



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 1 — Exodus 12 — June 14, 2020

Because of the continued pandemic and our need to meet as D-Groups in creative ways, we have continued with a shortened number of questions. As always, don't feel like you must use all of the questions. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

Helpful Resources for Studying the Feasts:

- *Family Guide from Fellowship Kids* - Encounters: Meeting Jesus in the Feasts: <https://bit.ly/3cUbGO5>
- *Pamphlet* – Feasts of the Bible: <https://amzn.to/2MOgCK1>
- *Book* – Meeting Jesus at the Feast by John Sittema: <https://amzn.to/2Uv6D0a>



KNOW:

- Share about a great meal or dining experience you've had in the past. What made it special (food quality, occasion being celebrated, holiday, location of the meal, etc.)? Who was involved? How often do you recall it or share that experience with others?
- Do you have keepsakes or traditions that serve as memorials in your life of certain spiritual events or demonstrations of God's faithfulness? If so, describe them and why they are meaningful to you.
- Have you ever studied the feasts before? If not, no worries, most of us haven't! Share with your group your thoughts as we begin this series and what you hope to learn.



GROW:

- Read Exodus 13:3-10 as a group. What was the deal with the leavened vs unleavened bread? What is it? Why did the Israelites prepare it originally? Why was it remembered?
- The Bible describes sin as affecting the whole lump. (1 Corinthians 5:6) How do you see this to be true? How have you been affected by others' sin? How have others been affected by your sin?
- Read Romans 3:23-26. Jesus is our perfect substitute by grace for sin... unleavened for leaven. Why are we inclined to "add" to what God gives as a gift (good deed, moral living)?
- In the book, Gentle and Lowly, Dane Ortlund says, "(Jesus) sides with you against your sin, not against you because of your sin." We will always battle with sin. When we do sin, why do we struggle to run back to our Savior who loves to forgive us?



SHOW:

- Spend a few minutes in quiet confession. Think about your own struggles with sin. Take a moment to confess these areas of sin. How does Jesus satisfy you more than your sin?
- Spend a few minutes praying together as a group, giving thanks for God's provision through Christ who is the perfect payment for your sins and who loves to forgive.
- Jesus is our gracious substitute for our sin, forgiving us for all of our sin. Who is God calling you to forgive with the same heart?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 2 — Exodus 13:3-10 — June 21, 2020

Because of the continued pandemic and our need to meet as D-Groups in creative ways, we have continued with a shortened number of questions. As always, don't feel like you must use all of the questions. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

Helpful Resources for Studying the Feasts:

- *Family Guide from Fellowship Kids* - Encounters: Meeting Jesus in the Feasts: <https://bit.ly/3cUbGO5>
- *Pamphlet* – Feasts of the Bible: <https://amzn.to/2MOgCK1>
- *Book* – Meeting Jesus at the Feast by John Sittema: <https://amzn.to/2Uv6D0a>
- *RightNow Media* – The Appointed Time: <https://bit.ly/TheAppointedTimes>



KNOW:

- Are you neat and organized or more of a mess? When you last cleaned (your house, car, purse, desk), what was the most random thing you found?
- What is something that takes a lot of prep, but the finished product is well worth it?
- What gift have you received that was shockingly generous?



GROW:

- Many times, we see the laws of the Old Testament as heavy and the consequences unfair. But in reality, these things were God's love for us – He created an avenue for sinful man to be in relationship with a holy God. What has been your view of God in the Old Testament - an unfair punisher or a loving God seeking relationship? What life experiences do you think have shaped that view?
- Read Exodus 12:1-28 and John 1:29 out loud together. Some teachers have taught that the Old Testament and New Testament can be separated. As you read these verses, highlight pieces that connect the message of the Old and New together. How does the Passover give a picture of the coming Messiah (ex. cross on the door, sacrificial lamb, freedom from bondage, etc.)?
- What were the Israelites instructed to do in order to be saved during the plague? What must a person do to be saved from sin?
- Compare Moses' instruction in Exodus 12:14-17 with Paul's instruction 1 Corinthians 11:23-27. How is the Passover Feast similar to the Lord's Supper? How may this have been important to the Jews who were with Jesus in the upper room?



