

LESSON 5 **FEAST OF TABERNACLES**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: We Can Worship and Celebrate God

SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 23

GOD'S BIG STORY: The Israelites celebrate God and worship Him by having a festival called the Feast of Tabernacles, which helps them remember how God rescued them from Egypt and provided for them in the desert.

WORD OF WONDER: Worship the LORD with gladness. Come to him with songs of joy. —Psalm 100:2

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Play Stations:
 - Play Food
 - Tent Time
 - Feast of Tabernacles Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity
- Word of Wonder: Psalm 100:2
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Paper Plate Pickup
- LARGE GROUP
- Craft: Paper Plate Praise
- Game: Under the Tent



[Worship with Wonder Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



LESSON 5 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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WONDER TRUTH: We Can Worship and Celebrate God

SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 23

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 100:2

The summer after I graduated high school, I interned for a ministry that took kids who have had difficult experiences on outdoor adventures. I remember a group that came backpacking with us. A bus dropped us off at around 12,000 feet elevation, and we spent three days hiking about 10–15 miles each day. For many of the kids, it was their first experience like this. Each night we'd set up our tents, gather around the fire for dinner, and have conversations about life and Jesus.

It's been decades since that summer, but I still remember how God worked in those kids' lives as they hiked for miles, slept in tents, and accomplished things they'd never thought possible.

Read Leviticus 23:1–2, 33–36, 39–43.

Just as we remember on Christmas and Easter what God has done, the Jewish people were called to remember their time in the wilderness, when they lived in tents after leaving Egypt. God Himself dwelled with them in the tabernacle, a tent that traveled with them until they reached the promised land. Even after they arrived, God wanted them to remember that time yearly.

Can you think of a past time when life looked different, but looking back, you see how God was with you, growing you? How can you celebrate and worship as you remember His presence and goodness?

—David Ruybalid

Worship Leader, Recording Artist, and Discipleship Pastor
Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Moses led God's people out of Egypt and for 40 years in the wilderness. Moses is sometimes called the lawgiver and mediator of God's covenant with Israel because Moses received God's law at Mount Sinai and proclaimed it to the people.

WHAT?

God appointed *festivals* for the people to observe throughout the year. The Feast of Tabernacles took place after the harvest. It was a time to celebrate God's provision and remember how God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness after bringing them out of Egypt.

WHERE?

Leviticus is a written record of what God revealed to Moses at Mount Sinai, which was located on the Sinai peninsula between Egypt to the west and Midian and the Negev to the east. The Feast of Tabernacles was to be celebrated wherever God's people went.

WHEN?

Moses received the law at Mount Sinai shortly after the exodus from Egypt but before the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. The Feast of Tabernacles was to be observed every year and was notably the occasion for the dedication of Solomon's Temple.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Just as God rescued the Israelites from slavery and established them as His people, Jesus rescues us from the power of sin and death, making us part of His kingdom. Like the Israelites, we are invited to worship God and celebrate all He has done.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: We Can Worship and Celebrate God

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WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 100:2

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: toy food; disposable tableware such as bowls, plates, cups; disposable eating utensils; napkins; table; chairs (at least 2); bedsheet or parachute; coloring utensils; tablecloth (optional); unbreakable vase with artificial flowers (optional); magnetic tiles (optional); blocks (optional); bandannas (several, optional)

RESOURCES: [Feast of Tabernacles Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Play Food

Set-up: Set out toy food, disposable tableware, eating utensils, and napkins. You could also set out a tablecloth and a vase with artificial flowers.

Play: Invite the kids to set the table and serve a "feast" to one another.

Play Station: Tent Time

Set-up: Set out at least two chairs and a bedsheet or parachute. You could also use magnetic tiles or blocks and bandannas.

Play: The kids can build a tent with chairs and a bedsheet or parachute. Encourage them to pretend to camp in the tent. For a smaller version, they could use magnetic tiles or blocks and bandannas to make "tents."

Play Station: Feast of Tabernacles Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of their favorite meal.

Curiosity Activity: Build a Booth

SUPPLIES: bedsheet or parachute, chairs (at least 4), green construction paper (1 sheet per every 2 kids), kid-safe scissors

Set out at least four chairs and a bedsheet or parachute. Invite the kids to help you build a fort by putting the sheet or parachute over the chairs. Let the kids help cut sheets of green construction paper in half and give one half sheet to each kid. The kids can lay their green papers on top of the fort.

Have you ever been camping in a tent? If so, what was it like? Allow the kids to share. **Did you know that God's people stayed in tents in the wilderness a long time ago?** The kids can take turns crawling in and out of the tent. Every time they go into the tent, ask them to say one thing God has given them or done for them.

In our story today, we're going to learn about a time when God's people—the Israelites—built tents called tabernacles, or booths, kind of like these to stay in during a festival. A festival is a celebration, like a party, to remember what God has done and worship Him. They used leaves from trees to put on top of their tents, kind of like the green papers we put on top of our tent. God's people stayed in tents and celebrated with a feast to remind them of the ways God took care of them and the good gifts He gave them. Gifts from God are blessings. God has given us good gifts too, and we can also worship and celebrate Him. We'll learn more about it in our story! We'll use our tent again to help us imagine what it was like for the Israelites to celebrate God with the festival.

