

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES

Celebrate the Festivals

YE2W · Teacher Edition

Primaries · Year 1: Life of Christ

Christian Educational Ministries — a faithful digital edition of the printed program

Let My People Go

MEMORY VERSE

“Let my people go. Then they will be able to worship me.” - Exodus 9:13

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. State that a sign stands for something else.
2. Identify Moses and Pharaoh as two people God used.
3. Explain how the lamb saved the people from the death angel.
4. State that we celebrate the Passover because God told us to.
5. Tell that the Passover was important to the Israelites and it's important to us.

TOPICS & THEMES

Aaron
Blood
Death angel
Egypt
Firstborn
Israelites
Jesus, Lamb of God
Jesus, Savior
Lamb
Moses
Obedience
Passover
Pharaoh
Plagues
Sin
Slaves
Worship God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, students and teacher's YEA books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, poster, magazines, construction paper, glue sticks, marker pen, tape, songbook, CD/cassette tape and music player

PREPARATION

Prior to class cut out pictures from magazines that are symbols or signs. These can include such things as stop signs, telephone symbols, handicap signs, or a sign for a railroad crossing. Make a list of symbols or signs on poster board that God uses in the Bible. The following are some you could list:

The Sabbath = a sign between God and His people

The Sign of Jonah = three days and three nights that he was in the whale's belly

Unleavened Bread = without sin.

Arrive early enough to set up the room with the chairs in a semicircle and tape the poster you have prepared to the wall low enough for the students to reach. As the students arrive, greet them warmly. Listen to each child recite their memory verse and give them another star to put by their name on that chart.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

SIGNS - Start a conversation about signs. Ask for the children to give their school colors or a mascot. Ask: Can you tell which school someone goes to by their mascot or school color? Have someone read the signs on the poster and what they mean. Ask the class to name as many signs as they can think of. Add these to the poster.

MOSES - Ask: When you read your lesson, did you think of Moses being a prince? Can anyone tell us what made him a prince? Prince Andrew of England will probably someday be a king. Some princes become kings and some don't, but Moses lived in the palace. Why do you think God told Moses to go tell Pharaoh to let His people go? Moses didn't want to do this because he didn't like giving speeches. So God said his brother, Aaron could go with him to Pharaoh and do the talking for him.

ISRAEL AS SLAVES - Can anyone tell us who the Israelites were? A long, long time ago Abraham had a son named Isaac. Isaac had a son and his name was Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons. These sons were called Israelites. The Israelites were God's chosen people – they were very special to Him.

PHARAOH AND THE PLAGUES – Talk about how Moses and Aaron tried to get Pharaoh to let the Israelites go so they could keep a feast, but he was stubborn and wouldn't let them go. God sent one plague after another trying to change Pharaoh's mind. The Egyptian people suffered

because of Pharaoh being stubborn. The plagues got worse and worse. Finally God sent the death angel to kill the firstborn of everyone that did not obey Him by putting the blood over their door and on the posts.

PASSOVER- The Passover is an extremely important concept for children to understand, yet it's not an easy one for primaries. Death can be scary to young children. Be sensitive to their reactions. Stress that God saved His people. Even though we don't like to think of lambs being killed, the fact is that they died so the Israelites could live. Focus on the fact that God saved His people, that He mercifully gave the children of Israel a way to escape the plague of the firstborn being killed.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who was the ruler of Egypt?
2. Who did God send to go to pharaoh and tell him to let His people go?
3. What did the people have to put over their door and on the posts.
4. What was that night called?
5. Why do we celebrate the Passover.
6. What is the Passover Lamb a sign for?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Have some signs cut out of magazines prior to class for the students to select. Also have them cut out as many pictures of signs that they can find in the magazines you bring. These signs or symbols can be from everyday life and signs in the Bible. Have them glue a collection of signs to a piece of construction paper and write what the sign says to them: stop sign says stop, no crossing sign says you can't cross the street at that place, "Do Not Disturb" says the person doesn't want to be bothered, unleavened bread means without sin, etc.

SONG

"I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord Forever" is on page 17 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead in prayer thanking God for saving His chosen people; and because we are very special to Him, He can save us as well.



Let's Be Unleavened

MEMORY VERSE

“Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread.” Exodus 12:20

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. State that the Days of Unleavened Bread last for seven days.
2. Explain that the Days of Unleavened Bread is a time we don't eat leavening as well as when we eat some unleavened bread every day for seven days.
3. Tell why we eat unleavened bread.
4. State that Jesus causes a change in our life.

TOPICS & THEMES

Bible study

Bread of Life

Days of Unleavened

Bread

Egypt

Egypt, Coming Out

Eating Unleavened Bread

Jesus, Our Friend

Night To Be Much

Observed

Prayer

Unleavened

Yeast

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students and teacher's books, crayons, pencils, popcorn, popcorn popper, clear plastic cups, potting soil, bean seeds, pitcher of water, Saran Wrap, measuring tape, songbook, CD/cassette tape and music player, attendance and memory verse charts, stars

PREPARATION

These lessons should be spliced into the YEA curriculum and taught in their season. It's best to teach the appropriate lesson the Sabbath before the Holy Day. You may want to keep each child's Festival Supplement in a folder and give it to them the Sabbath before the lesson is taught so the students can be prepared for class. This will reduce the chances of these books getting lost. Try to keep extra YEA books and materials on hand for unexpected guests during a Holy Day season.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Greet the children with the smell of fresh popcorn as they come into the classroom. Ask them to tell what they did to celebrate the Night to be Much Observed. Ask them if they went outside that night and saw the big full moon in the sky. Ask: Do you think this is the same moon that the Israelites saw the night they left Egypt?

Popcorn - Give each child a bowl of pop- corn and seat them in small chairs or on the floor in a semicircle. Ask: How would you describe the popcorn that you are eating? (Light, airy, fluffy.) Show them some kernels that have not been popped and have them compare unpopped corn to the popped. Explain that these two grains help us to understand what leavening does in food. Vocabulary - Introduce and discuss the following vocabulary terms: yeast, unleavened, leavening.

Moving houses - Ask one of the students who has recently moved to a new house to describe how much work moving was. Remember, children love to tell the parts they know. Encourage them to continue with the story and relate their experience to the Israelites leaving Egypt.

The difference between leavened and unleavened bread - Ask the student to tell you how unleavened bread is different from the bread they eat the rest of the year. Let them tell what their favorite unleavened bread or cookie is. Explain how the Israelites did not have yeast, baking powder or baking soda in those days. When they made bread, they had to let the dough set for several days before they baked it. It took time for yeast spores in the air to cause the dough to rise and become light.

