



# FUNDAMENTAL #13

## *What are holy days and festivals?*

### MEMORY SCRIPTURE

*Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: “The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.”—Leviticus 23:2*

### SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Bible describes seven “feasts” that take place each year. They’re set aside by God to be special times of worship. In the Old Testament, the word *feast* has the meaning of keeping an important appointment or meeting. In the New Testament, sometimes the word *festival* is used.

All seven feasts are listed in [Leviticus 23](#). They were first recorded in the Bible by Moses, but they are not just Israelite or Jewish feasts. They are *God’s* feasts. Jesus Christ continued to keep these feasts, as did His apostles and the New Testament Church after His death and resurrection. All together, the feasts of God reveal a picture of what He is planning for all people on into the future. And based on what we learn in the Bible, they will continue to be observed even after Jesus Christ’s return to earth.

### BEGIN YOUR STUDY

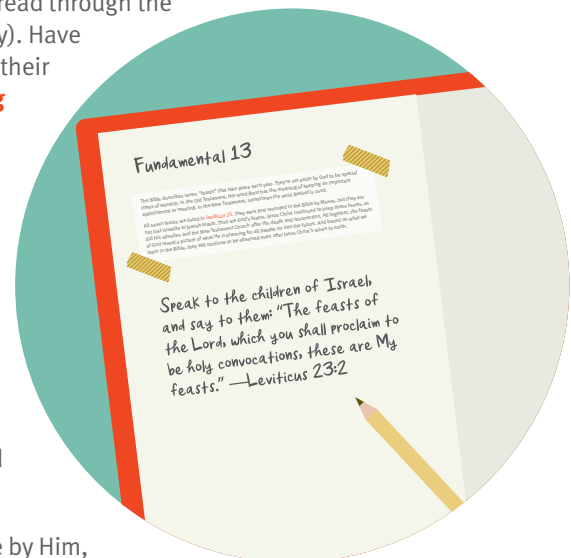
Read through the memory scripture together with your children, then read through the summary statement (remember to simplify the statement, if necessary). Have your children cut and paste the summary statement from this page in their **“Fundamentals Bible Study Journal”** (as suggested in the **Memorizing Scripture** resource **“The Fundamentals”**).

Next have your children write the memory scripture, [Leviticus 23:2](#). There are some words in this verse that we don’t use very much these days! What is a feast? Is that like a festival? Is it the same as a holy day? Then what is a holiday?

What does the Bible say about all these words?

The Bible has a lot to say about what is *holy*, including what God has set apart to be *holy time*, like the Sabbath. So because these are special days set apart by God, they have also traditionally been called “holy days.”

They certainly are *holy*, because they are God’s feasts and set in place by Him, but they don’t all take place on *holy time*. Some of the feasts last an entire week, for example, but only have one or two holy days in them. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is seven days long,





but only the first day and the seventh day are set apart by God as holy time. The Feast of Tabernacles is also seven days long, but only the first day is set apart as a holy day. And then there's Passover, which is a festival but not a holy day.

And none of these should be confused with national *holidays*, like Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter. Holidays are not holy days set apart by God.

In the Bible, God's special times of worship are called *feasts* or *festivals*. All together, they tell a story of what God has done, is doing, and will do for all of humanity. Locate the excellent lesson **"God's Plan and Purpose for Humanity"** (in the **Word of God** section) and go through each festival's brief description with your children. Discuss the importance of God's festivals and how they connect to God's purpose for people!

## DIGGING DEEPER INTERACTION #1

Review **Leviticus 23:2** with your children. Tell them that today they will be able to make their own books about the feasts of the Lord! To make a "Feasts of the Lord" book, start by choosing a scripture and drawing a picture for each of the festivals. When your children are finished, their books could be added to the family Sabbath box as a special Sabbath treat for everyone to read through together. (To find the instructions for the Sabbath box, see **Fundamental #11.**)



## DIGGING DEEPER INTERACTION #2

Begin today by having your children say the memory scripture, **Leviticus 23:2**, and see if they can name all seven festivals! Then as a family, decide on special traditions for each feast. This could include making a special family unleavened bread recipe book and having an unleavened bread baking party, making a countdown (or up!) chain for Pentecost, buying a special fall holy day gift for a member of the congregation, joining the children's choir at the Feast of Tabernacles, and so on! This would make a great discussion for a family Sabbath meal.

## BIBLE STORY: MOVIE NIGHT!

Watch the "Feasts of the Lord" video series on the Life, Hope & Truth website (you can find it at [lifehopeandtruth.com](http://lifehopeandtruth.com) in the Learning Center).

Additional EEI lessons on each festival can also be found in our **Word of God** section. Or just type "festivals of God" in the EEI website search bar (at [LifeHopeandTruth.com/eei](http://LifeHopeandTruth.com/eei)).

## BONUS IDEAS

There are several New Testament scriptures that support keeping God's feasts. If you've read through the resource **"God's Plan and Purpose for Humanity,"** then you've already found quite a few! Have your children choose one or two additional scriptures in the New Testament about people keeping the festivals to add to their **"Fundamentals Bible Study Journal."**



Reinforce what you and your children have learned about the festivals with the **“God’s Festivals Pocket Sorter,”** located in the **Additional Resources** section.

Locate the flash cards for the **“Holy Day Card Game”** in the **Additional Resources** section and see how many new games you can create!

## WRAP-UP ACTIVITY

To create this week’s poster, on a piece of card stock, have your children draw a path from one corner of the page to the other. They can color it too, if they wish! Have them record each of God’s feasts along the path and write the memory scripture on the poster. Choose a place in the house to display the poster.

To end your study, have your children recite the memory scripture for a small audience, perhaps for a church friend or at a special festival group meal.

