



SACRED TIMES

Understanding and Demonstrating God's
Divine Appointments with His Family

INTRODUCTION

God knows we are a people who need reminders, and a lot of them! Sprinkled throughout the whole story of the Bible are numerous reminders about following the Lord and his ways, how much he loves us, and how we can demonstrate that love to others. Many of these reminders are in the form of the biblical holidays. These holidays provide us with a wonderful way to learn more about what God did for his people. They act as a seasonal system or spiritual calendar for remembrance and honoring the Lord. Following this calendar gives us a deeper, more complete understanding of the whole story and our part.

In Leviticus 23, the LORD spoke to Moses and said, “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, these are the appointed feasts of the LORD that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are MY appointed feasts.” It is interesting to note that the first listed is Shabbat. Since we already have a [Shabbat Dinner Guide](#) for you, this will be focusing on the other holidays that begin in the Spring with Passover. In this way, God chose for everything to start with the story of Israel’s deliverance from Egypt. In fact, most of the feasts revolve around remembering that part of history, when he showed up and delivered ‘his firstborn son’ (and the ‘mixed multitude’) from more than 400 years of slavery.

This is our story, Jew and Gentile, celebrating together the greatest victories of our King. We are now one family because of the sacrifice of Jesus, and both share equally in that great inheritance. Ephesians 3:6, “And this is God’s plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God’s children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus.”

This guide is intended to be utilized as a family gathered around your table, demonstrating his Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. As parents, God has placed our children into our care to teach them about God’s love, word, and ways. This is our primary mission. The more we learn, the better we can teach, and the more effectively we can image God in our homes, then our neighbors, community, and the nations.

SPRING FEASTS

Why does God's calendar start in the Spring? One answer could be that our ancient ancestors were very attached to the land and nature, and the Spring was when the seeds for life would be sown. It's also when things that were dead from the cold winter would soon spring to life with the warm spring sunshine and life-giving rains. If you look at the Biblical narrative, you will see this was when God chose to deliver his people Israel; but is there more here foreshadowing another great deliverance of all humankind? As you will see, the LORD also chose to use his celebrations to display when Jesus would bring the understanding of the particular feast to its highest expression to declare, He and the Father are one! (John 10:30)

The four main feasts during this season are Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Shavuot (Feast of Weeks).

The Feast of Passover Leviticus 23:5

“These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, it is the LORD's Passover.”

Description:

The Passover Feast is Israel's celebration of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt through great miracles, signs, and wonders. It takes place in the springtime, and the focus is on God's marvelous miracles and acts of deliverance for his people. The fullness of this feast took place in two nations, during two different periods, but each had a tremendous impact on us today. The kingdoms of Egypt and Israel were rocked to their core and were never the same after their encounter with the King of the Passover.

You see a picture of this even in the Passover Seder, the traditional meal at Passover that tells the story of the deliverance of Israel from their bondage as slaves in Egypt. It is this meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples, which has come to be known as “The Last Supper” and the third cup and afikomen bread, which is called “communion”) when our cup of joy is diminished by ten drops when the plagues are recited. You can also hear his heart for the salvation of the invaders of Israel in Psalm 83 and many other places. His name is Savior, Deliverer, Redeemer--the Lamb of God, who was slain for us.

How to observe with your family:

This is demonstrated in a full sit-down meal with your family called a Seder. Traditionally, it also includes removing all of the items with yeast or leaven from the household. The Apostle Paul speaks to this in I Corinthians 5:6-8 and likens the leaven to sin. For a full demonstration, along with a detailed guide of how to celebrate Passover with your family, click here: [Passover Handbook](#).

The Feast of Unleavened Bread Leviticus 23:6-8

“6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. 7 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. 8 But you shall present a food offering to the LORD for seven days. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.”

Description:

The seven days following Passover are called the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is a fast and a feast! For seven days, there is to be no food consumed with leaven (yeast), and every meal has at its center, matzoh. Because of the short time in which the Israelites had to prepare to leave Egypt, God told them to make bread in haste without yeast and use it to remember his deliverance from slavery. Interestingly enough, it also reminds us of when all humanity was delivered at his final Passover with us here on earth. Jesus used this same bread, matzoh, to declare it was a representative of his body, which, you will notice, is striped, bruised, and pierced. What a powerful demonstration of the sacrifice Jesus made for us at this appointed time.

How to observe with your family:

For seven days after Passover, there is no eating of any foods with yeast, and every meal is planned to be sure that nothing with leaven is present. Instead of bread, enjoy matzoh and remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. There are many creative ways you can make this happen; one creative method is a lunch with peanut butter, jelly, and matzoh sandwiches.