The Israelites left in a hurry - When Pharaoh eventually said the Israelites could go have a feast, they had to leave Egypt in a hurry. They didn't have time for yeast to cause their bread to rise. They had to take their bread dough and bake it just like it was. That meant they had flat bread. This bread is to remind us that Israel left Egypt in such a hurry that there was no time for their bread to rise (Deuteronomy 16:3).

Why do we eat unleavened bread for seven days? Ask: Would it please God for you to say, "I don't like unleavened bread, so I just won't eat any bread for seven days?" Explain that God commands us to eat unleavened bread for seven days. It helps us to remember that Jesus is the

Bread of Life. He is more important than anything we eat. If we want to be a “sunbeam” for God, we should spend a lot of time with our friend Jesus during the Days of Unleavened Bread. We do this when we pray, read our lessons, read our Bible and come to Sabbath services.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How many days did the Israelites eat unleavened bread?
2. Why do we eat unleavened bread?
3. Why can't we just not eat any bread for seven days?
4. What does unleavened bread mean to us?
5. What should we think about as we eat it?
6. What kinds of things would you do if you wanted to be a “sunbeam” for God?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Have the students plant two bean seeds in clear plastic cups, water and cover each one with Saran Wrap for faster germination. Explain that when Jesus comes into their lives, they begin to grow more like Him. The more they grow like Him, the more they behave like they are children of God. You will have seven weeks for the beans to grow indoors (in your home). The children will be able to see the growth and possibly even pick some beans on The Feast of Firstfruits. This provides a concrete image of the fruit we are to bear if Christ dwells in us. Also measure the height of each child, so that their physical growth may be seen on Pentecost as well.

SONG

“Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam” is on page 21 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in praying for a closer walk with Jesus. Thank Him for the beautiful meaning in the Holy Days that help us to learn more of Him.

Celebrate Pentecost

MEMORY VERSE

“The day of Pentecost came. The believers all gathered in one place.” Acts 2:1

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain that Pentecost means “fifty.”
2. Tell that Pentecost comes seven weeks after the Days of Unleavened Bread.
3. State that Pentecost is the birthday of the New Testament church.
4. Say that the Holy Spirit empowered Christians on the first Pentecost after Christ’s resurrection.
5. Explain that the Holy Spirit gives us power that we cannot have without it.

TOPICS & THEMES

Counting

Disciples

Feast of First Fruits

Feast of Weeks

Fruit of the Spirit

Holy Spirit

Jerusalem

Jesus, in Heaven

Kindness

Loving God

Loving Others

Miracles

Obedience

Oil

Pentecost

Peter

Prayer

Sharing the Gospel

Two loaves

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students and teacher's books, calendar, pencils, bean plants, construction paper, typing paper, crayons, scissors, yardstick, glue, songbook, CD/cassette tape and music player, attendance and memory verse charts, stars

PREPARATION

This Festival Supplement that you are keeping in a folder should be given a week in advance to the students so they can prepare for class. Bring the beans that were planted seven weeks ago during the Days of Unleavened Bread to class so students can see the growth in the plants.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Background - Begin the class discussion by reading this background. God told the Israelites to keep Pentecost and he also wants us to celebrate it today. "Speak to the people of Israel. Tell them, 'When you enter the land I am going to give you, bring an offering to me. Bring the first bundle of grain to the priest. He must lift the grain up and wave it in front of me. . . The day you brought the grain for the wave offering was the day after the Sabbath. Count off seven full weeks from that day. Count off 50 days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath. On that day bring me an offering of your first grain. Bring two loaves of bread that are made with 16 cups of fine flour. They must be baked with yeast. Bring them to me as a wave offering from the first share of your crops. That applies no matter where you live. . . 'On that same day tell the people that they must come together for a special service. They must not do any regular work. That is a law that will last for all time to come. It applies no matter where you live'" (Leviticus 23:10,11,15,21 NIV).

Days of Unleavened Bread review - Ask: Who remembers the name of the last Feast that we celebrated? Students like to tell things they know, allow them to tell you as much as they remember about the Days of Unleavened Bread. Ask: What is different about the way we celebrate Pentecost than the way we celebrated the Days of Unleavened Bread? You may need to prompt the students by telling them that you started the class by reading something that showed a big difference in what was to be done on Pentecost that we could not do during the Days of Unleavened Bread (loaves of bread made with yeast). What is another difference in the way we celebrate these two feasts? (One is kept for seven days and the other is only celebrated one day.)

Celebrating Pentecost - Words make a difference in how our children look upon biblical teachings. The word "celebrate" denotes fun whereas "keeping" doesn't. God intends that feast days are very important and that they are celebrated. We should make them important and memorable for our children. Ask: Who can tell us what Pentecost means? How many days has it been since we celebrated the Days of Unleavened Bread? Who can give another name for the Feast we are celebrating today? Can anyone else give another name? What do you think the

disciples will remember about celebrating Pentecost? What do you remember that happened on that day? Did you know that Pentecost is the birthday of the New Testament church?

The Holy Spirit - Ask: What did the Holy Spirit look like the day the disciples celebrated Pentecost? The Bible says the Holy Spirit is like something. Who remembers what that is? (oil.) What is oil? (It's a fuel that burns brightly.) What can we use oil for? How does God's Spirit help us?

The bean plant - Put the cups with the bean plants in them on a desk for the children to see. Ask: What has happened to the bean we planted? If the plant has beans on it point out that beans are "fruit" that the plant is growing. Tell the class that God wants us to be like the bean plant and bear fruit too. Compare it with spiritual fruit in our lives. Ask: What fruits does God want to see in our lives (love, joy, peace, etc.)? Now measure all of the students and compare their height with the measurements you took during the Days of Unleavened Bread. Let the students know how much they have grown physically. Tell them that God wants them to also grow strong and big spiritually. They can do that if they love and obey God, pray, read their Sabbath School lessons and do good things for other people.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What did God give on the first Pentecost after Jesus went to heaven?
2. What does Pentecost mean?
3. Whose birthday is Pentecost?
4. What kinds of actions does God look for from us?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Make birthday cards for the church. Display these on the bulletin board or in your classroom. Then, use a calendar to show the children how seven weeks have passed since the last festival. Start on the Sunday during the days of Unleavened Bread and count up to Pentecost. Discuss with the children how those seven weeks have given the bean plants time to grow. Ask them how they think the plants will look in seven more weeks.

