

## Week 3 The Feast of Tabernacles

### Lesson Overview:

**Bible Story:** Leviticus 23:33-43 (Feast of Tabernacles) John 7:37-39

**Supporting Scriptures:** Deuteronomy 16:13-15, Nehemiah 8:13-18, Zechariah 14:16-19

**Today's Point:** We can celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness.

### November Bible Verse:

**I Thessalonians 5:18** Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

**Learning Objectives:** After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Explain how the festival helped the Israelites remember God's care.
- Connect the feast to Jesus' teachings about living water.
- Find ways to celebrate God's goodness in their own lives.

**Gospel Connection:** The Feast of Tabernacles celebrated God's provision for Israel. During the Feast, Jesus declared Himself the living water, pointing to the ultimate provision of salvation through His life, death, and resurrection.

### Lesson Video:

#### Feast of Tabernacles - Sukkot

<https://youtu.be/qC8tCuWjohg?si=XAhmTG-od9bVcuTG>

### November Songs:

**I Thank God:** [https://youtu.be/kkehaekJo\\_g?si=7HGfIGhSBWcuh7o2](https://youtu.be/kkehaekJo_g?si=7HGfIGhSBWcuh7o2)

**Thankful:** [https://youtu.be/U\\_ewLEvA8\\_o?si=18JfEICuy9bQ8xaT](https://youtu.be/U_ewLEvA8_o?si=18JfEICuy9bQ8xaT)

## Schedule:

### **Warm Up Question (3 min.):**

What is your favorite celebration of the year?

### **Review Classroom Rules (3 min.)**

### **Review giving and collect offerings (2 min.)**

### **Review point and Key verse: (5 min.)**

**Today's Point:** We can celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness.

**Key Verse: I Thessalonians 5:18** Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

## **Introduction Game - Festival of Food (5 minutes)**

### **SUPPLIES NEEDED:**

- Music player
- Chairs or spots on the floor
- Baskets filled with artificial fruits and vegetables

**TEACHER:** Welcome back, everyone! As you know, this is week 3 of our unit on Thankfulness. This week, we'll learn that "We celebrate God's goodness and remember His faithfulness. Let's start with a game called "Festival of Food."

Here's how we'll play:

1. It's similar to musical chairs, but instead of sitting down, you'll grab a piece of 'harvest' from the baskets placed around the room when the music stops.
2. Each time the music stops, and you grab a piece of fruit or

vegetable, you'll share a quick story or something you're grateful for in your life that is similar to what you picked.

3. For example, if you choose an apple, you might say, "I'm thankful for my friend who shares their apple with me at lunch."

**TEACHER:** Great job, everyone! It's wonderful to hear all the things you're grateful for. It's always fun to celebrate and enjoy God's goodness!

**Bible Story - The Feast of Tabernacles** (Approximate teaching time: 15-20 minutes)

**TEACHER:** Have you ever been to a big party? What about a big family campout that was also a giant party? Today, we're going to learn about a big party God's people had every year. It was called the Feast of Tabernacles or Sukkot.

As Americans we celebrate God's goodness and remember His faithfulness at Thanksgiving. That's just what the Israelites did and still do during this special feast. Let's find out what the Bible says about this exciting celebration.

Moses wrote about the Feast of Tabernacles in the book of Leviticus. Moses was the leader who helped the Israelites leave Egypt. He wrote this book to teach God's people about His rules and their history. This was about 3,500 years ago!

**READ: Leviticus 23:39-43**

Moses told the Israelites that God wanted them to have this special party every year. For seven days, they would live in little huts made of branches. They would bring gifts to God and have a big celebration.

You might think, "Living in a hut for a week? That doesn't sound fun!" But for the Israelites, it was important. It helped them remember how God took care of them when they lived in tents for 40 years after leaving Egypt.

- Have you ever gone camping? It's fun but also a bit difficult, right? Imagine camping for 40 years! The Israelites learned to trust God for everything they needed - food, water, and safety. This feast was their way of saying, "Thank you, God, for taking care of us!"

- When do you feel really happy and thankful? Maybe when you're playing with friends or having a special meal with your family. That's how God wanted His people to feel during this feast. He wanted them to remember all the good things He did for them.

**Show Lesson Video:** <https://youtu.be/qC8tCuWjohg?si=XAhmTG-od9bVcuTG>

This video showed us how Jewish families today celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles or as they call it Sukkot. It shows us how they celebrate God's goodness to them. They celebrate this feast in late September and early October.

Now, let's go to Jesus' time. John, one of Jesus' close friends, wrote about something amazing that happened during this feast.

**READ: John 7:37-39**

John tells us that Jesus went to Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles. On the last day, Jesus said something very important. He talked about "living water" and invited people to come to Him to get it.

During the feast, the priests would pour water on the altar. This helped people remember how God gave water to the Israelites in the desert. When Jesus talked about "living water," He meant something even better than ordinary water. He was talking about the Holy Spirit, who helps people know and love God.

- Let's think about water for a moment. What do we use water for? (Pause for responses like drinking, washing, watering plants) That's right! Water keeps us alive and helps things grow. Jesus was promising the Holy Spirit to come and give spiritual life in the same way that water helps keep our bodies alive.

Just like regular water helps flowers grow big and strong, God's living water helps us grow in love and goodness. When we believe in Jesus, He gives us this special living water to help us every day. The Holy Spirit is like a helper that God gives to everyone who believes in Jesus. This helper lives inside us and helps us grow closer to God.

**LESSON SUMMARY:** So, what did we learn about the Feast of Tabernacles? It was a time for God's people to remember how He took care of them and to celebrate His goodness. They lived in temporary huts,

brought gifts to God, and had a big party together. Jesus used this feast to teach about the living water - the Holy Spirit - that He gives to those who believe in Him.

- Remember our main idea? We celebrate God's goodness and remember His faithfulness. Just like the Israelites celebrated, we can take time to remember the good things God has done for us and thank Him. We might not have a week-long party, but we can still find ways to celebrate God's goodness every day.

**GOSPEL CONNECTION:** Here's the really exciting part: The Feast of Tabernacles points us to Jesus in a special way. Just like God took care of the Israelites in the desert, Jesus takes care of our biggest need. He offers us living water - the Holy Spirit who gives us new life.

Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and came back to life. When we believe in Him, He gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us grow in our faith and live for God.

So, the next time you're at a party, remember that we have the best reason to celebrate: God's love and care for us, shown most of all through Jesus!

## **Review the ABC's of Salvation**

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Can you tell me what the Feast of Tents was all about? Why did God's people celebrate it?
2. How did living in tents for a week help the Israelites remember God's care?
3. Jesus talked about "living water" during this feast. What do you think He meant by that?
4. What are some ways we can celebrate God's goodness in our lives today?
5. How does knowing about Jesus make our celebration of God's goodness even more special?

## "The Feast of Tabernacles"



**Bible Story:** Leviticus 23:33-43 (Feast of Tabernacles) John 7:37-39

**Today's Point:** God makes everything grow in His perfect time.

**November Bible Verse:**

**I Thessalonians 5:18** Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

**Questions to Discuss With Your Child:**

- Can you tell me what the Feast of Tents was all about? Why did God's people celebrate it?
- How did living in tents for a week help the Israelites remember God's care?
- Jesus talked about "living water" during this feast. What do you think He meant by that?
- What are some ways we can celebrate God's goodness in our lives today?
- How does knowing about Jesus make our celebration of God's goodness even more special?