The Feast of First Fruits Leviticus 23:10-14

9 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 10 “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the First Fruits of your harvest to the priest, 11 and he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, so that you may be accepted. On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. 12 And on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb a year old without blemish as a burnt offering to the LORD. 13 And the grain offering with it shall be two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, a food offering to the LORD with a pleasing aroma, and the drink offering with it shall be of wine, a fourth of a hin [Hebrew unit of liquid equal to about 5.5 quarts]. 14 And you shall eat neither bread nor grain parched or fresh until this same day, until you have brought the offering of your God: it is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

Description:

One day after the first Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread is the Feast of First Fruits. With this placement of three festivals back to back, you can see a timeline that God was setting up from the very beginning. The LORD instructed for First Fruits to be one of three major offering times. The very first of the barley harvest would be waved before the LORD, which would then kick off the beginning of the counting of the omer (a sheaf of grain) in which all of the first blossoms of the coming harvest would be tagged and 49 days later harvested for the offering at the Feast of Shavuot (Feast of Weeks).

In 1 Corinthians 15:20, the Apostle Paul states, “But Messiah has indeed been raised from the dead, the **first fruits** of those who have fallen asleep.” Jesus was raised from the tomb on the Feast of First Fruits and guaranteed for all those who trust in him. What an incredible picture of the Lord’s grace and love, displayed for all to see.

How to observe with your family:

Consider giving a special offering to your church, congregation, or a Jewish believing ministry in Israel as a ‘first fruits’ offering to the LORD. Share this special time with your children and make it a family offering where you share with them the importance of giving.

The Feast of Pentecost (Shavuot) Leviticus 23:15-22

15 “You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering. 16 You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the LORD. 17 You shall bring from your dwelling places two loaves of bread to be waved, made of two tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour, and they shall be baked with leaven, as first fruits to the LORD. 18 And you shall present with the bread seven lambs a year old without blemish, and one bull from the herd and two rams. They shall be a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD. 19 And you shall offer one male goat for a sin offering, and two male lambs a year old as a sacrifice of peace offerings. 20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the first fruits as a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the LORD for the priest. 21 And you shall make a proclamation on the same day. You shall hold a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work. It is a statute forever in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.

22 “And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.”

Description:

The Hebrew word Shavuot is the word ‘weeks’ in the English language. The instructions in the manual for this Kingdom celebration says that from the time of Passover, we are to count off seven Sabbaths and celebrate this feast with the Lord (this is in May or June). Pentékonta is the Greek word for fifty. It is where we get the name Pentecost from, as the

feast happens fifty days after Passover.

We are familiar with what occurred in the book of Acts, chapter two, when the promise of God, the Holy Spirit, came to those followers of Jesus in the upper room, but do we know what they were doing there. Some would say they were obeying the command of the Lord to wait in Jerusalem until he gave them the power; they needed to be ambassadors for the Kingdom. Yes, that is true, but why were 120 of them gathered in that upper room?

Acts 2:1 says, "When the day of Pentecost [or Shavuot] came, they were all together in one place." The cross-reference to the word "Pentecost" is found in Leviticus 23:15-16, which gives the details for the Feast of Shavuot. The 120 were there primarily to wait for the promise of the Father, and they were gathered together to celebrate the victory of the Kingdom (when the Lord had placed his laws of the Kingdom into the hands of Moses on Mount Sinai).

The first followers of Jesus of Nazareth were celebrating Shavuot, the day the Torah was given to Moses and the citizens of the Kingdom. The King Himself confirmed it with signs and wonders. The one who received it on Mount Sinai was radiant with the glory of the giver for many, many days thereafter. What happened during that celebration in Acts 2 is further evidence of the blessing from the King, as they received His gracious invitation to celebrate.

In Acts chapter 20, the apostle Paul is once again anxious to get to Jerusalem. He wanted to be there to celebrate the two great victories of the Kingdom which happened on the same day hundreds of years apart - the giving of the Kingdom's constitution (Torah) to Moses, and the outpouring of the promise at Pentecost (Jeremiah 31, Ezek. 36, Joel 2). Paul declares in Romans 8:23: "Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the spirit..." Jesus is the "First Fruits" from the dead, and we are the "First Fruits of the Spirit."

The blessing of the King flows down to his family in the Kingdom. This is clearly stated in Psalm 133, as the anointing on the head of Aaron flows down on his beard and then his garments. We are the body of Jesus on earth, and his anointing in First Fruits flows over us, as his family carrying the message like ambassadors. Jesus prayed in John 17 that we would be one body, even as he and the Father are one. "Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad" or "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One." For those who are his family living in his Kingdom, the blessings of the King are theirs to enjoy.