SONG

"Give Me Oil in My Lamp" is on page 24 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in prayer giving God thanks for Pentecost and His Holy Spirit.

Blow the Trumpet

MEMORY VERSE

“On the first day of the seventh month you must have a day of rest. It must be a special service that is announced with trumpet blasts.” - Leviticus 23:24

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. State that the Feast of Trumpets is on the first day of the seventh month.
2. Recite that God commands us to celebrate it.
3. Tell that when Jesus returns there will be a shout and a trumpet will be blown.
4. Repeat its significance as a reminder to us of Christ's return.

TOPICS & THEMES

Feast of Trumpets

God's Kingdom

Jesus, Return of

Resurrection

Trumpet

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students and teacher's books, calendar, pencils, bean plants, construction paper, crayons, scissors, yardstick, glue, songbook, CD/cassette tape and music player, attendance and memory verse charts, stars

PREPARATION

God uses symbols to teach us about Himself. Therefore, it is quite possible that the Holy Days can mean more than one thing. That is, we believe that the Feast of Trumpets looks forward to the return of Christ. But that does not necessarily mean that it couldn't hold another meaning as well. When presenting this to the children, emphasize the idea that we believe it symbolizes the return of Christ, but don't limit it to only that event. We are constantly learning about God and the richness of His nature. All of us want to remain open to learn more of Him.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Make this Holy Day a very positive thing and as special and real as possible for the children. It is not just a future event, even though that occasion is the hope of our salvation.

Fire drills - Encourage the children to talk about fire drills, how important they are, and the specific things they must do. This could easily flow into a discussion of what things we, as Christians should be doing to get ready for the return of Christ.

Trumpet sounds - Discuss the different sounds a trumpet can make. Ask if they have ever heard taps played. Explain that taps is played on military bases when it's time to go to bed. There are other sounds for them to get up or go eat or go to battle. Soldiers know the different sounds and what to do when they hear the trumpet. The Bible tells us that Jesus will come back to earth when the seventh trumpet sounds. Discuss how a trumpet was blown on the first day of the first seven months and the Feast of Trumpets is the first day of the seventh month.

Return of Christ - Children should not be apprehensive about the return of Christ. They should be taught to view it positively as the solution to crime, broken homes, fear, poverty, evil depriving our children of a fun life. Lead them in a discussion of how much better things will be when our friend Jesus is back on earth. Children should anticipate Christ's return to earth and learn to pray "Thy kingdom come."

How children can practice for the return of Christ - Remind your class that a fire drill is practicing. They go through this exercise to learn exactly what to do. Get the students to name things they can start doing to be sure they will be ready when Christ returns to this earth.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

The students lesson includes a word blank activity. The activity will work well as a review of the things they have learned. Hopefully, the students have finished this activity and they can read the words they have filled in as you read the words that precede it. If not, have them give the words and find and write in the words as you lead them through it. The text for the activity is reproduced below with answers in italics so you will know what goes in each blank.

The Feast of Trumpets is celebrated on the first day of the seventh month. It is a day of rest. It must be a special service that is announced with a trumpet blast. We know that Jesus will come down out of heaven with a loud shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. Then Christians who have died will rise first.

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Before class, enlarge and make enough copies of the flower on construction paper for each student to have one. Also copy the petal five times on a piece of paper and make enough copies for everyone to have a sheet. Remind the students that on the Feast of Pentecost our plant had produced beans or fruit. God wants us to produce the fruit found in Galatians 5:22-23. Ask an

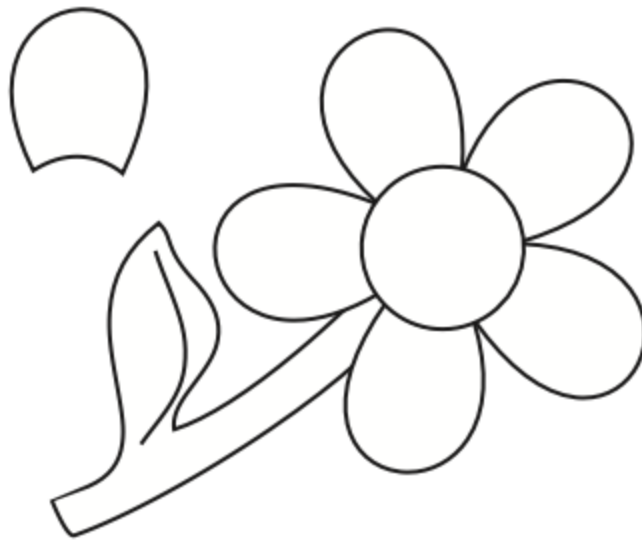
older student to read those two verses from a youth translation. As she reads the verses print the fruits of the Spirit on a newsprint pad – love, joy, peace, patient and kindness. Give each child a sheet of petals. Have them cut out and glue the petals to the flower on the construction paper you give them. Have them write their name in the center of the flower and one of the fruits of the Spirit on each petal. Display the flowers around the church bulletin board.

SONG

“Alive, Alive” is on page 55 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask for a student to volunteer to lead in prayer. Remind the student to thank God for the Feast of Trumpets and that Jesus will come again to this earth.



Two Goats

MEMORY VERSE

“The tenth day of this seventh month is the day when sin is paid for. Come together for a special service. Do not eat any food. . .” - Leviticus 23:27(NIrV Kids’ Devotional Bible)

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Give a simple meaning of the Day of Atonement; that God gives us a way out of punishment for our sins.
2. Explain why we fast.
3. Define what fasting is.
4. Tell why we keep this day.

TOPICS & THEMES

Day of Atonement

Fasting

Forgiveness

Goats

God’s love

High Priest

Holy of Holies

Jesus, Older Brother

Jesus, Savior

Prayer

Punishment

Reconciliation

Repentance

Sin

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students and teacher’s books, yarn, liquid starch, glue, waxed paper, copies of the sheep, crayons, songbook, CD/cassette tape, music player, attendance and memory verse charts, stars

PREPARATION

Because the Holy Days are intricately woven together, you may want to refer back to the Passover in this lesson. Keep in mind as you teach this lesson that the Passover pictures our personal forgiveness for sin and the Day of Atonement was a collective, community forgiveness for sin. Atonement was made for the entire community of Israel. The Jubilee year began on the Day of Atonement. Not only was the entire community out of debt spiritually through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, but it was debt free physically every fiftieth year. Thus, to the Israelites, the day of Atonement was observed solemnly, but with reverent joy in being cleansed and released from debt.