SHOW:

- Read Romans 6:15-19. The Passover lamb brought deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Is there an area in your life where you need the freedom that is possible through the shed blood of Christ?
- God's judgement for our sin is covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. We remember Christ's sacrifice when we take communion together. Consider observing communion right now together as a D-Group. Share with each other the incredible blessings that are now yours because you are a child of God (Romans 8:12-17....or maybe just keep reading, it's a beautiful passage). Celebrate what God has done for us!
- How do you think what you learned this week about Passover impacts your faith and how you live in the current situation our nation is in (pandemic, racial relations, etc.)?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 3 – Leviticus 23:9-14 – June 28, 2020

Because of the continued pandemic and our need to meet as D-Groups in creative ways, we have continued with a shortened number of questions. As always, don't feel like you must use all of the questions. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

Helpful Resources for Studying the Feasts:

- *Family Guide from Fellowship Kids* - Encounters: Meeting Jesus in the Feasts: <https://bit.ly/3cUbGO5>
- *Pamphlet* – Feasts of the Bible: <https://amzn.to/2MOgCK1>
- *Book* – Meeting Jesus at the Feast by John Sittema: <https://amzn.to/2Uv6D0a>
- *RightNow Media* – The Appointed Time: <https://bit.ly/TheAppointedTimes>



KNOW:

- What was your very first job? How much did you earn? Was your compensation minimum wage or above/below.
- In a text thread with your D-Group share a picture (or as close to it as you can) of your first car. Who had the coolest car? Oldest? Most unreliable? How old were you when you got it? Why are things that come "first" often more memorable or significant to us?
- What is the first thing you usually do on payday? Has that always been the first thing? How has your response to getting paid for work changed over the years?



GROW:

- Read Leviticus 23:9-14. The Feast of the First Fruits required the Israelites to offer the first portion of their harvest back to God before eating any of their crop. What was the purpose of offering this first portion of the harvest to God?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-23. How do these verses point us to the hope we have in Jesus?
- What does it mean for a believer to honor the Lord with the “first fruits” of the harvest today?
- What’s the difference between giving to the Lord from the first portion of your provision rather than the last?



SHOW:

- Consider the use of your time, talent, influence, finances, etc. Do these things reflect the importance of your relationship with Jesus? What do you need to adjust to give Jesus first place in your life?
- Giving tithe and offering to the Lord is an act of worship and sacrifice. When you give, do you feel like it is worship? What could you or your family do to make this more of a meaningful act of worship before God?
- Are there any attitudes or circumstances that prevent you from living generously? How may you need to adjust to live with a generous heart? Are there any circumstances that your D-Group could rally around to “live generously” together?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 4 – Leviticus 23:15-22 – July 5, 2020

Because of the continued pandemic and our need to meet as D-Groups in creative ways, we have continued with a shortened number of questions. As always, don't feel like you must use all of the questions. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

Helpful Resources for Studying the Feasts:

- *Family Guide from Fellowship Kids* - Encounters: Meeting Jesus in the Feasts: <https://bit.ly/3cUbGO5>
- *Pamphlet* – Feasts of the Bible: <https://amzn.to/2MOgCK1>
- *Book* – Meeting Jesus at the Feast by John Sittema: <https://amzn.to/2Uv6D0a>
- *RightNow Media* – The Appointed Time: <https://bit.ly/TheAppointedTimes>



KNOW:

- What has been one of the most satisfying accomplishments in your life, even if it was something “expected” that didn’t get much celebration?
- Share about a time you celebrated the end of a season (graduation, sports season, getting all of your kids out of diapers, retirement). How did you celebrate?
- Have you ever had an event or vacation in the future that you were really looking forward too? What did you do to help countdown the days until this event?



GROW:

- Read Leviticus 23:15-22. In verse 22, God tells His people not to harvest the grain along the edges of their fields. Why is the idea of letting other people in need benefit from our activity feel so counter-cultural?
- The Festival of Weeks is also called the Festival of Pentecost, taking place 50 days after Passover. Read Acts 2:1-13. What seems to be the connection between God's intention for the Festival of Weeks and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?
- Through these events and celebrations, what do we learn about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?
- The Feast of Weeks was celebrated fifty days after Passover. As families in Israel would countdown until the Feast of Weeks, they often recited Psalm 67. As a group, read Psalm 67. During this period of waiting for the harvest, how might Psalm 67 encourage these families?