How to observe with your family:

During this time, the book of Ruth is read during this season when it occurred. Throughout the chapters, there are so many prophetic symbols; it's almost impossible not to grasp the significance of what the LORD wants to impart during this sacred time.

One fun way to celebrate Shavuot is to have your family around the table and read the story of Ruth and Boaz. It is customary to eat dairy products during this feast so that you can have a family meal planned with cheese, cheesecake, and ice cream! The reason this is done is connected to the promise of God that the land he gave to Israel would be "flowing with milk and honey." (See also Exodus 3:8, Numbers 14:8, Deuteronomy 31:20, and Ezekiel 20:15)

FALL FEASTS

Whereas Jesus fulfilled (or raised to their highest expression) what was required of him in the Spring feasts, the Fall season speaks of a time yet to come; the return of the Messiah. The three main feasts are Yom Teruah (Feast of Trumpets, commonly known today as Rosh HaShanah), Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), and Sukkot (Tabernacles).

The Feast of Trumpets Leviticus 23:23-25

23 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 24 “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, ‘In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with the blast of trumpets, a holy convocation. 25 You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall present a food offering to the LORD.’”

Description:

The Feast of Trumpets is the first of the fall holidays and is celebrated at the beginning of Tishri, the seventh month of the Biblical calendar and the first month of the civil calendar. As the seventh month, it's similar to the seventh day of the week or Sabbath in that it is a holy time set apart to seek God. As the first month of the civil year, this feast also serves as the Jewish New Year. The Feast of Trumpets marks the beginning of the ten holiest days of the Jewish year. These ten 'days of Awe' are a time for personal reflection on our relationship with God. In Judaism, it is believed that in these ten days, the Book of Life will be opened in heaven, and God will decide who will live and who will die. It is, of course, a very solemn time for our Jewish friends and family.

On each of the two days of the Feast of Trumpets, the blowing of a shofar (ram's horn) is the highlight. The shofar is blown four different ways, each one with spiritual significance. For example, it will be blown in a series of short, repetitive blasts. This “broken” sound serves to remind the people that they need to break from any sin in their life. Even the curved shape of the ram's horn has meaning and significance; it is a reminder to bend to God's ways and his word.

Overall, the blowing of the trumpet, or shofar, reminds us of:

- Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac and God's substitution of a ram in his place (Genesis 22).
- Isaac's foreshadowing of Jesus, who God substituted for us (Hebrews 11:17-19).
- Jesus was called to battle, and he defeated sin and death (Colossians 2:15).
- We are called to spiritual battle against the powers of darkness (Ephesians 6:11-13).

How to observe with your family:

Start by watching this video (<https://youtu.be/Jj78AoaEbyc>) about celebrating the Feast of Trumpets with your family. Now, use the script below to lead your family through this celebration.

Let's Eat!

Plan a special meal with your family and ask the kids to help make it fancy! Think of it as a special, spiritual New Year's Celebration. Involve your kids by asking them to decorate place cards to label each person's seat at the table. They can also help make a centerpiece. Don't forget to add communion. Feel free to reference the [Sabbath Guide](#) for more information.

Apples and honey are a traditional addition to this meal and are symbolic of having a sweet new year. As the apple slice is dipped into the honey, you can recite this traditional blessing; "Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, creator of the fruit of the tree. May it be Your will, Eternal God, that this be a good and sweet year for us all."

Your family also may want to enjoy challah dipped in honey. Some families include a pomegranate as a treat before the meal. It is said that the number of seeds in the pomegranate reflects the number of good deeds that you will do in the coming year.

Forgiveness

Talk about the importance of making amends with friends and loved ones. Now is the time to apologize for harsh words or things done over the past year, which caused hurt feelings. This goes for parents and kids!

Casting the Stones/Throwing our Sins Away

The following demonstration is a meaningful tradition in the Jewish community. They take small stones or even breadcrumbs down to a stream, lake, or pond and throw them into the water to demonstrate how God casts our sins into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19).

Blow the Trumpet

Don't have a shofar? No problem. Make your own (<https://www.highlights.com/parents/crafts/shofar-rosh-hashanah>). The shofar is designed to be a call to wake us up, but it's up to each of us personally to repent and come closer to God.

The Feast of Atonement (Yom Kippur) Leviticus 23:26-28

26 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 27 "Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves (fast all food and water for 24 hours) and present a food offering to the LORD.