Some parents may encourage or give their children the option of fasting on this day. Be cognizant of how fasting and the emphasis on Christ's death may affect the children. Don't minimize what Christ has done; do emphasize the love that God the Father and Jesus Christ have for each of us.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

This is an extremely important day and one children should not grow up dreading. This Holy Day has a very beautiful meaning you should try to convey to your students. Prepare in advance and allow the significance of the day to mature in your subconscious mind. Pray that God will help you present it in such way that students will have a positive attitude about this day.

Punishment for doing wrong - Ask: Have you ever done something bad for which you were never punished? Who would like to tell us about the last time you were punished for doing wrong? Why do you think your Mom or Dad punish you when you do something wrong?

What if a brother took your punishment? Ask: How many of you have a brother? If you did something really bad and your Mom and Dad said you can't watch television, nor ride your bike for a week, do you think your brother would take the punishment for you? Who can you think of that might be your Older Brother? Do you know that Jesus loves you so much that He was willing to take the punishment for your sins, the bad things you have done? Does anyone know how He did this? (By dying for your sins.) Why do you think He did that for you? (He loves you so much.)

The meaning of the Day of Atonement - Explain that the Passover shows us that Christ died for our personal sins. On the Day of Atonement God has a plan to forgive Israel, our home town and our whole country for their sins. It's also a very happy day because Jesus loves us so much that He is like a good Older Brother who took our punishment for us. We can be very happy for such a wonderful thing!

The Day of Atonement ceremony - Ask: How many of you have been to see a play at school? How many of you have been in a play? Explain that on the Day of Atonement the High Priest did something that was like a play in the Temple. This play had to be done exactly as God commanded. God said there were to be two goats in this “play.” One goat was chosen to represent Jesus. It had to die for our sins. Then the other goat played the part of the scapegoat. It remained alive. The High Priest laid all of the people’s sins on its head. It was sent into the wilderness as a goat that carried all of Israel’s sins away.

Why do we keep the Day of Atonement? God wants us to remember every year how bad our sins are. It’s a very serious day. We don’t eat food or drink anything that day. We do it because we love God and we want to do what He says.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When do we observe the Day of Atonement?
2. Why do we observe this day?
3. What does it mean to fast?
4. What does “atonement” mean?
5. Who makes atonement for us?
6. Why does Christ make atonement for us?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

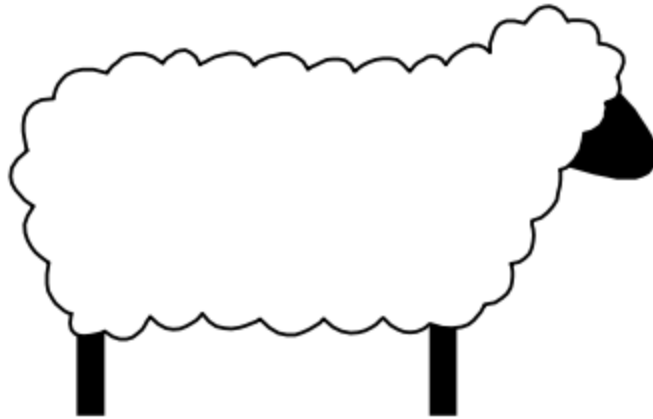
Enlarge and make enough copies of the sheep for each child to have one. Each child should tape a sheet of waxed paper over their sheep. Have them dip a long piece of yarn in liquid starch, arrange it and glue it within the sheep form. Each strand should touch another - until the entire sheep is filled with yarn strands. Write each child’s name on his waxed paper. Let it dry until the next Sabbath. Before class next week, remove the sheep from the waxed paper and glue a magnetic strip to the back of each one. Next week have the children add black felt eyes and ears before they take their sheep home to put on the refrigerator.

SONG

“Jesus Loves Me” is on page 6 of the Kids Classics Collection. This could be practiced to sing in Sabbath Services.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the students in a prayer thanking Christ for being our atonement.



It's a Joyful Feast

MEMORY VERSE

“Live in booths for seven days: All of the people of Israel must live in booths” - Leviticus 23:42 (NirV Kids’ Devotional Bible)

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Make a connection between the Israelites dwelling in booths and everything on this earth being temporary.
2. Explain what a tabernacle is.
3. Tell why we celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.
4. Repeat that Jesus is preparing a place for us.

TOPICS & THEMES

Egypt

Eternal Life

Feast of Tabernacles

God’s Kingdom

Israelites

Obedience

Sin

Tabernacling

Temporary

Tents

Wandering

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students and teacher’s books, enough paper lunch bags for each student to have one, crayons, glue, glitter, crayons, songbook, CD/cassette tape and music player, attendance and memory verse charts, stars

PREPARATION

God's festivals offer our children so much more than the holidays the world keeps. We just need to do a better job of selling the benefits to our children and presenting them as wonderful celebrations. Some thought and prayer should be given to the benefits. The joy, celebrations, fun things the students can participate in at the Feast, the hope it shows and the blessings they will receive should be stressed. "Gather the grain from your threshing floors. Take the fresh wine from your winepresses. Then celebrate the Feast of Booths for seven days. Be filled with joy at your Feast. You, your children, and your male and female servants should be joyful. So should the Levites, the outsiders, and the widows who are living in your towns. And so should the children whose fathers have died. For seven days celebrate the Feast in honor of the Lord your God. Do it at the place he will choose. The Lord will bless you when you gather all of your crops. He'll bless you in every thing you do. And you will be full of joy" (Deuteronomy 16:13-15).

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

The trip - Begin the class by encouraging every student to tell where they will be going to the Feast and what they look forward to doing.

The Israelites live in tents - Tell the story of the children of Israel leaving Egypt and how they did not believe God and disobeyed Him. Because of that, they were not allowed to go directly into the Promised Land. God made them wander in the desert for forty long years. They camped out all of this time and lived in tents. They never had a nice home like the students live in. They had to put up a tent every time they moved. This was a lot of trouble.

Tents wear out - Ask: What is the last word in the name of this Feast? Explain that "tabernacle" means that it doesn't last forever. A tabernacle is like a tent. It gets old and wears out.

Tabernacle or booth - Explain how a tabernacle or booth was constructed. It was made of tree branches, leaves and sticks. We rake up sticks and leaves every autumn and burn them. They are not made to last forever. Our bodies don't last forever either. Talk about physical things that go wrong with our bodies as we get older. They may be able to tell you what their parents or grandparents complain about all of the time. Explain that God doesn't intend that anything on this earth will last forever. Everything wears out. Like the turtle, we have a temporary house.

