

Lesson 4

The Feasts of Unleavened Bread, First Fruits and Pentecost

Exodus 12:14-17, Exodus 23:14-19, Leviticus 23:4-14
and Deuteronomy 16:1-8

Begin today's lesson by asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind and to teach you His precepts.

1. What concept from last week's lesson was especially helpful or thought provoking to you?

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

Because Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are so closely related both in context and timing, they are often thought of together and collectively called Passover.

Read Exodus 12:14-17, 23:14-19, Leviticus 23:4-14 and Deuteronomy 16:1-8.

2. What strikes you as you first read these verses?
3. When is the Feast of Unleavened Bread celebrated? How long does it last?
4. What were the instructions for this festival?

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."

Galatians 2:20

5. Summarize what occurred in the history of Israel just after the Passover according to Exodus 14:10-31.

6. Who do you see as the ultimate fulfillment of the Feast of Unleavened Bread? See John 6:32-51.

7. What do you think this feast prophetically pictures? What happened immediately after Christ's death?

8. What does leaven represent in Matthew 16:1-12, Matthew 23:1-12, Luke 12:1-2 and I Corinthians 5:7-8?

9. In the natural world, what happens to dough when yeast is hidden in it? If yeast symbolizes arrogance/hypocrisy/sin in the Scriptures, what spiritual application do you see in this natural occurrence?

10. What are some means by which we may search our hearts for leaven? See Psalm 119:11 and 119:105, Psalm 139:23 and I Corinthians 2:10. Discuss.

11. How can we remove the leaven from our "house"? See Romans 6:1-14, I Corinthians 6:9-20, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 4:20-24, Colossians 3:3-10 and I Peter 2:2. Discuss.

12. Have you ever had a personal experience of separating from a specific sin? Discuss.

The Feast of First Fruits

Read Leviticus 23:9-14.

13. Describe the Feast of First Fruits. When does it occur?

14. What does the Feast of First Fruits celebrate in the agrarian cycle? (See the chart in Appendix II.)

15. What do you think a sheaf (a bundle of wheat) represents in Genesis 37:5-11 and Genesis 42:1-6? What do you think this feast prophetically looked forward to?

16. On what day was Jesus resurrected? See Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-9 and John 20:1-2.

17. How important is the resurrection of Jesus according to Paul in I Corinthians 15:12-19? Discuss.

18. What does His resurrection guarantee according to I Corinthians 15:20-23?

19. Who do you think the other sheaves (the ones which will follow the first fruits) represent?

20. Since believers are resurrection people, how should our lives reflect this according to Ephesians 4:24-32, Philippians 4:5-9, Colossians 3:1-2 and Colossians 3:12-17? Discuss.

21. When we die to self and live for the Lord what will we do/be? See Colossians 3:17 and II Timothy 2:21. Discuss.

Pentecost

Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks, is the final festival of the four spring festivals and one of the three major feasts that the people of Israel were expected to attend in Jerusalem.

Read Exodus 34:22-23, Leviticus 23:15-22, Numbers 28:26-31 and Deuteronomy 16:9-12.

22. According to Leviticus 23:15-16, when is Pentecost?
23. What did Pentecost celebrate in the agrarian cycle? See Exodus 34:22.
24. Traditionally, the Jewish people celebrate an event of Moses' life on the feast of Pentecost. Read Exodus 19:1-2, 19:16-20 and Exodus 20 to identify this event. What is it?
25. According to Leviticus 23:17, what ingredient was to be included to be included in the two loaves offered at this feast?
26. In Ephesians 2:11-22 and 3:6, Paul mentions two groups of people who are brought together by the Spirit of God. Identify these two types of people. See also Galatians 3:14.
27. Discuss the situation in Acts 9:32-11:18, especially focusing on 11:15-18. How can you relate this to the two loaves of Leviticus 23:17?
28. What occurred on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus in Acts 2:1-43 that this feast may have been prophetically "rehearsing"?

29. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit from the following verses?

- ❖ John 14:16-17
- ❖ John 14:26
- ❖ John 15:26-27
- ❖ John 16:7-15
- ❖ Ephesians 1:13-14

30. How are you experiencing the help, guidance, comfort, etc. of the Holy Spirit in your life?
Discuss what this means to you.

31. What fruit does the Holy Spirit produce in a believer's life according to Galatians 5:22-23?

32. How are you seeing the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your own life?

Prepare for Life

33. Based on your study this week, what do you think God is teaching you or inviting you to do or be?