

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 1 • Unit 8 • Week 1

GOD'S SPRING HOLY DAYS ARE SPECIAL TIMES

OBJECTIVE:

To remind the children of the special meaning and activities of the spring Holy Days.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Supplies: Poster board

Picture of people in church services and a picture of people at a event

Pictures to represent spring Holy Days, enlarged (see end of lesson)

Card-making materials

Prepare: Make a poster or display board with a picture that represents each of the spring Holy Days (such as a lamb, unleavened bread, the number 50—see end of lesson).

Ask: Who remembers the last Holy Days we celebrated?

Do: Give them hints or prompts so they'll remember the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day.

Say: Yes, those are the fall Holy Days. In the fall, we get ready for the Holy Days by thinking about packing suitcases and preparing for a trip. Now it is spring.

Ask: Who knows how we prepare for the Holy Days in the spring? [We put leaven out.]

Who knows why we do this? [Leaven represents sin during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.]

Do: Point to the display board or poster.

Say: These are pictures to help us remember the names of the Holy Days in the spring.

- Ask: Who knows what the first picture might stand for?
- Do: Continue through each picture. Be sure to include in your explanation that:
- The Passover lamb pictured the shed blood of Jesus Christ so that our sins can be forgiven.
 - The Feast of Unleavened Bread represents putting sin (represented by leaven) out of our lives.
 - Pentecost means to count 50 and represents the firstfruits receiving God's Holy Spirit.
- Say: Now let's read where the Bible tells us to keep these days. It's in Leviticus 23.

BIBLE LESSON:

- Do: Read Leviticus 23:4-8, 15-16 from a child-friendly version.
- Say: In the Bible, God uses some big words to teach us how to keep His Holy Days. The words are "holy convocations" [or in some translations "sacred assemblies"].
- Do: Show two photos.
- Say: Here are two pictures. One is a picture of a holy convocation. The other is not a holy convocation.
- Ask: Can you tell me which is which? How do you know? [One shows a place where people come to worship God, the people are dressed differently, people are acting differently, etc.]
- Say: Yes, there are many things we do to show God that we are coming before Him to keep a Holy Day. We usually dress and behave in a certain way. We also talk about different things during Holy Day services or "holy convocations." There are usually flowers in front of the podium to show it is an extra special Sabbath on Holy Days. God wants these days to be special for us.

LESSON APPLICATION:

- Supplies: Assorted pieces of cotton fabric—one per child (about 15 inches square)
Sewing pins—one per child

Let the children make a fringed napkin.

- Do: Have the children select a square of fabric.
Hand out a pin to each child.
Have the children pull threads from the edges of their piece of fabric until they have

about half an inch of fringe on all four sides. The pin can be used to help the children separate one thread at a time to pull out.

This fringed napkin can be washed at home and used for the family's unleavened bread basket or plate for the Night to Be Observed and during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Music:

Sing the following to the tune of "God Is Calling Children" by Mark Graham (page 51 in the United Church of God hymnal). The following lyrics are by Sue Blumel.

THE FEASTS OF GOD

These are Feasts of God,
Holy convocations.
Passover is the first,
When Jesus died for us.

Unleavened Bread is next,
When we eat flat bread and such.
Count 50 from the wavesheaf
Come to Pentecost.

The Feast of Trumpets signals when
Jesus Christ returns as King.
On Atonement we don't eat a thing,
But reconcile to God.

The Feast of Tabernacles comes,
and we learn God's way of peace.
The Last Great Day completes God's plan,
For all who ever lived.

MEMORY VERSE:

Leviticus 23:4 "These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations."

Do: Rehearse the memory verse a few times with the children repeating it. Form a circle. Take a small beanbag or balloon and toss it to one of the children. Have them try to say the verse or as much of the verse as they can and then toss the bag to someone else. Give everyone a turn.

family activity

THE POINT:

To remind children of the special meaning and activities of the spring Holy Days.

ASK ME...

- What is a "holy convocation" (or "sacred assembly")?
- What festival begins the spring Holy Days?
- Putting out leavening reminds us of what Holy Day?
- Counting 50 and the giving of God's Holy Spirit remind us of what Holy Day?
- How many spring Holy Days are there?
- How many Spring Holy Days can you name?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

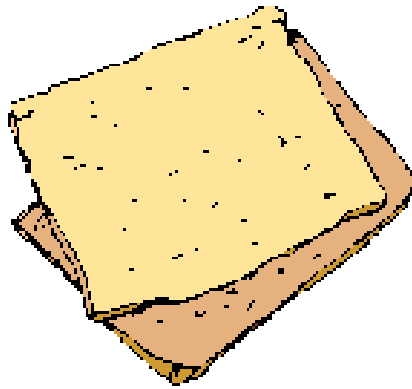
Bake some unleavened cookies and/or bread with your children. Make small packages of these baked goods for elderly members or others who may not have the time or energy to make these treats. Have your children give these baked goods during the earlier part of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Discuss the meaning of "holy convocations." How can your family make these days extra special for God? How can your family make these days extra special for each other? How can your family make these days extra special for other members of your congregation? (Ideas: Special clothes for services, more formal family meals, special foods, inviting guests over, flowers, small gifts, best behavior at services, etc.)

Instructions: Cut the strip off the bottom of this page. You will see this week's memory verse on the back. After your child has learned the verse, glue the two ends together, forming a link of a paper chain. Each lesson's memory verse will add a new link to their chain of Bible knowledge.

-----cut along dotted line-----

(Teacher's note: please write the memory verse on the back of this page at the bottom.)



50

A lamb, unleavened bread and the number 50 can be used on your poster to represent the spring Holy Days.