

LifeGroup Meeting

God's Holy Days

Get To Know You Question:

Which Christian Holiday do you celebrate and love the most? Explain.

Let's Dig Deeper

Leviticus 23:1-2

The Feast of Passover (Leviticus 23:4-8)

THEME: To celebrate God for delivering them from bondage out of Egypt.

1. Each family was required to sacrifice a lamb for this holiday. Why?
2. Additionally, each family member had to spend some time alone with the lamb before it was sacrificed. Why did they do this?
3. It says that Jesus entered Jerusalem on the 10th day, which was the day the lambs were to be selected. Why is this so significant?
4. During the Passover meal (seder), there were four cups of wine, representing different aspects of the escape out of Egypt. They were: the cup of sanctification, the cup of plagues, the cup of redemption, and the cup of praise.
 - Someone read **Luke 22:17-18**. Most scholars would say that this was right before the cup of redemption. What is Jesus saying in this passage?
5. At precisely 9am and 3pm, they would have sacrifices at the temple where a lamb was killed. At what time did Jesus die on the cross? (Mark 15:34)
Do you believe God is a God of coincidence? Why or why not?

The Feast of Matzo (Unleavened Bread) (Exodus 12:15-20)

THEME: To celebrate and thank God for giving bread—food, life—out of the earth.

6. During this feast the people would constantly say, "Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth." Someone read **John 6:35**.
 - When you think about the theme of this feast, and the fact that it was on this day that Jesus was placed in the earth, how does this make the time Jesus was in the tomb more impactful to you?

The Feast of First Fruits (Leviticus 23:9-14)

THEME: It was based on a faith promise. Everyone would bring the first fruit of their harvest, regardless if they had anything else, and they would have to put their trust in God to provide the rest.

7. Every year, the people of God were reminded again that God would always provide for them. As a Christian today, why do we find it so difficult to believe that no matter what, God will provide for us?
 - Why do we usually revert back to the notion that it is I, not God, who must provide for myself or my family?
 - Where do you think this lack of trust comes from?

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

THEME: They celebrated two things: 1) they celebrated the end of the spring harvest and 2) they celebrated Moses receiving the Commandments of God.

8. It was on this feast that the Holy Spirit came in power. It is interesting that when Moses came down from the mountain with the commandments of God, people were worshiping a golden calf, and 3000 people died that day, but when the Holy Spirit came, it says that 3000 people gave their lives to Christ.
 - In your own words, explain why that might be significant.
9. When we think of our Christian faith, usually God or Jesus is the predominant thoughts. How does the Holy Spirit play a role in your life? Why is the Holy Spirit so important?

The Feast of Rash Hashanah (Feast of Trumpets) (Leviticus 23:23-25)

THEME: An intense confession because God will soon be on the throne of judgement.

10. During this feast they were required to confess all their sins that they committed to God and man during the course of the last year.
 - How often do we confess our sins? Be honest?
 - As believers in Jesus, all our sins are forgiven, so why is confessing our sins so necessary?

The Feast of Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) (Leviticus 26-32)

THEME: God will atone the sins of the people from the previous year and give us a fresh start.

11. This is called the day of Atonement. Atonement means to cover over. Basically God will cover over the sins and guilt of those who confess and put their trust in him. Someone read **Lamentations 3:22-23**.
 - As a group, go around and share how this passage relates to Atonement.

The Feast of Sukkoth (Feast of Booths) (Leviticus 23:33-36)

THEME: It focuses on the Lordship of God and thanking him for allowing them to enter the promise land. Of all the feasts, this one is meant to be celebrated with exceedingly great joy.

12. During this feast they would have a water drawing ceremony, symbolizing how God is a god who sustains us by giving us life. Someone read **John 7:37-38**.
 - During the last and great day of this feast, Jesus cry's out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink!" What is Jesus saying here in the midst of this feast?
 - Can you imagine the chutzpah you had to have to shout that out in the midst of hundreds of thousands of people, basically claiming to be the sustainer of life! How often do we see Jesus as some mild and meek man? Why is that? Was Jesus mild and meek in this passage?
13. Of all the High Holy Days, which one would you have loved to of witnessed?
14. How will your knowledge of these Holy Days, prepare you to focus on next week as we celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ?
15. Let's pray.