28 And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.

Description:

Next on the fall feast calendar (September – October) is Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, where there is fasting, prayer, and a whole day for confession of sin. In Zechariah 12:10, we read these words, “And I will pour out upon the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.” In Chapter 13, verse one, it continues, “On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.” This is about preparing our hearts for the second coming of the Messiah.

In Biblical times, this was the only day each year the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies, the innermost room of the temple. On this day, the priest would enter the Lord’s presence, and through a series of specific steps and blood sacrifices, he would make atonement for himself and all the people. The Day of Atonement marks the completion of the ‘10 Days of Awe’, which begins with the Feast of Trumpets. These ten days are dedicated to repentance, prayer, charity, and serve to set the stage for this most solemn day of the year. More than any other day, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is a time to seek the Lord.

There were also two goats required for atonement. The first goat was for the LORD and would serve as a sacrificial offering to the Lord. The second goat, eventually known as the scapegoat, was for Azazel and served to represent the sins of God’s people. The priest would confess his sins and the sins of the people over this goat, and then it would be driven away from the camp and into the desert. In essence, this goat bore the sins of the people and carried their sins far away. (In the same way, Jesus was sacrificed outside the city walls.)

Today, we know that Jesus’ death has taken the place of this atonement ritual in the temple (Hebrews 9:11-14). Through the sacrificial offering of Jesus and his blood, we have received eternal redemption for our sins. In addition, the atonement made for us by Jesus allows us to enter into the presence of the Lord, the Holy of Holies, and enjoy our own encounters with God, face to face. Just as the two goats symbolized death, sacrifice, and the removal of sin, Jesus’ death and resurrection are the fulfillment of those offerings. By remembering the original process of atonement and how it was fulfilled by Jesus’ sacrifice, we can enjoy a greater understanding and appreciation of God’s great love for us!

How to observe with your family:

Start by watching these great videos about celebrating the Day of Atonement (Part One <https://youtu.be/i7P2VyMKmzg> and Part Two https://youtu.be/xq7NUaORz_o) with your family and then use the script below to lead your family through this celebration.

Let’s Eat!

Prepare a special meal for your family to break the fast after the sun goes down and be sure to include communion. Feel free to reference the [Sabbath Guide](#) for more information.

As you gather around the table, talk about the Day of Atonement together and what it means. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate your thankfulness for Jesus' sacrifice!

Bless Your Family

Speaking a prayer and blessing over each person in your family will not only draw you closer together but will produce fruit in your lives! There are prayers and blessings included in the [Sabbath Guide](#).

Fast

Traditionally, Jewish people will fast for twenty-five hours during Yom Kippur and will dedicate themselves to prayer and worship throughout that time. This is the only day out of the whole year when every store and business in Israel is closed to observe this important holiday!

The Feast of Tabernacles Leviticus 23:33-43

33 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 34 "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the LORD. 35 On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. 36 For seven days you shall present food offerings to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the LORD. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work. 37 "These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim as times of holy convocation, for presenting to the LORD food offerings, burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each on its proper day, 38 besides the LORD's Sabbaths and besides your gifts and besides all your vow offerings and besides all your freewill offerings, which you give to the LORD. 39 "On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the LORD seven days. On the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest. 40 And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days. 41 You shall celebrate it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. 42 You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, 43 that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."

Description:

The Feast of Tabernacles, or Feast of Booths, is the third and final fall feast. In stark contrast to the solemnity of the Day of atonement, it's a time for joyous celebrations among God's people! It is held to remember the forty years the Israelites spent wandering in the desert, during which time the Lord provided for them in every way. This is also one of the three times God commands his people not to appear before him empty-handed.

During the five days between the Day of Atonement and Feast of Tabernacles, booths or

huts (*sukkah*) are constructed in which people eat their meals, sing, worship, and some will even sleep in them. These booths are a reminder of the tents the Israelites lived in during their years in the wilderness. They are also a reminder of the age of materialism in which we live today. Instead of getting caught up in the desire for more, God is reminding us that this earth is not our home, and we should not be distracted by the things of this world. Like the Israelites, we are also on a journey to our own eternal promised land, and we should look to God alone as our shelter and comfort. The eighth day, *Shemini Atzeret*, is a reminder of the joy the Israelites experienced when they emerged from the wilderness and entered the promised land. For Jews, returning to the conveniences of “home” after spending seven days in a booth was a great way to reinforce a Godly perspective and a thankful heart. The ninth and final day, *Simchat Torah*, is a day that celebrates God’s law (Torah) with dancing and music. Today’s believers not only celebrate God’s law, but also the word of God made flesh - Jesus.