SHOW:

- What steps could you take this week to offer "the edges of your fields" to those less fortunate? What are some practical ways we could practice that in our life? How do you see the resources you have earned?
- The Feast of Weeks came at the end of the harvest season and served as a reminder for his people of all the things God had done for them. How might you be intentional to create traditions in your home (whether that's individually, with roommates, as a family, or as a couple) that force you to take a break from your work and celebrate God's provision in your life? What might that look like for you?
- In Matthew 9:37, Jesus looked at the crowd of people and said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Considering the Jewish celebration of the Feast of Weeks, what do you think Jesus meant by this statement?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 5 – Leviticus 23:23-25 – July 12, 2020

Because of the continued pandemic and our need to meet as D-Groups in creative ways, we have continued with a shortened number of questions. As always, don't feel like you must use all of the questions. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

Helpful Resources for Studying the Feasts:

- *Family Guide from Fellowship Kids* - Encounters: Meeting Jesus in the Feasts: <https://bit.ly/3cUbGO5>
- *Pamphlet* – Feasts of the Bible: <https://amzn.to/2MOgCK1>
- *Book* – Meeting Jesus at the Feast by John Sittema: <https://amzn.to/2Uv6D0a>
- *RightNow Media* – The Appointed Time: <https://bit.ly/TheAppointedTimes>



KNOW:

- The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien is arguably some of the greatest story telling ever. In the final book, Aragorn returns to unite the people and is crowned king, beginning a time of unparalleled peace. Gandalf crowns Aragorn and says, "Now come the days of the King. May they be blessed." The struggle was over, the King had arrived, and all had been made right. Do you enjoy the books or the movies more? What are your thoughts about that story?
- Share a time you waited expectantly for something (e.g., gift, holiday, event, etc.). How did this impact your thoughts or actions? What types of emotions did you feel as you waited?
- Trumpets have been used for a very long time with the earliest trumpets being crafted from animal horns. What are some events and ways in which trumpets have been and are used in our society?



GROW:

- Read Leviticus 23:23-25 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. What thoughts or emotions does this passage stir in your heart? What does the blowing of the trumpets set into motion in each passage?
- The Feast of Trumpets is a Jewish feast some have grouped in the “Days of Awe,” a time of repentance and reflection. How might viewing the future coming of Christ be influenced if we thought of it in “awe?”
- What other passages in Scripture come to mind as you hear and talk about this Feast of Trumpets? Take a few minutes to search out some other passages and share what you find with the group (If you’re stumped, check out: 1 Thess. 4:13-18; John 10:27-30; 2 Timothy 4:1; Rev. 20:15; Matthew 25:1-13).
- Do you have an expectation of Jesus’ return in your lifetime? The Feast of Trumpets reminds us that Jesus will return as King of Kings and the one who judges sin. Why should this motivate us to share the Gospel with family, friends, and even strangers?



SHOW:

- Reflect on John 10:27-30 and thank God for the salvation and eternal life that he has given you through the sacrifice of his son Jesus.
- The Feast of Trumpets is a powerful reminder of the return of Christ, which is known as his second coming. Christ’s certain return will bring great joy to believers who find their names written in the Lamb’s Book of Life and eternal misery for those who have not accepted Christ. How does knowing this truth change your view of the unbelieving world around you? Are there people in your life that you can share the hope you have found in Jesus in the coming days?
- C.S. Lewis said, “If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.” How might looking forward toward the future change how you make daily decisions as an individual/family/group?
- As believers today, what does it look like to practice the feast of trumpets? Asked another way, how can we keep the spirit of this feast?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 6 – Day of Atonement – July 19, 2020

Because of the continued pandemic and our need to meet as D-Groups in creative ways, we have continued with a shortened number of questions. As always, don't feel like you must use all of the questions. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

Helpful Resources for Studying the Feasts:

- *Family Guide from Fellowship Kids* - Encounters: Meeting Jesus in the Feasts: <https://bit.ly/3cUbGO5>
- *Pamphlet* – Feasts of the Bible: <https://amzn.to/2MOgCK1>
- *Book* – Meeting Jesus at the Feast by John Sittema: <https://amzn.to/2Uv6D0a>
- *RightNow Media* – The Appointed Time: <https://bit.ly/TheAppointedTimes>



KNOW:

- Have you ever gotten to go backstage after a concert or been given a field pass for a game? What did you see or learn from that experience? Did it change your view of that event?
- The Day of Atonement was considered Israel's "holiest day of the year." What would you consider your "holiest day of the year?" Why?
- Share about a time when someone showed you forgiveness? What were the circumstances leading up to this event? How did you know they had truly forgiven you?



