign is a time of peace for man as well as for the animals. Lions and lambs will lie together. Use Popsicle sticks, eyes, fake hair, cotton, and markers to create the puppets. Have children use them to retell what they have learned about the 1,000 Year Reign.



Peaceful Earth Puzzle: During the 1,000 year reign, God will tame the animals. Find a puzzle that shows this event. Explain to the children that the saints of God will be working together to rebuild the Earth during this time. Challenge them to work together to rebuild the puzzle.



Wild Animal Stamp Picture: Use wild animal stamps and stamp pads to create a scene of the new Earth where everything is flat, luscious with vegetation, and the wild animals are tame.



Decorate a Wooden Bank: After practicing 1st and 2nd tithes with the play money, decorate small wooden banks and have children mark which tithe will go in it.

Special Feast Project Ideas:

Make your Feast of Tabernacles memorable with some of these ideas!



Live Garden of Eden Diorama: At the start of the Feast of Tabernacles, talk about God's plan in making the Earth like the Garden of Eden upon His return to reign during the 1000 years. Throughout the Feast, have children work on the diorama along one wall of the meeting room. On the Last Great Day, invite the adults to tour the "garden". Continue to make things throughout the feast to "add to the garden". To make it come alive, have 2 younger children dress as dinosaurs, a lion, and/or a sheep. Children can also be flowers in the scene. Use green cloth, real or fake plants, and other items to make the scene come alive.



Feast Journals: Give each child a small journal for use during the Feast. Direct them to add favorite verses throughout the Feast. Also encourage them to write or draw in it every day of the Feast to document what they did that day. They can decorate them with stickers as well. These make great journals to look at year after year!



Feast Bags: Give each child a cloth Feast Bag to use during the week (and to take home their crafts in!). Have them decorate it the first day you are with them using fabric markers, puff fabric paint, or glow in the dark paint.



Feast Activity Packet: Give each child their own set of markers or crayons, as well as a prepared and bound Feast Activity Packet. This packet can be used to reinforce their learning with some fun as well. Include at least 20 pages of Feast-related items to color, puzzles, word games, color by number items, etc. This activity packet is helpful for use during the 3 Holy Days of the Feast when they need to sit quietly while the adults are still studying. Offer prizes to children who complete the packet during the week for an added incentive!