God's making us a place that won't wear out - Jesus went to heaven to make us a home that won't wear out. If we believe in Him and do what He says, then we can live in that home forever. That home is His Kingdom. We will be a part of His family. Jesus will be King. This time will be even more fun than the Feast of Tabernacles.

Why we celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles - Explain that this Feast is to help us remember that our home and our bodies will wear out, but Jesus will bring us a home and body that will never wear out. Ask them what they should do to make this wonderful home come sooner? (Pray "Thy kingdom come.") Ask: What should you do to be ready when God's Kingdom comes?

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What did the Israelites do that was like a turtle?
2. What did the Israelites live in for forty years?
3. What is a tabernacle?
4. Why should we celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles?
5. Who is preparing a place for us to live?
6. Will that place last forever?
7. How do we get to live in the place that Jesus is preparing for us?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

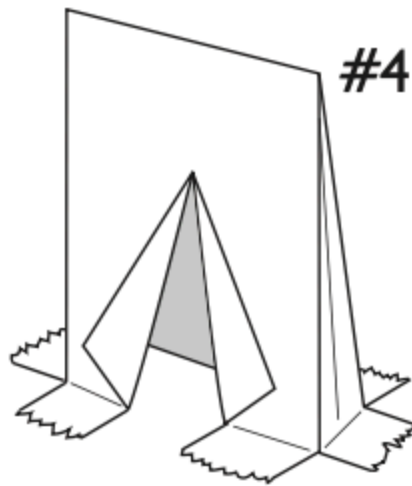
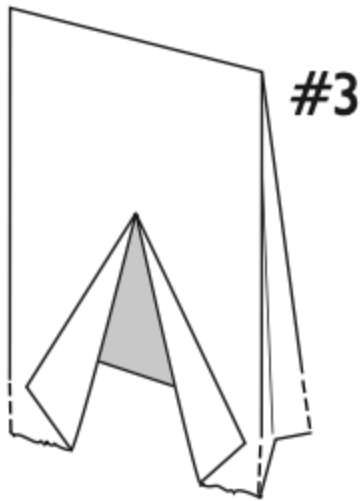
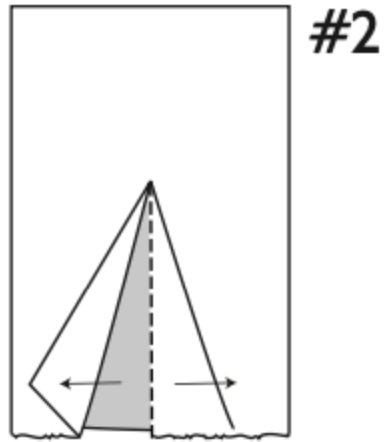
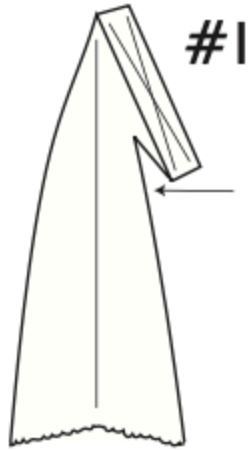
Give each student a paper lunch bag and have them glue the bottom down and make that the top back of the tent (#1). Cut along the dotted line in the front center and turn back each side to make the entry flaps of the tent (#2). Then make a 1 inch cut on each corner fold of the bottom of the bag (#3) and turn that up to make a small base so the tent will stand up when opened (#4) . Have the students write “Thy Kingdom Come” across the top of their tent. Let them draw their picture inside the tent. They can add members of their family or other furnishings in the inside of their tent. To finish, let them decorate it with glitter.

SONG

“Do Lord” is on page 72 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Allow the children to praise God for giving them such a wonderful Feast to remind them of what He is doing for us. Lead them to tell God that they want to live in such a way that they can live with God in His Kingdom.



The Last Great Day

MEMORY VERSE

“He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’” - Revelation 21:5

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. State that this life is not all there is and something much more wonderful awaits them.
2. List some things that will be better in the new heaven and new earth than what we have now.
3. Tell that the Last Great Day is another Feast that follows the Feast of Tabernacles.
4. Explain that they must believe and obey God if they want to be in the new heaven and new earth.

TOPICS & THEMES

Belief

Eighth Day

Eternal Life

Feast of Tabernacles

God’s Kingdom

God’s Plan

Jerusalem

Millennium

New Heavens, New Earth

Obedience

Temporary

Trusting God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students and teacher’s books, enough alphabet cubes for every student to have plenty to do the activity, elastic thread, songbook, CD/cassette tape and music player, attendance and memory verse charts, stars

PREPARATION

The Bible does not have a lot of scriptures for reference on the eighth day, the day after the Feast of Tabernacles. Two scriptures in the Old Testament are Leviticus 23:36 and Numbers 29:35-38. We have traditionally called this Holy Day “The Last Great Day.” The NIV calls the eighth day the closing assembly. Some believe that it is the closing for the Feast of Tabernacles. Some believe it closes the fall Holy Days. Others believe it is the closing assembly for the yearly cycle of Holy Days, signifying the completion of God’s plan of salvation for mankind and establishment of His kingdom on earth. We are learning that God has layers of meanings in each of His Holy Days.

It is also important to let the children know that if people may seem a little sad on this day, it’s because the Feast has been so wonderful that people don’t want it to be over. God’s Spirit has been felt. It’s important the children understand that this day symbolizes absolute joy! It is a day that shows another part of God’s plan for His people. Along with the meaning of this day, there should be a quiet, Spirit-filled joy for our eternal future with God.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Review - Encourage the children to talk about the turtle mentioned in the Feast of Tabernacles’ lesson. Ask: What does the turtle remind us of? See if anyone can remember why the children of Israel camped out for forty long years. Explain that at the end of the forty years the Israelites got to go into the Promised Land. The Promised Land was a wonderful land that had everything they ever wanted. God gave it to be a picture of the new heaven and new earth that will come down from heaven.

The Last Great Day is a different Feast from the Feast of Tabernacles - Discuss that when Jesus Christ returns, He will reign as King on this earth for one thousand years. But this is not the end. There is something even better that happens after that. So we have one more Holy Day.

What happens next? - Discuss how everything on this earth wears out. And God is preparing a new heaven and a new earth. He’s even preparing a new city. Have pictures of the old city of Jerusalem to show the students. You can probably find them in National Geographic or at your local Christian books store. Point out how the wall is old and broken down, how the streets are cracked and how so much fighting goes on there. Very often, people are hurt and killed in Jerusalem.

