

Lesson 5

Special Days and Feasts

Theme: Worship—Honoring God in ways He has commanded



Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity: For younger students: *What is Missing? Be Holy! Book 1*, page 13
For older students: *Know Your Special Days, Be Holy! Book 2*, page 13

Bible Facts: Take Time for Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Write the new Memory Verse on sentence strips and insert them in the pocket chart. The teacher introduces the new Memory Verse by reading it once from the Bible as the students listen. Have the students who can do so find the Memory Verse in their classroom Bibles. Help younger students find it. Read it aloud together from the Bibles. Using the strips in pocket chart, talk briefly about the meaning of the Memory Verse, discussing Who, What, When, and Why.

Prayer

Lesson of the Day

Ideas for Telling the Story

1. For non-reading students, read Leviticus 23:3-11. For reading students, have them use the classroom Bibles to find and mark Leviticus 23:3-11. Have students browse through the rest of that chapter of Leviticus in their Bibles. Talk about the theme of the lesson—special days.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking one student to use a pointer to point out on time line when today's lesson events took place.
4. Further establish the setting of the lesson by letting students take turns pointing to the different maps. On as many maps as you have available, have students point out where today's lesson events took place.
5. Talk about special days and feasts and why they were important to the Israelites and to God. Using the It's Bible Time Bag, pull out graphics to tell about the special days and

feasts that were commanded of the Israelites by God. You may wish to provide pictures or photographs of special days we have, such as birthdays, Thanksgiving, or the Fourth of July.

6. Discuss the Sabbath day. Talk about this as the seventh day and as a day to rest and remember God. For older students explain how Jesus commanded that we worship Him on the first day of the week. This is similar to the Israelites' day of rest, but it is not the same. We do not have a "Christian Sabbath," but we worship on the first day of the week, the day Jesus was raised from the dead.
7. Talk about the Passover Feast and the Feast of Booths. Talk to students about the importance of remembering the good things that God has done for us.
8. Discuss the Day of Atonement and talk about God's place in our lives today. God required that the Israelites pay for sins once a year. Have the students explain in their own words why we are not commanded to sacrifice the same way the Israelites were.
9. Assign each student one special day or feast to tell about. The students can then take turns being the teacher to give the lesson on their particular day or feast. Encourage the "listening" students to raise their hands if they want to add more to the presentations.
10. Ask students to move back to their desks. Using the classroom Bibles, read Leviticus 16:3-10. Discuss what atonement means. What atones for our sins?
11. See page 63 for reinforcement questions.

**Things to Get or Do
for Sunday Morning**

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Lesson 5

Special Days and Feasts

Theme: Worship—Honoring God in ways He has commanded

Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity: For younger students: *An Obedient Face, Be Holy! Book 1*, page 12
For older students: *Word Shapes, Be Holy! Book 2*, page 11

Memory Verse: The teacher and students read the Memory Verse aloud together from pocket chart. The teacher reads it a second time, having students say, “Stop!” when they hear an answer to Who, What, When, and Why in the Memory Verse.

Prayer

Starter

We have ways of remembering events and people. It might be a memorial or a holiday. Can you think of any memorials you have seen? Some famous memorials are the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Jefferson Memorial. Are there any memorials in our city or town?

What about holidays? Let’s think about the Fourth of July in America. Does anyone know another name for this holiday? It’s “Independence Day.” This is a day set aside for citizens to remember when America became its own nation. What are some things we do on this holiday that help us appreciate the country we live in and the freedoms we have?

God also gave Israel some special days and feasts to remember important events in their nation’s history. What do special days and celebrations help us do?

Briefly Review the Lesson

Ideas for Illustrating and Reinforcing the Story

1. **Objective:** *Demonstrate activities for Israel’s Day of Atonement*

Assign the following roles to students: Aaron as High Priest, a goat as a sin offering, a goat as a scapegoat, and Israelites. Act out the Day of Atonement activities involving two goats described in Leviticus 16:7-22. Devise a method of “casting lots” to identify the goat for the sin offering and the goat as the scapegoat. (We do not know with certainty how Israelites cast lots.) Discuss that there is sin in the camp. Have students gather around the High Priest and the two goats. Discuss that one goat is a sin offering. He is offered by the High Priest as a

sin offering. Aaron the High Priest will lay his hands on the other goat's head. He will say for all the people, "We have sinned." Have SIN written on a large sticker and stick it to the goat's back, and then send the goat away from the group. Talk about sending sin away and getting it out of the camp. Away from the group, the scapegoat removes the SIN sticker and leaves it. Explain how God used this to show the people He did not want sin in the camp of the Israelites! They had to send it away. We must seek forgiveness of our sins to be right with God.

2. **Objective: Demonstrate learning God's law and then applying what is learned**

Read aloud Leviticus 23:4-8 in which God commanded the Israelites to observe the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Ask the students to imagine that they are an Israelite family and want to obey God's law about the Passover. How can they do this? They will have to turn to the Scriptures to see what God wants them to do. Where will they turn? What book is about God's leading His people out of slavery in Egypt? It's the book of Exodus. Turn to Exodus 12:42-50 and 13:3-16. Depending on the students' ages, read some or all of these paragraphs. Have the students stop you when they learn something that shows them how to observe the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. Make brief application to Jesus' being our Passover today (see 1 Corinthians 5:7).

3. **Objective: Illustrate how holidays work**

Either in groups or as a class, design a special holiday for you and your friends. Define the purpose of the day and plan two or three activities that would be required and the reason for each activity. Make application of what God did for Israel in giving special days and feasts. Talk about the Lord's Supper as a special remembrance for Christians. Depending on their age, talk to the student about their behavior during the Lord's Supper and why children do not take the bread and the cup.

4. **Objective: Reinforce students learning Israel's Special Days and Feasts**

For older students, have them complete a worksheet entitled *Special Days and Feasts*, found in *Be Holy! Book 2*, page 12.

5. **Objective: Help students learn how we worship God today**

For younger students, have them complete a worksheet entitled *How Do I Worship God?* found in *Be Holy! Book 1*, page 14.

6. See page 63 for reinforcement questions.

Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night

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