GROW:

- Read Leviticus 16:15-16, 20-22, 29-30. What happened to each of the goats during the Day of Atonement? What did each goat represent? How does this point to Christ and what He did?
- Read Hebrews 9:11-15, 24-28. What does this passage say about the work of Jesus? What does the “once for all” phrase in verse 12 mean? What does it mean that he is “the mediator?”
- As you read these passages, compare the sacrifices in the Old Testament with Jesus’ sacrifice. What are similarities or differences? How does Jesus’ sacrifice affect you personally?
- If someone were to ask you why God could not “just forgive” our sins, what would you say? Why is there a need for The Day of Atonement? How did Jesus take the place of the Day of Atonement?



SHOW:

- Hebrews 9:28 says that Jesus will return a second time “to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.” How should we live our lives in a way that we are “eagerly waiting” for his return?
- Yom Kipper literally means “day of covering.” When was your “day of covering” Share in just a minute or two about the day or time when you confessed your sin and placed your faith in Jesus?
- Check in with each person in your D-Group with how they are processing the pandemic? Don’t be afraid to press in and ask how everyone is doing spiritually, emotionally, physically, and mentally. We need each other now more than ever. How have you seen the feasts of the Old Testament speak to our present situations?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 7 – Feast of Booths – July 26, 2020

Because of the continued pandemic and our need to meet as D-Groups in creative ways, we have continued with a shortened number of questions. As always, don't feel like you must use all of the questions. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

Helpful Resources for Studying the Feasts:

- *Family Guide from Fellowship Kids* - Encounters: Meeting Jesus in the Feasts: <https://bit.ly/3cUbGO5>
- *Pamphlet* – Feasts of the Bible: <https://amzn.to/2MOgCK1>
- *Book* – Meeting Jesus at the Feast by John Sittema: <https://amzn.to/2Uv6D0a>
- *RightNow Media* – The Appointed Time: <https://bit.ly/TheAppointedTimes>



KNOW:

- Where is "home" for you? Not necessarily where you grew up, or you're from, but where is the place that when you go there, you are "home"--and all the feelings that come with it?
- What are your best/worst experiences of camping? What kind of camping trip was it? Why was it such a good/bad time?
- Put yourself on the set of "Survivor". If you had to live for a week in a shelter you built, how do you think you would do? Which location would you do the best in? What would the non-negotiables of your shelter be?



GROW:

- Read Leviticus 23:39-43. The Feast of Booths is described as celebratory and upbeat, even though the Israelites are living in temporary shelters. Why is this?
- The Feast of Tabernacles not only reminded the Israelite's of how they lived in temporary homes in the desert, the celebration also reminded Israel to look forward to a day when God would dwell with them (John 1:14 literally says that Jesus "tabernacled" with us). Do you find yourself growing in your longing to be with Christ eternally in heaven? If so, what do you look forward to about it? If not, why not?
- John 1:14 tells us that Jesus dwelled among us, and Revelation 21:1-4 says that God will again dwell with us. What is the significance of His presence? What are the differences between the Feast of Booths and looking forward the coming Kingdom of God?
- Imagine that you grew up participating in this festival. As best as you can, put yourself in one of those tents in the desert. How would Jesus' words in Matthew 6:19-34 impact you based on these experiences?



SHOW:

- Think through the main areas of your life--family, school, work, relationships, where you "play". Pick one of them, and ask yourself, "how can I do what I do in this space with eternity in mind?" What would it mean to work knowing that eternity is our home? What does your recreation look like? Your relationships?
- How do you remember God's presence daily? How can we remind each other? Pray for perseverance as we run the Christian race during our brief time on earth.
- Do you have any rhythms in place that remind you of how much you depend on God? What is a habit, rhythm, or ritual you can establish to regularly remind yourself of God's provision in your life? What would it look like to begin to establish some of these rhythms?