Water and light are both important aspects of this holiday. In Biblical times, the High Priest would pour water out on the threshing floor of David and pray for the winter rains to come and nourish the dry, thirsty land. Today, we know that Jesus is our living water. It’s his blood that was poured out for us, and only his blood can cleanse us of our sins. Light has special significance as well. There were also huge candelabras that were constructed for this holiday and continuously refilled with oil. They were so tall that men had to climb up ladders to refill them. The light was bright enough to illuminate the entire city. Some scholars believe that Jesus was referring to this when he stated, “I am the light of the world” in John 8:12. It is yet again another reminder that while this earth is not our home, we are charged with bringing the light of the Lord to the darkest places.

This feast continues the story of the return of Messiah in Zechariah, chapter 14, verses 4, 9, and 16: “On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem...The Lord will be King over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name...Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles”.

What are these celebrations all about really? One purpose for the feast was to celebrate the provision of God during the last harvest of the year. A portion of that harvest was to be presented before the Lord, with thanksgiving for all he had given during the season. Remember what was cursed when Adam and Eve were driven from the garden all those years before? It was the ground. The people had to work and sweat to coax even a meager existence out of the earth. But not in the Kingdom. The feast was a celebration of plenty and the King’s victory over the curse for us, his family.

Another crucial reason for this celebration is the desire of the King to “tabernacle” with His people. The command was given to do three things after the crops were all brought into the storehouse. First, they were to take the first and seventh days for rest and fellowship with the King. Second, they were to build a simple booth (a temporary shelter) and live in it with their family for the entire seven days. Third, they were to bring an offering with thanksgiving to the Lord for His bountiful provision. These were to remind us of the time when the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt and guided them through the vast desert. He not only kept them, but He protected them from the sun’s burning rays by day, under the shadow of His wings with a cloud. He warmed them at night and comforted

them with a pillar of fire, which emanated from His presence. For forty long years, their shoes did not wear out, and their clothes did not fall apart. He fed them bread, which came down from heaven each day--bread they did not work for or labor in kitchens to prepare. And when they were thirsty, at His command, water flowed out of a rock until millions had more water than they could need.

How to observe with your family

Start by watching these great videos about celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles (Part One <https://youtu.be/jrVgntIR1w8> Part Two <https://youtu.be/xWGvRCV6-RY>) and then use the ideas below to lead your family through this celebration.

Build a Sukkah (booth, hut)

Whether it's a small model, a drawing, or whether you go all out and make it life-sized, building a sukkah is a great activity for the whole family. Or, if you happen to have a tent already or you're an expert indoor fort-builder, you can use that, too. Consider eating at least one meal in it, although spending a night in the sukkah would undoubtedly be a fun and memorable experience!

Make an Orange Pomander

Taking a whole, fresh orange, and poke holes through the skin with a nail in any design you want. Then, place a whole clove into each hole. As the orange dries, you will be left with a sweet-smelling decoration! (Be sure to rotate often to promote drying.)

Make a Scroll

Using paper and other items around the house, help your kids write down Bible verses and roll the paper up like a scroll.

Read the Bible

As a family, set goals about [The Whole Story](#) reading plan. For kids, check out our [cKids Whole Story Calendar](#).

Eat a Meal!

Prepare a special meal for your family and be sure to include communion. Feel free to reference the [Sabbath Guide](#) for more information.

As you gather around the table, talk about the Feast of Tabernacles together and what it means. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate your thankfulness for Jesus' sacrifice.

CONCLUSION

Is it mandatory for every believer to keep the feasts and celebrate the promises of God? No. We have a choice as the LORD gave us the freedom to do so but here are some closing thoughts.

If you are a Christian, Jesus is Lord of your life, and you are born again into the Kingdom of God as his family. Christ is your King, and now you want to be more like him? He said, "If you obey my word [Law, commandments], then you are truly my disciples" (John 8:31). Jesus also said in John 5:19 that he only did what he saw his Father do. Then, it would stand to reason that Jesus celebrated the feasts of the Lord because he saw His Father celebrate them.

Jesus is the reason for the feasts. He is the Lamb of the **Passover**. His blood is the fullness of deliverance and forgiveness, which is now applied to the doorposts of our hearts. He is the **First Fruits** of those raised from the dead through faith (in him). He is the giver of the Law and the giver of the Holy Spirit on **Shavuot** (Pentecost). And when he returns, it will be at the sounding of a shofar from heaven, **Yom T'ruah** (Rosh HaShanah). Israel will mourn for him as an only son as in the fasting of **Yom Kippur**. Then he will gather the harvest of souls of the nations - **Sukkot** (Tabernacles). So, as the Apostle Paul said...'let us keep the feasts,' as we remember and celebrate Jesus, the Lord of the Feasts.