The New Jerusalem - Talk about how God will send a new Jerusalem down from heaven with a loud voice. Draw a verbal picture of how beautiful it will be. Talk about how beautiful a bride looks on her wedding day. This city will be far more beautiful. Ask the students to tell you some things they learned in their lesson that will be different from today. Encourage them to point out things such as: there will be no more tears because people won’t be sad, they won’t get sick or skin their knees and there won’t even be hospitals.

Eternity is wonderful! - Discuss that God will sit on His throne. He is the beginning and the end of all things. Everyone will learn to follow Him. Discuss drinking of living waters. No one will get sick or die. It will be complete happiness forever. Ask: What do you have to do to be in this wonderful city and live forever?

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What does God have planned for us when this life is over?
2. Give four things that will be better in the new heaven and new earth than they are today.
3. When do we celebrate the Last Great Day?
4. What do we have to do to be in the new heaven and new earth and live forever?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Have the students make necklaces spelling out “I am making everything new” with alphabet cubes and elastic thread. After they tie it together, explain that it is a circle with no end. When they wear this, let it remind them that when we live with God there is no end; it goes on and on and on. (If the boys want to give it to their moms or grandmothers, that’s perfectly fine.)

SONG

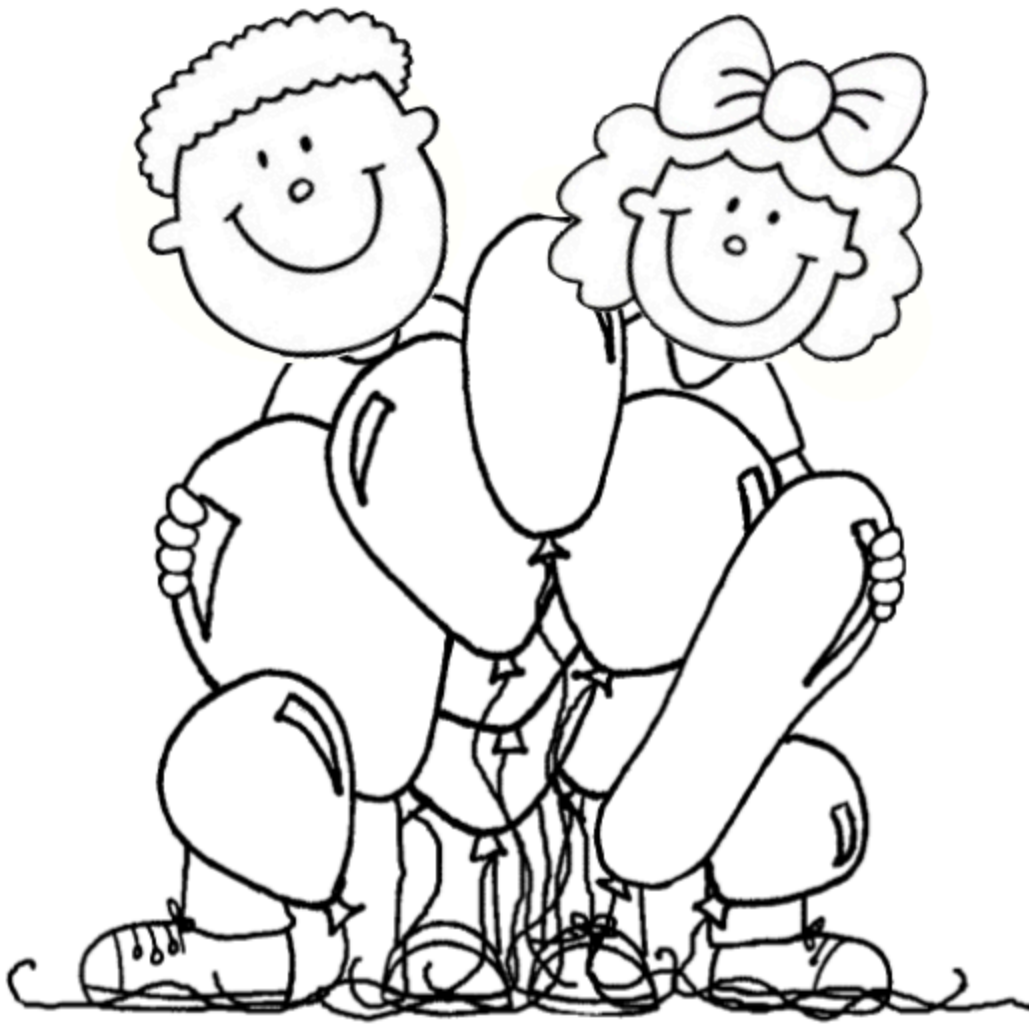
“My God is So Big” is on page 14 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in thanking God for creating a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem for us.

Celebrate the Festivals!

Color this picture of the children enjoying God's Festivals.



Add or Subtract

MEMORY VERSE

“Don’t add anything to my commands. And don’t take anything away from them.” -
Deuteronomy 12:32 (NirV Kid’s Devotional Bible)

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. State that God must be worshiped in the manner He desires.
2. Explain that Easter was a goddess.
3. Recite the first commandment.
4. Recite the Holy Days of God.
5. Distinguish between God’s Holy Days and holidays that God does not command.

TOPICS & THEMES

Easter

Holidays, Easter

Holy Days, Passover

Jesus, His Miracles

Resurrection

Pagan Traditions

Passover

Ten Commandments

No Other Gods

Worship God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students and teacher’s books, two boxes, gift wrapping paper, broken glass, marker pen, songbook, CD/cassette tape and music player, attendance and memory verse charts, stars

PREPARATION

For a teacher to be adequately prepared to teach this class he or she needs to have an understanding of how Easter preceded the resurrection of Christ (see “People got confused”)

with many of the same customs used in its celebration today. In 8 B.C., four years before Christ's birth, the Germanic people, offered sacrifices to the goddess of spring on the evening before the first Sunday after March 21st. The egg was regarded as the emblem of germinating life of early spring. On Sunday morning they gathered again before dawn. Everyone would face the East – toward the rising sun – praising their goddess. This was a joyous day with games. One game was to find colored eggs which were hidden in the grass, around trees and in other hiding places. Children especially enjoyed these games. (see the Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics, vol. 2, p. 34 and the Westminster Dictionary of the Bible, John D. Davis, p. 145). The ancient Persians presented each other with colored eggs when they kept the festival of the solar new year in March (see Chamber's Encyclopaedia, article, "Easter").

