

Jewish Feasts and Years Story

SUPPLIES NEEDED

You will need the following:

- 8 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")
- 8 3 mil Laminating Film

DIRECTIONS

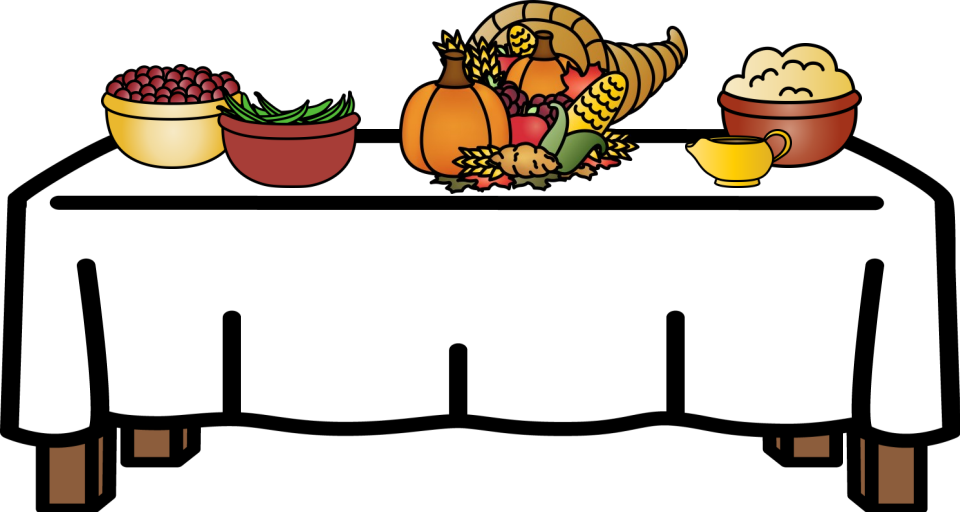
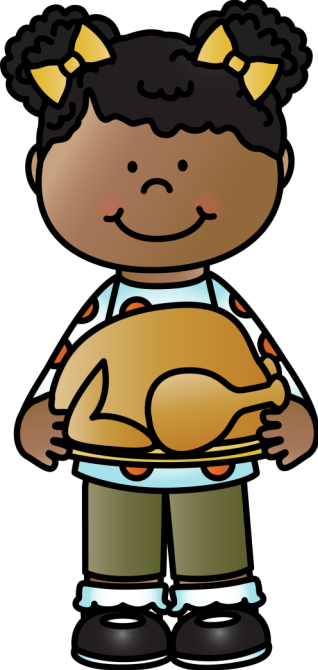
- Print pages 2-17 two-sided on cardstock and laminate the pages.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story to the students.

Graphics: Laura Strickland
<http://www.whimsyclips.com/>

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<http://www.freebibleimages.org/>

Graphics: @Charlotte Braddock 2013
<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Charlottes-Clips-4150>

Special Feasts and Years



We have learned a lot about Leviticus, which is a book of what? (*laws*) for who? (*God's people, the Israelites...or the Levities to teach the Israelites*)

God wanted his people to be different from the nations around them, so He gave them all these laws to follow to be holy, or set apart from the nations around them. God also gave the Israelites instructions for celebrating different feasts and observing some special years. Do you like feasts, like Thanksgiving? (*yes*) What about celebrating the new year? (*yes*) Let's learn about the Jewish feasts and years.

7th Day = Sabbath

Month						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						✓
						✓
						✓
						✓



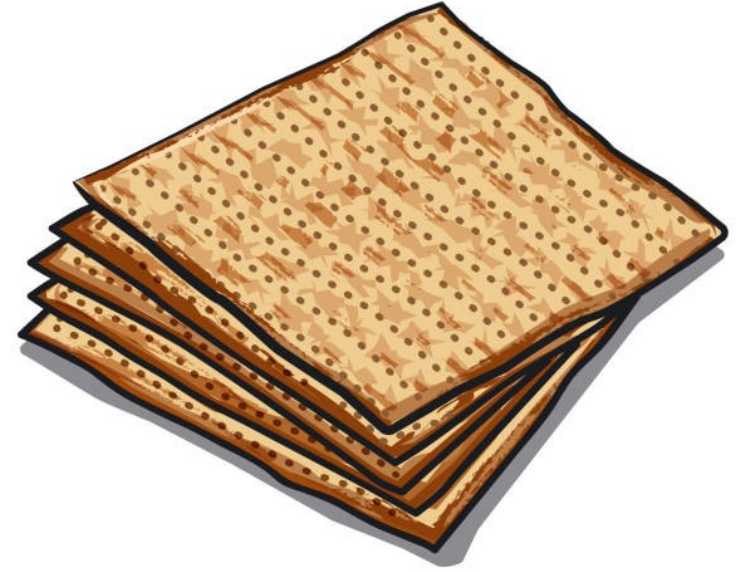
[Read before holding up picture]:

Leviticus chapter 23 lists all the special days and feasts for the Israelites. I bet you already know at least one of them. Can you think of one? Here's a hint on the first one...it's in the Ten Commandments: you shall keep the...*(Sabbath)* *[hold up picture]*

When was the Sabbath? *(Saturday, last day of the week)* What was special about the Sabbath day? *(they were not to do any work, but rest)*

Everyone likes to have a day to relax when you've been working hard.

