



LESSON 5 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: We Can Worship and Celebrate God

SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 23

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 100:2

The summer after I graduated high school, I interned for a ministry that took kids who have had difficult experiences on outdoor adventures. I remember a group that came backpacking with us. A bus dropped us off at around 12,000 feet elevation, and we spent three days hiking about 10–15 miles each day. For many of the kids, it was their first experience like this. Each night we'd set up our tents, gather around the fire for dinner, and have conversations about life and Jesus.

It's been decades since that summer, but I still remember how God worked in those kids' lives as they hiked for miles, slept in tents, and accomplished things they'd never thought possible.

Read Leviticus 23:1–2, 33–36, 39–43.

Just as we remember on Christmas and Easter what God has done, the Jewish people were called to remember their time in the wilderness, when they lived in tents after leaving Egypt. God Himself dwelled with them in the tabernacle, a tent that traveled with them until they reached the promised land. Even after they arrived, God wanted them to remember that time yearly.

Can you think of a past time when life looked different, but looking back, you see how God was with you, growing you? How can you celebrate and worship as you remember His presence and goodness?

—**David Ruybalid**

Worship Leader, Recording Artist, and Discipleship Pastor
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LESSON 5 FOR LEADERS

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Moses led God's people out of Egypt and for 40 years in the wilderness. Moses is sometimes called the lawgiver and mediator of God's covenant with Israel because Moses received God's law at Mount Sinai and proclaimed it to the people.

WHAT?

God appointed *festivals* for the people to observe throughout the year. The Feast of Tabernacles took place after the harvest. It was a time to celebrate God's provision and remember how God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness after bringing them out of Egypt.

WHERE?

Leviticus is a written record of what God revealed to Moses at Mount Sinai, which was located on the Sinai peninsula between Egypt to the west and Midian and the Negev to the east. The Feast of Tabernacles was to be celebrated wherever God's people went.

WHEN?

Moses received the law at Mount Sinai shortly after the exodus from Egypt but before the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. The Feast of Tabernacles was to be observed every year and was notably the occasion for the dedication of Solomon's Temple.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Just as God rescued the Israelites from slavery and established them as His people, Jesus rescues us from the power of sin and death, making us part of His kingdom. Like the Israelites, we are invited to worship God and celebrate all He has done.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: toy food; disposable tableware such as bowls, plates, cups; disposable eating utensils; napkins; table;

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Feast of Tabernacles Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Play Food

Set-up: Set out toy food, disposable tableware, eating utensils, and napkins. You could also set out a tablecloth and a vase with artificial flowers.

Play: Invite the kids to set the table and serve a "feast" to one another.

Play Station: Feast of Tabernacles Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of their favorite meal.



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LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Father God, we thank You for Your great love and for all the blessings You have given us. We pray that Your Holy Spirit will help us remember all You have done for us and will fill us with joy as we celebrate You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible story

Use the script provided:

SUPPLIES: Bible, toy fruit or vegetable

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about God's people, the Israelites. Encourage the kids to say, "Israelites." Let's find out from the Bible what the Israelites did in the desert!

God took care of His people, the Israelites. He saved them from being slaves in Egypt. God took care of them in the wilderness and gave the people food and water. Hold up the toy food. One of the things God wanted the Israelites to do was to have festivals, or parties, to celebrate Him! Invite kids to clap and wave their hands.

One of the festivals was called the *Feast of Tabernacles*. This feast happened right after the Israelites gathered the food that grew in the land. It was a time to worship God and celebrate how much He gives. All good things come from God! Invite kids to clap and wave their hands.

The first day of the festival was a day of rest. The people took branches from trees that had a lot of leaves on them. They used the branches to praise God for seven days. It was a big party! Invite kids to clap and wave their hands.

During the festival, the Israelites stayed in tents called *tabernacles* or *booths*. God told His people to live in the booths during the festival. This helped them remember the way God's people lived after God saved them from Egypt. God gave them food in the wilderness. He gave them everything they needed.

The festival lasted for eight days. The last day was one more day of rest before the festival ended. Invite the kids to pretend to sleep for a moment. **At the very end of the festival, the people gave food back to God. They had the festival every year to remember how God took care of them!** Invite kids to clap and wave their hands.

