

# 119

## GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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### How the Biblical Festivals Point to Christ

#### TEACHING SUMMARY

In Leviticus 23, God established appointed times known in Hebrew as the **mo'edim**. These appointed times were given to God's people as celebrations and reminders of His plan.

Many people think of these festivals as Jewish traditions, but Scripture shows that they reveal God's redemptive plan through the Messiah.

The spring festivals prophetically point to events surrounding the Messiah's first coming. Passover represents the sacrifice of the Messiah as the Lamb of God. Just as the blood of the Passover lamb protected Israel from death in Egypt, the blood of the Messiah brings salvation and freedom from the power of sin.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread represents purity and truth. During this feast, leaven is removed from homes. In Scripture, leaven often symbolizes corrupt teaching or sinful influence. Removing leaven reminds believers to remove false doctrines and return to the pure teachings of the Messiah.

The Feast of Firstfruits represents the resurrection of the Messiah. Just as the first harvest offering was given to God, the Messiah became the firstfruits from the dead, guaranteeing the future resurrection of believers.

The Feast of Weeks, also known as Shavuot or Pentecost, marks the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts. This feast represents the beginning of the New Covenant work where God's law is written on the hearts of believers.

The fall festivals point forward to the Messiah's second coming.

The Day of Trumpets represents the future return of the Messiah, when a trumpet will sound and believers will be gathered.

The Day of Atonement represents judgment and repentance. It symbolizes the final opportunity for repentance and the restoration of God's people.

The Feast of Tabernacles represents the future Kingdom of God, when the Messiah will reign and God's people will dwell with Him.

Finally, the weekly Sabbath is also included among God's appointed times. The Sabbath represents rest and points prophetically to the future reign of the Messiah when believers will share in His Kingdom.

Together, these appointed times tell the story of redemption—from the Messiah's sacrifice to the restoration of all things.

## SUMMARY POINTS

- The appointed times of God are listed in Leviticus 23.
- These festivals reveal God's plan of redemption.
- The spring festivals point to the Messiah's first coming.
- Passover represents the sacrifice of the Messiah.
- Unleavened Bread represents purity and truth.
- Firstfruits represents the resurrection of the Messiah.
- Shavuot represents the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- The fall festivals point to the Messiah's return and Kingdom.

## FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

### Basic

1. God's appointed times are found in \_\_\_\_\_ chapter 23.
2. The Hebrew word for appointed times is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Passover represents the sacrifice of the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. During Unleavened Bread, all \_\_\_\_\_ is removed from the home.
5. The Feast of Firstfruits represents the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Messiah.
6. Shavuot is also known as \_\_\_\_\_.

7. The Day of Trumpets points to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Messiah.
8. The Feast of Tabernacles represents the future \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

### Challenging

1. The blood of the Passover lamb protected Israel from \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Leaven often represents \_\_\_\_\_ or corrupt doctrine.
3. The Messiah is called the \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead.
4. On Shavuot, the apostles received the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Day of Atonement represents repentance and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The Feast of Tabernacles points to the Messiah establishing his \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The weekly \_\_\_\_\_ represents the future rest in the Kingdom.

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God gave His people appointed times throughout the year?
2. How does Passover help us understand the sacrifice of the Messiah?
3. Why might leaven represent false teaching in Scripture?
4. How does the resurrection of the Messiah connect to the Feast of Firstfruits?
5. Why is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit connected to Shavuot?
6. How do the fall festivals help believers look forward to the future Kingdom?

## **ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE**

### **Basic**

1. Leviticus
2. Mo'edim
3. Messiah (Lamb of God)
4. Leaven
5. Resurrection
6. Pentecost
7. Return
8. Kingdom

### **Challenging**

1. Death
2. Sin / False teaching
3. Firstfruits
4. Holy Spirit
5. Atonement / Judgment
6. Kingdom
7. Sabbath