"The recognized religion, however, is only a part of folk belief, which is impregnated with concepts from earlier times. The decorated Easter egg, for example, is an evolution of the egg as an ancient symbol of renewed life,. . . There are many survivals from local pagan cults, particularly of motifs associated with life, fertility, and protection. . ." (Encyclopaedia Britannica, Macropaedia Knowledge in Depth, volume 7, page 475.)

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Goddess named Easter - Begin the class by talking about children at school having Easter egg hunts. Ask: Why do you think they are doing this? Do you think this is right? Explain that a long, long time ago there was a goddess named Ishtar and we pronounce her name Easter in English. Tell that this celebration took place many, many years before Jesus was ever born.

Easter Customs - Discuss how eggs were colored, hidden and hunted in celebration to the goddess of heaven as she was called. They baked cakes, much like the "hot cross" buns that are in bakery shops today about Easter time (Jeremiah 7:18). God said that made Him very angry. Do you know why it made Him angry?

People got confused - The Passover season is also in the spring of the year. It always precedes Easter (see Preparation), but the celebrations are close together. Explain that the people had a lot of fun coloring eggs, hiding them and finding them. This was a big celebration. Even though some of them believed in Christ, they didn't want to stop celebrating to the Queen of Heaven. So they began to think it would be okay for them to still celebrate in the same way and think it was worshiping Christ.

Why God was angry - "The children go out and gather wood. The fathers light the fire. The women mix the dough. They make flat cakes of bread for the goddess who is called the Queen of Heaven. They pour out drink offerings to other gods. That makes me very angry" Jeremiah 7:18 (NIRV Kid's Devotional Bible). Do you remember what the first commandment says? God forbids

us to put another god in His place. He is the one and only true God. All other gods are worthless and we shouldn't do anything to worship them.

God wants us to celebrate - God has given us many wonderful and right days to celebrate. Can you name them? Discuss how we remember Jesus' death to pay for our sins at the Passover. We Celebrate the Days of Unleavened Bread in the spring because God says for us to do this. He wants us to remember that Jesus is the Bread of Life. When we eat unleavened bread it helps us to remember to put Jesus first in our lives.

Don't condemn those who celebrate Easter - Explain to your class that people who celebrate Easter don't understand that it is wrong to do it. We should never say bad things about them. They keep Easter to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

We must worship God as He tells us to - Discuss how God does not want us to add to or subtract from what He says for us to do in the Bible. This is a very serious thing and God will not like it if we do. This will make Him very angry. He wants us to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. This means that we try to do exactly what He wants us to do.

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Before class wrap two boxes that are the same size. On one write "Handle with Care" and have some broken glass in it. Put both boxes on a table before you in class. Ask the students what does "Handle with Care" mean on the first box? What would happen if we drop the box? It could break and be completely ruined. Drop the box and let them hear the broken glass.

This other box has no sign on it to let us know how to handle it. Let's pretend that an explosive such as dynamite is inside. What kind of warning would you put on the outside?

Since we don't know what is inside this box, we don't really know what kind of label to put on it. We have to open it to see. The same thing is true with the Bible. We have to open it and read it to find out what is true.

SONG

"I Am A C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N" is on page 42 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in prayer thanking God for wonderful Holy Days that we can celebrate. Tell Him that we want to always worship Him as He has shown us in the Bible.

Trick or Treat

MEMORY VERSE

“The day of Christ’s return is almost here. So let us get rid of the works of darkness. Let us put on the armor of light.” - Romans 13:12 (NIrV Kids’ Devotional Bible)

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Recite that God hates evil things.
2. Explain what “evil” means.
3. Distinguish between things that are suitable to emulate and those that are not.
4. Say that Jesus is our example.
5. Explain that “trick or treat” is not amusing or right in God’s sight.

TOPICS & THEMES

Evil

Garden of Eden

Halloween

Holidays, Halloween

Jesus Sets Example

Pagan Traditions

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students and teacher’s books, newspaper circulars with Halloween costumes, songbook, CD/cassette tape and player, stars, scissors, glue, pencils, construction paper and paper, attendance and memory verse charts, stars

PREPARATION

You may want to bring some area stores’ newspaper circulars. These should have many Halloween costumes advertised. Having the pictures of costumes may help the children see what is evil and wrong with wearing the costumes. However, be prepared for questions like “But what if I dress up as a princess or Cinderella?” At that point, you’ll need to be ready to explain that dressing up in those costumes isn’t necessarily wrong. You don’t want to do it on that day

because you don't want anyone to think you are participating in the evil of that day – especially God. Remind them of Isaiah 9 which talks about the wickedness of the people and God's wrath against them.

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 shows God's prohibition against witches. Romans 13:12- 14 talks about the desire of the sinful nature and the necessity of being clothed in Jesus Christ, "putting on the whole armor of God" (Ephesians 6:11).

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Origin of Halloween - Discuss how this day has been celebrated for many, many years with evil things. Ask: Are you afraid of the dark? Many of the children may be. Ask: Do you like to talk about dying? Explain that this day depicts all the gruesome things that we are afraid of and don't like to talk about. Discuss how originally horrible things happened on this day.

Halloween costumes - Show pictures of the costumes from the newspaper circulars. Ask: Why do you think God would not want us to act like a horrible monster, Dracula, or a witch? Then do you think He wants us to even look like one of those characters? Explain that if we dress up like one of them, it will influence our actions. God does not like it when we look evil or do evil. He wants us to be "clothed" in Jesus Christ (Romans 13:14). Talk about the Armor of God in Ephesians 6:11.

Why God's people shouldn't celebrate Halloween - Explain that God hates evil. He will not allow any impure or evil thing to come into His Kingdom. Remind them of The Last Great Day's lesson and how everything will be new and beautiful. God is a God of beauty. Look at the beautiful sunsets and the clouds in the sky, pretty birds and flowers. God makes things beautiful. He didn't create ugly things like Halloween costumes. He wants us to have good thoughts and not think of evil or bad things. Jesus, our friend, is our example. He thought good thoughts and did good things.

Celebrate by doing good - Remind the class of how we celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles with joy. We have joy when we do good for others. There is no joy in doing bad things. Encourage the children to think of good things to do for people rather than trick or treating.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What does "evil" mean?
2. Why is Halloween "evil"?
3. How does God feel about evil things and evil actions?
4. What does God expect us to do about evil things? (Stay completely away from them.)
5. Why isn't it a good idea to dress up like an evil thing or person?