God wanted the people to have festivals to celebrate and love Him. He wanted them to remember how good He is and how much He loves them. God still loves us and helps us. He gives us good gifts. **We have a lot to celebrate because God is so good to us. We can worship and celebrate God!** Invite kids to clap and wave their hands.

Leader Tip: The Feast of Tabernacles (or Feast of Booths) is a time when God's people build booths (temporary shelters) to celebrate God's provision and remember how He led them in the desert after the exodus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What was the feast called that we heard about today?** (*Feast of Tabernacles, Festival of Booths*)
2. **What did God's people stay in during the festival?** (*tents, temporary shelters, booths*)
3. **What did the palm branches remind God's people of?** (*that God gave them lots of food that grew in the land*)
4. **Why did God's people have the festival every year?** (*to celebrate how God took care of them and gave them good things*)
5. **What has God done for you that you want to thank Him for?**
6. **What good food has God given you that you're thankful for?**
7. **How can you remember and celebrate God and all that He has done for you?** (*If kids need help, offer suggestions such as praying and telling Him "Thank You," writing or drawing a picture, worshiping or singing, and having a feast or celebration.*)
8. **What food would you want to eat at a feast to celebrate and worship God?**

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**Worship the Lord with gladness. Come to him
with songs of joy.**

—Psalm 100:2

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What are some ways we can worship God other than singing?** (*If the kids need help, offer suggestions such as: through our words, art, dancing, movement/postures, etc.*)
- **What is your favorite worship song? Why is it your favorite? What does it say about God?**



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LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Craft: Paper Plate Praise

SUPPLIES: paper plates (1 per kid), markers

Give each kid a paper plate and set out markers. **In our story today, we learned about a feast that the Israelites had to remind them of all God did for them. This feast happened right after the Israelites gathered the food that grew in the land. It was a time to worship God and celebrate how much He gives. This festival helped people remember that God gave them the food that grew in the land. All good things come from God! We can remember the good things God has done for us and given us too. Let's draw pictures on our plates of good things God has done for us and given us. It doesn't just have to be food!**

Encourage the kids to use their markers to draw pictures on their plates of the good things God has done for them and given them. If they need help thinking of things, offer suggestions in specific categories, such as: something God has helped them with, something God has taught them, a food God has given them, a person God has put in their lives, an experience that made them happy. When they finish, invite the kids to share what they drew on their plates.

You can take your plates home as a reminder of all God has done for you. God is so good to us. We can worship and celebrate God!





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LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Game: Set the Table Relay

SUPPLIES: disposable tableware such as plates, bowls, cups; eating utensils; table

Set out disposable tableware and eating utensils in a pile on one side of the room, opposite from a table. Line the kids up near the disposable items.

Our story today is about a feast called the *Feast of Tabernacles*. God's people had the feast to celebrate and remember what God did for them when He saved them and provided for them. They ate lots of good food and worshiped God! A *feast* is a meal with lots of good food.

To help us remember the story, we're going to pretend we're getting ready for a feast. We need to set the table. You'll each take turns grabbing something to help set the table for a feast. Then you'll run to where the table is and set it out like you're preparing the table for a wonderful meal. Then run back to the group and tap the next person in line, who will do the same thing. We'll keep going until we get everything on the table. Each time you set something on the table, say one way God has been good to you. If you can't think of something, you can simply say, "God loves me!" If the kids need help with knowing where to place things on the table for a place setting, station a leader near the table to help show the kids where to put each item.

You can also challenge the kids to set the table in different ways, such as with their eyes closed, while holding the eating utensils behind their backs, or holding the eating utensils between their elbows (instead of their hands).

Make It Inclusive! For kids who don't want to (or who are unable to) compete in a relay, you can give them their own place- setting supplies to set up in their own space.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for everything He gives us and everything good thing He does for us.

Let's talk to God. Gracious God, thank You for how wonderful You are. You are so good to us. Thank You for the many blessings You have given us. Today we worship and celebrate You! We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: The Lord is faithful. May you always take time to remember His blessings and praise Him for all He has done. May you worship God and celebrate His goodness all the days of your life!