Passover & Feast of Unleavened Bread



[Read before holding up picture]:

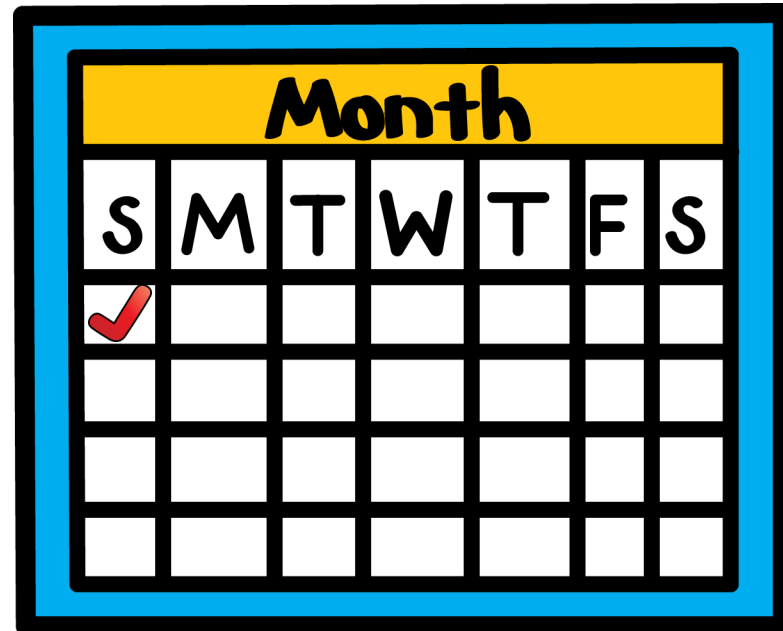
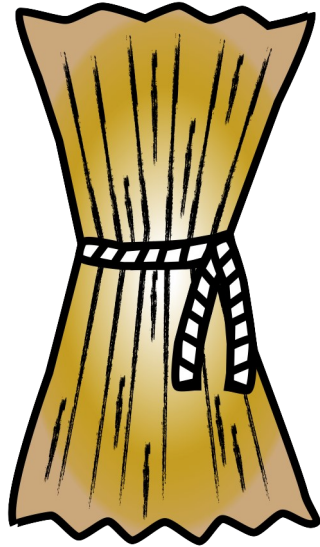
Can you think of another Feast of the Israelites? Here's a hint: the first one was the night they left Egypt. *(Passover) [hold up picture]*

The Bible says, "On the 14th day of the 1st month at twilight is the Lord's Passover." What happened that night? *(the angel of the Lord killed all the Egyptian firstborn sons, but passed over the Israelites because they had put the blood on their doorposts)*

The Bible goes on to say, "And on the 15th day is the Feast of Unleavened Bread. For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread." Do you remember what unleavened bread is? *(It doesn't rise because it doesn't have yeast in it. It's like a cracker, not a loaf of bread)*

You might not have heard of the rest of these feasts so I will just tell you about them.

Firstfruits - Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)



[Read before holding up picture]:

Have you ever planted a tomato plant or a strawberry bush? Then it seems like you have to wait forever for that first little tomato or strawberry to start to grow. And when it finally ripens, you're so excited to eat it yourself, but you decide to let your mom have the first bite. Well that's getting the "first fruits" of something and that's what this next feast is called. *[hold up picture]*

The Bible says, "When you come into the land...and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest...on the day after the Sabbath." Do you know what a sheaf is? *(sheaves are bundles of grain, barley, or wheat)* What would we call the day after the Sabbath? *(Sunday)*

The Israelites were supposed to bring the first of their barley harvest to offer to the Lord. That was called the Feast of Firstfruits. Then 50 days later, they were to offer another grain offering to the Lord, but this one would be from the later harvest of wheat. They were also to do a burnt offering, sin offering and peace offering at that time. This second offering was called the Feast of Weeks. It is also called the Pentecost in the NT.

Why would God want them to have these festivals during their harvest times? *(It's a reminder that God has given them this land and they should give thanks to God for blessing them.)* How can we give our firstfruits to God? *(We should always remember to thank God for what He has blessed us with and when we give our contribution, we should make sure we're setting aside money for God first before we spend our money on extra things. God doesn't deserve whatever is "leftover" from our earnings.)*

Trumpets - Atonement - Booths

7 th Month							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1							
		10					
15	→						



The next three festivals are all in the same month, the 7th Month. This would have been in the fall (like Sept-Oct).