6. Should we dress up as a good thing on Halloween and go Trick or Treating?
7. Why or why not?
8. Who is the best choice for us to act like?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

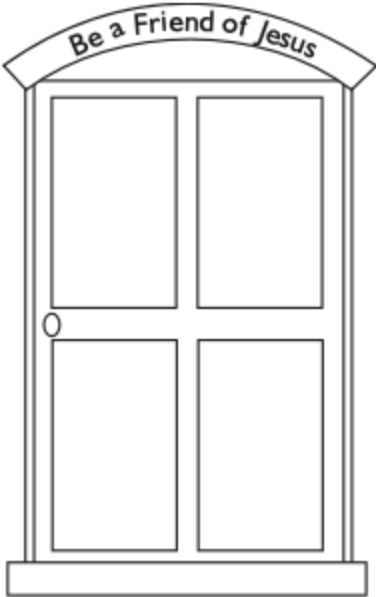
Before class enlarge the door to 8.5 x 11" and make enough copies on green construction paper for each child to have one. Give each student white paper to cut out pieces the size of each window. They are to write their own hidden message to Jesus on the back side. Their messages could be simple things like "I hate evil," "I want to do good," or "I love Jesus." Then glue two of the "windows" on the right side of the paper and two on the left side so that they will open like little windows or doors. Give them a star or seal to stick on each window to keep their message hidden until they want to look at it.

SONG

"Isn't He Wonderful" is on page 42 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in prayer asking God to give them wisdom to know the difference between good things and things that will harm them. Give God praise for giving us Jesus to emulate.



Better Than Christmas

MEMORY VERSE

“My dear brothers and sisters, don’t let anyone fool you. Every good and perfect gift is from God. It comes down from the Father. . .” James 1:16-17a

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. State why we don’t celebrate Christmas.
2. Tell that it was too cold for the shepherd to be in the fields at night taking care of their sheep.
3. Explain that the Feast of Tabernacles is far better than Christmas.
4. State that Christmas is not Christ’s birthday.

TOPICS & THEMES

Christmas
God’s gifts
God’s love
God’s omnipotence
Holidays, Christmas
Jesus, Birth of
Loving God
Obedience
Pagan Traditions
Worship God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students and teacher’s books, a permanent and a temporary object, a paper plate for each student, crayons, light green construction paper, paint, sponge, old shirts for students to wear during the activity, strips of magnetic tape, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, songbook, CD/cassette tape and music player

PREPARATION

It may be difficult for a child to explain to his friends what he believes and why he does the things he does. We need to help our children understand thoroughly why we don't celebrate holidays of pagan origin. The pagan feast of Baal was celebrated in Egypt and Syria. "The celebrants retired into certain inner shrines, from which at midnight they issued with a loud cry, 'The Virgin has brought forth! The light is waxing!'" The Egyptians even represented the newborn sun by the image of an infant which on his birthday, the winter solstice, they brought forth and exhibited to his worshippers. The Virgin who thus conceived and bore a son on the twenty-fifth of December was the great Oriental goddess, whom the Semites called the Heavenly Virgin or simply the Heavenly Goddess" (The Golden Bough, p. 358, abridged edition). Eastern religions celebrated December 25th hundreds of years before the birth of Christ, but it was not until 273 A.D. that this festival was widely celebrated in Rome and the West. "The Christmas festival is the Christian revision of the Roman day of the winter solstice. The fathers of the 2nd and 3rd centuries such as Clement of Alexandria, Origen, and Piphanius, contended that Christmas was a copy of a pagan celebration. . ." Encyclopaedia Britannica). The Bible tell us not to use pagan traditions in our worship of Him (Deuteronomy 12:4, 30-32).

Lead your students to understand how they are getting the better side of the deal in celebrating God's Holy Days. Once they feel good about what days we celebrate, children can confidently explain their beliefs to everyone who asks. Children should be taught not to argue their religion or put anyone down for the way they believe or the days they keep.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Bring to class a very durable object and a very temporary object. Before you begin the lesson in the students' book, talk about how long each object will last. (For example, you may wish to bring an all-day sucker for each child vs an M & M.) This concretely shows the children that although they may prefer the M & M right now, it doesn't last very long. It's gone. Likewise, earthly treasures don't last very long, especially when compared to the gifts that God is preparing for those who love Him.

Christmas season - Keep in mind that the children in your class can look longingly at Christmas. It has a lot of physical beauty and attraction. Help your class to understand that Christmas is a very big disappointment to many people. All that glitters is not gold and this is especially true with Christmas celebration for many people. In far too many cases drunkenness, disappointment, loneliness, greed and fighting go along with it. Too often it is not the ideal holiday that it is portrayed to be. There is a lot of money in it for the merchants, and it's in their best interest for it to be celebrated big.

Origins of Christmas - Explain to the class that people celebrated December 25th before Christ was even born in much the same way as they do today, but it was a feast to Sol Invictus, the sun

god. December 25th “was regarded as the nativity of the sun, because the sun begins to lengthen and the power of the sun to increase from the turning point of the year” (Golden Bough, Frazer, p. 358, abridged edition).

The Christmas tree - Discuss how the people cut down a tree and decorated it many years before Christ was born (Jeremiah 10:3-4). This is not pleasing in God’s sight. We are to do what He commands and not add to it or take from it.

Permanence of God’s gifts - As you go through the lesson keep coming back to the permanence of God’s gifts. Help the class to understand that we really can’t imagine how wonderful God’s gifts are.

Giving is good - Assure your class that God is the giver of every good and perfect gift and that giving is good. Explain that we should put Jesus first and give Him a gift on the Holy Days and other times throughout the year. It is also good to give others a gift.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why do most people celebrate Christmas?
2. Does God want us to celebrate Christmas? How do we know?
3. What kinds of things seem really good about Christmas to us? Are they as good as the gifts God gives us?
4. What days does God tell us we should celebrate?
5. Which is better, to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days or to celebrate Christmas for only one day?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Give each student a paper plate to decorate as an apple. Explain that eating a big beautiful red apple is something we all enjoy. The taste is very pleasing. When you obey God, this is pleasing to Him.

Follow the diagram. Enlarge and make the leaf and stem out of construction paper. Write on the leaf “I Can Obey God.” Glue it to the top of the plate. Then let the students decorate their plate by drawing and coloring their picture in the center of the plate and sponge paint around the border. If you have photographs of the children, these could be used in the center rather than drawing their own picture. They can finish their apple by gluing a strip of magnetic tape to the back. Tell them that they are the apple of God’s eye when they obey Him. And they can be the apple of their parents’ eyes by giving them this present.

SONG

“Every Promise in the Book is Mine” is on page 15 of the Kids Classics Collection

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in praising God for giving all of us so many good gifts – especially His Holy Days.