***Keep your fort set up to use during the God's Big Story time and Game time.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only), cardstock (1 sheet per every 4–8 kids, optional)

RESOURCES: Palm Branch Sheet (1 per every 5-6 kids)

WORD OF WONDER

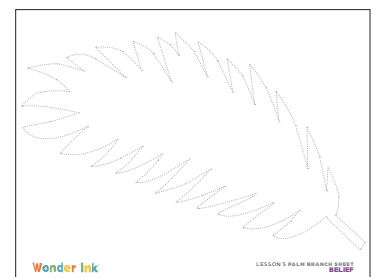
**Worship the LORD with gladness. Come to him
with songs of joy.**

—Psalm 100:2

Ahead of time, print one copy of the Palm Branch Sheet for every 4–8 kids, on cardstock if available. Cut out each branch along the dotted lines.

Gather the kids and arrange them into a line (or several lines if you have a large group). Give the first person in each line a palm branch cutout from the Palm Branch Sheet.

In our story today, we learned that the Israelites made tents or booths and put tree branches on top of them during a festival to celebrate God. We're going to use these palm branches to celebrate God and worship Him as we say our Word of Wonder verse. We'll pass the palm branch down the line from person to person.



Each time someone new gets the branch, your group will say a word from the Word of Wonder. Let's practice it together first. Say the verse with the kids:

“Worship the LORD with gladness. Come to him with songs of joy” Psalm 100:2.

Encourage the kids to pass the palm branch while saying the verse, saying one word each time the branch is passed. To mix it up, you can have them pass it behind their backs, over their heads, or under their legs.

Gather kids back together. **It was so much fun watching you work together to pass your palm branches! This helps us remember the special celebration involving palm branches that God gave the Israelites as a way to remember His faithfulness. Saying and remembering the words of this verse is one way we can remember and celebrate God!**

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **WORSHIP THE LORD**—Put hands over your head in a “praise” motion.
- **WITH GLADNESS**—Smile and point to your mouth.
- **COME TO HIM**—Move one arm toward your body, as if inviting someone to come with you.
- **WITH SONGS OF JOY**—Place open palm in front of your mouth. Move it in circular motions away from your face.
- **PSALM 100:2**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What are some ways we can worship God other than singing?** (If the kids need help, offer suggestions such as: through our words, art, dancing, movement/postures, etc.)
- **What is your favorite worship song? Why is it your favorite? What does it say about God?**

Circle Time: Paper Plate Pickup

SUPPLIES: paper plates (10–15), permanent marker (prep only)

Ahead of time, use a permanent marker to write numbers on the bottom of paper plates, numbering them 1–8 (the rest will remain blank). Spread the plates on the floor, number-side down, and gather the kids to sit in a circle around them.

In our story today, we learned how the Israelites, God’s people, celebrated and remembered the amazing things God had done. How did they celebrate and remember? Allow the kids to respond. **God told them to have a feast! They built tents or booths to stay in for eight days, and they prepared good food. The celebration reminded them of all the ways God provided for them and showed His care and love for them. The plates can remind us of the good food God gives us. Let’s use the plates to help us answer questions about our story. We’ll go around the circle and take turns picking up a plate. Then look at the bottom, and if there’s a number, I’ll ask you the question that goes with that number.** Let the kids take turns picking up a plate and answering the corresponding question.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What was the feast called that we heard about today?** (Feast of Tabernacles, Festival of Booths)
2. **What did God's people stay in during the festival?** (tents, temporary shelters, booths)
3. **What did the palm branches remind God's people of?** (that God gave them lots of food that grew in the land)
4. **Why did God's people have the festival every year?** (to celebrate how God took care of them and gave them good things)
5. **What has God done for you that you want to thank Him for?**
6. **What good food has God given you that you're thankful for?**
7. **How can you remember and celebrate God and all that He has done for you?** (If kids need help, offer suggestions such as praying and telling Him "Thank You," writing or drawing a picture, worshiping or singing, and having a feast or celebration.)
8. **What food would you want to eat at a feast to celebrate and worship God?**

We can thank God for all the great things He has given us and the ways He has been faithful to us too. Let's talk to God now in prayer and thank Him!

PRAYER TIME

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for all He has done for them.

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Craft: Paper Plate Praise

SUPPLIES: paper plates (1 per kid), markers

Give each kid a paper plate and set out markers. **In our story today, we learned about a feast that the Israelites had to remind them of all God did for them. This feast happened right after the Israelites gathered the food that grew in the land. It was a time to worship God and celebrate how much He gives. This festival helped people remember that God gave them the food that grew in the land. All good things come from God! We can remember the good things God has done for us and given us too. Let's draw pictures on our plates of good things God has done for us and given us. It doesn't just have to be food!**

Encourage the kids to use their markers to draw pictures on their plates of the good things God has done for them and given them. If they need help thinking of things, offer suggestions in specific categories, such as: something God has helped them with, something God has taught them, a food God has given them, a person God has put in their lives, an experience that made them happy. When they finish, invite the kids to share what they drew on their plates.



You can take your plates home as a reminder of all God has done for you. God is so good to us. We can worship and celebrate God!

Game: Under the Tent

SUPPLIES: bedsheet or parachute

Invite other leaders to help hold the sides of the parachute or bedsheet. **In today's story, God's people made tents to stay in during a celebration so they could worship and celebrate God. Let's pretend we're in a tent like the Israelites were during the Feast of Tabernacles. We'll raise the "tent," and you will all run under it and say, "We love You, God!"** Practice a few times. You may want the kids to run under the parachute or bedsheet one at a time.

For some extra fun, name categories to invite kids to run under the tent. Here are some ideas:

- wearing red
- has a brother
- likes the color yellow
- likes to play soccer
- likes to ride a scooter or bike
- likes to sing
- has a pet