



OLIVE TREEHOUSE

Feast of Tabernacles



BY CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES



SHALOM!

Thank you for your interest in learning more about the Feast of Tabernacles, also known as Sukkot in Hebrew. We hope this short lesson plan will help you understand more about this ancient and important Jewish holiday and help you see how it points to Yeshua. He is the One who became flesh and tabernacled, or lived, among us (John 1:14). May you be blessed as you pass this lesson along to your children.

WHAT IS THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES?

After God rescued the ancient Israelites from Egypt, He brought His people into the wilderness, where He lived with them, kept them safe, and ensured they had everything they needed. He never let them go thirsty, protected them from people who wanted to hurt them, and corrected them when they made mistakes. He patiently guided them toward the great plans He had for them. Most importantly, God loved them steadfastly through their good and bad times. The Bible tells us that no other nation on earth had a God so close as Israel—one they could talk to at any time (Deuteronomy 4:7). This is a beautiful reason to rejoice!





To celebrate God's bringing the Israelites out of Egypt and remember all He did for them during their time in the desert, God told them to build and live in a sukkah (like a big booth) just as they did in the wilderness, to gather the fruit from beautiful trees and branches from palm trees and other plants, and to rejoice before Him for seven whole days (Leviticus 23:40–42).

For believers in Yeshua, the Feast of Tabernacles carries additional meaning. When Yeshua came down from heaven to live with His people in human form, the people of Israel experienced even greater closeness with God through **Yeshua as a kind of "in-person" sukkah**. In Him, God came to live among us, not in a tent but as a person to care for our needs. Yeshua did this by teaching people, healing people, and laying down His life to save and free His people forever. Like God did in the wilderness, Yeshua takes care of His people by allowing us to spend all time with God, even after we die, and having a full life and joyful life here on earth. Eternal life is the best safety God can offer us! During one Feast of Tabernacles in Yeshua's day, He got up in front of a crowd and said, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart'" (John 7:38, NLT). Yeshua invites people to receive a special gift—the Holy Spirit. This Spirit is God's very own presence who once lived with the children of Israel in the wilderness in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple. This same presence and Spirit of God can now live in our hearts! This is what the Feast of Tabernacles always pointed to—God not just living with His people but within His people. God wants to live in our hearts forever!





VIDEO:

HILLY'S FAVORITE FESTIVAL

Join Hilly (Hillel) as he discovers the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles and some of the traditions he and his family celebrate during his favorite festival! As you watch the video, you, too, will discover four main biblical takeaways from Rabbi Gottlieb, the leader of Hilly's Messianic Jewish congregation. Enjoy the video, then come back for some discussion.

chosenpeople.com/tabernacles

MEMORY VERSE

**And the Word
became flesh, and
dwelt among us**

JOHN 1:14



FOUR TAKEAWAYS

That was fun! Hilly was excited to make a new friend, Valentina, but he also learned more about the meaning behind the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles. To review, the four main takeaways of this lesson are:

1. Celebrate everything God gives us. As with the people of Israel during their time in the wilderness, we learn that God miraculously provides for our lives. Yeshua taught us not to worry about our earthly needs but to trust Him, make Him the focus of our lives, and He will take care of the rest (seek first the Kingdom of God). The Feast of Tabernacles is also a time of thanksgiving—it's a time to give thanks to the Lord for the harvest (our food, clothes, home, etc.) and for being our Provider, even when we experience difficult times (the “wilderness”).





2. Rejoice in hospitality. Hilly and his parents very kindly welcomed Valentina. Welcoming new friends and strangers, which is called hospitality, is what God wants us to do. He wants us to love people and be hospitable as we follow His example. Believers in Yeshua—Jewish and Gentile—are called to care for everyone, especially those less blessed than us. We are also supposed to introduce them to the good news about Yeshua and how to invite Him into their hearts as we live for Him ourselves.

3. God lives among us and in us. The sukkah—or temporary booth—is an image of how short our time on earth is. It's also a picture of God living among us (Yeshua when He first came to earth!). As believers in Yeshua, His Holy Spirit is in us, and we become His sukkahs—He lives in us!

4. Fellowship with God. Lastly, as God lives with us and in us, we are invited to experience the closeness of His presence, which the sukkah helps us see. Being in His presence invites us to worship and love Him; it's an invitation to say sorry with the help of God's Spirit for the wrong things we do; and it's an invitation to have guests by showing hospitality as the gospel spreads among God's chosen people and the nations.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES

Here are some fun activities to help us learn about the Feast of Tabernacles and how Jewish people celebrate it, so if you and your child would like to join the festivities—like Hilly and his family and friends—here is your chance!

1. Print out the sukkah coloring sheet.
2. Hand out the sheet on how to build a sukkah and give it a try.
3. Print out the lulav coloring sheet and invite children to cut out the four species.
4. Have them wave the lulav in six directions and explain the meaning.
5. Ask kids to thank God for His provision and for living among us and in us.
6. Discuss how the Feast of Tabernacles points to Yeshua and how we can use this holiday to point others to Yeshua.
7. Pray for more people—Jewish and Gentile—to meet Yeshua, the Messiah.



HOW TO BUILD A SUKKAH

1. Collect wood
2. Make sure you have three complete sturdy walls, fastened well so the wind won't blow it away.
3. Put bamboo on the roof.
 - Must be able to peek through the roof and see the stars
 - The room should be fully covered but not overcovered
4. Put in a chair and a table
5. Decor: you want to build/make/create your own decorations
 - Flowers
 - Paper chains
 - It is customary to put up the 7 fruits that Israel was blessed in the land with:
 - Wheat
 - Honey
 - Barley
 - Olives
 - Grapes
 - Pomegranates
 - Dates



Name _____

Date _____



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