The Bible says, “On the first day of the seventh month, you shall have a Sabbath rest, a memorial of blowing trumpets.” That’s why that day is called the Feast of Trumpets.

Then the 10th day of the 7th month shall be the Day of Atonement. They were not to work, but to humble themselves. This was the only day of the year that the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies in order to make atonement for all the sins of the Israelites. Do you remember what we said atonement means? *(to do something to make up for a wrong that you’ve done; to purify yourself from sin)*

Also, on the 15th day, the Feast of Booths began. It can also be called the Feast of Tabernacles. God commanded the Israelites to celebrate the Feast of Booths by building huts out of tree branches and living in them for a week. Does that sound like fun to you? *(yes/no)* This festival was to remind the Israelites of the time they spent homeless wandering in the wilderness and that God took care of them and provided for them for how many years? *(40 in the wilderness)*

The Sabbath Year: Every 7th Year



The next two things we're going to talk about are special years. The first one is a Sabbath Year. God told Moses in Leviticus 25:3, "Six years you shall sow your fields and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather its fruit; but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath rest for the land...You shall neither sow your fields nor prune your vineyard." The people were allowed to eat whatever the land produced on its own, but they were not allowed to sow, prune or harvest the land.

Deut. 15:1 also tells us that they were to forgive any debts owed every 7th year. So, if you owed your neighbor money, you wouldn't have to pay them back. It was cancelled during the Sabbath Year.

The Jubilee Year: Every 50th Year



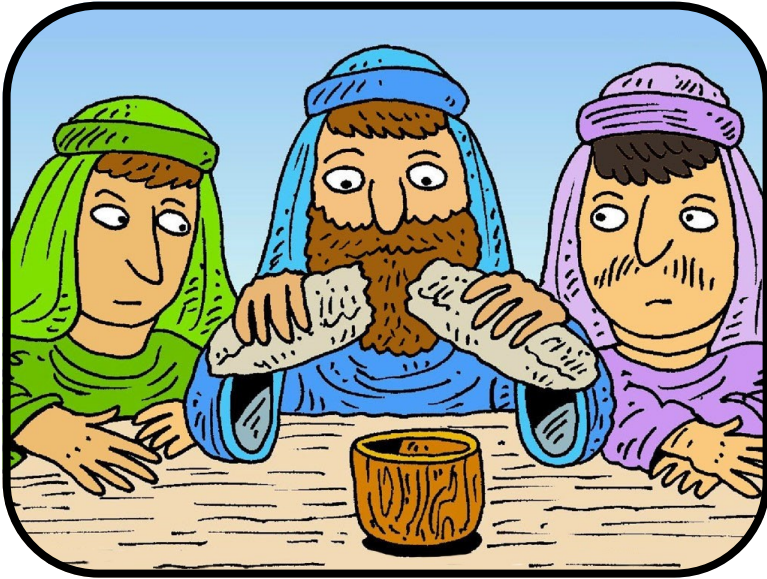
Do you know what the word Jubilee means? (*celebration*) God told the Israelites that every 50th year would be a Year of Jubilee. There were a few things that would happen in that year:

First, they were not allowed to sow, reap or gather. Just like in the Sabbath Year, they were to let the land rest. That would make two years in a row of letting the land rest, because the 49th year (7 x 7) would be a Sabbath year and then the 50th year would be a Jubilee year. Are you wondering what they were to eat if they couldn't plow their fields for two years? (*answers may vary*) Well, God says in Lev 25:21, "I will command My blessings on you in the sixth year [48th year], and [the land] will bring forth produce enough for three years." God wasn't going to let His people starve. He would make sure that they had an abundance of food in the 48th year so that they would have enough to store up and eat during the 49th year (Sabbath year) and the 50th year (Jubilee year) and the beginning of the 51st year while they waited for the crops to start producing again.

Also, everyone was to return to their family and their property. This would include servants. If an Israelite had become so poor that they had to sell their land and work as a servant, in the year of Jubilee, they would be free to leave and they would get the land of their fathers back.

It's like everyone would get a fresh start every 50 years.

The Lord's Supper



[Read before holding up picture]:

All these feasts and festivals were under the Old Testament law. We are under the New Testament law now. Has God given us any feasts to remember in the New Testament? Hint: it involves eating unleavened bread like the Passover.

[hold up picture]

The Lord's Supper is correct! When are Christians to partake the Lord's Supper?

(Sunday, 1st day of the week)

What does the Bible say we are to eat and drink? *(unleavened bread and fruit of the vine)*

Why are we to partake of the Lord's Supper? *(To remind us of Jesus dying on the cross for our sins)*