

First Century Fellowship

Lesson: How Does God Measure Time?

Summarized Content:

- God's time is set up for a reason...that we may know and understand the plan of God and that we may receive His blessings.
- Man (under the influence of Satan) has changed God's calendar, times, etc. so that many can't understand the plan of God. (Dan. 7:23-27)
- God commands us to follow His time in keeping His Sabbaths. (Ex. 31:13-17)
- Though man/Satan has changed God's calendar, the order of the seasons, the start of the day, and the weekly Sabbath, the 7 day week has always remained the same.

Scriptures:

- Rom. 13:11-12
- Daniel 7:23-27
- Gen. 1:3-5, 14-18
- Gen. 2:1-3
- Ex. 31: 13-17

Activities:

Exploring God's Word:

- Read the first 2 scriptures above. Discuss why it may be important to understand and keep God's time.
- Read about how God defines/measures time the last 3 scriptures above. Use the How God Measures Time worksheet and help children complete it to compare and contrast God's time with man's time.
- **Talk about these questions:** How has man's (Satan) changing of God's time impacted people's knowledge of God's plan? Why does this make such a big difference?

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



God's Calendar Magnets: Show the God's Holy Days Picture to children and talk about the purpose of God's Sabbath and Holy Days in relationship to time. On a white board, review the Holy Days by grouping them by season using the magnets (you will have to prepare these in advance using the Holy Day words and symbols). Note the seasons and how God's order is different from man's order. Pinpoint the beginning of God's year (14th day of Adar). Discuss briefly the meaning of each Holy Day as you review it.

Season	Holy Day	Symbol	Meaning



Signs and Seasons Coloring Page: Have children color the Signs and Seasons Coloring Page to identify God's creation of time, seasons, and signs. Explain that the Holy Days are His signs. Note how He chose the sun and moon to direct the calendar, rather than just the sun (man's Roman calendar) or just the moon (Islam calendar).



Manna Coloring Page: God taught the Israelites about the Sabbath in the way He provided them with manna in the desert after leaving Egypt. Have children color the page after discussing the look and texture and taste of manna using the Manna Pictures.



Gathering Manna Drama: God taught the Israelites about the Sabbath in the way He provided them with manna in the desert after leaving Egypt. Allow the children to experience this first hand using popcorn for manna. Lay a sheet down on the floor in advance and read the scripture of this event out loud from Ex. 16:4-27. Children can act it out as you read. Have one child pretend to be God and spread popcorn on the sheet while the others are sleeping. Children can gather the popcorn eagerly the next morning, storing their gathered popcorn in baggies. The child playing God can gather the left-overs each night to signify that the manna is spoiling. Note the reason for gathering manna and keeping it for the Sabbath because no work was to be done on that day.