

**Series:** “Law and Order”

**Date:** June 19, 2016

**Lesson:** FeastFest

**Text:** Leviticus 23

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### **Lead Teacher Welcome (for 5 mins at 9:15 & 11:15)**

Lead Teachers, as all the students and leaders come into the room, please welcome them with the music continuing behind you.

As they are coming in, give them a couple of really brief announcement reminders like:

- Don't forget about Summer Camp coming up August 1 - 5. If you're going to camp, make some noise!
- This coming Wednesday, we're going to have GAME NIGHT! Don't miss that.
- This morning, we'll be talking about Food, Feasts, and Parties. You're going to love it.

For now, enjoy your connecting with your group (see what we did there)? You're Connect Group Leader (students, give them a high five), has some important questions for y'all to hang out and catch up. Go!

### **Connect Group Introductions (10 min at 9:20 & 11:20)**

- **Welcome** and personally speak to **every** student, **especially** first-time guests.
- Discussion starter questions you could use:
  - 1) What are your plans for the **summer**? Anything you're excited about?
  - 2) Who are you rooting for in the **NBA Finals**? Warriors, or Cavaliers?
- Ask them if there was anything that was cool that happened this past week, and tell them of anything interesting that has been going on in your life lately.
- **Go over the Newsletter** and **Daily Devos** on your table with your students.
- **Pray** to begin the morning together.

### **Lead Teacher Introduction (10 min at 9:30 & 11:30)**

**Story:** Lead Teacher, think of a personal story about your favorite meal ever. What was the biggest feast, the biggest buffet, or the most you've ever eaten? Is there any kind of food you've never had on a buffet that you would love to have all you can eat? Tell the students a great story about eating and feasting!

**Here are a couple of stories from me personally that might help:**

I remember going to a buffet in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta at an Evander Holyfield fight. The buffet was so good, we ate their for an hour, stuffing ourselves. We got the bill

for \$30. We were 18 years old. This was a ton of money. We gave them the bill back, and kept eating!

I've been to a wedding before where they catered all you can eat Outback Steaks!

One of my favorite buffets ever was at a Mexican restaurant where white cheese dip was on the buffet - all you can eat!

**Explanation of these stories in relation to Food, Feasts, and Festivals:** God gave all humans something in common as we all love to feast on food. Today, we're going to study together through a passage where God commanded His people to feast together. That might sound like a weird command to us. No one has to COMMAND us to feast! The reason God commanded it was first of all because of His goodness. God wants His people to feast, to have a great time, and to party. But also, back then food was very scarce. Famines were more common. People were afraid to feast one day because they may not have food for the next day. God's command for them to feast was teaching them to trust Him that He would provide for them. God created food for us to enjoy. God did not create food for our gluttony but for His glory. Today, you're going to learn about different feasts that God commanded His people to eat every year as a reminder of His goodness and of their future.

**Transition into Lesson:** As we talk about this, open your Bibles to Leviticus 23, and get into conversations with one another from these discussion questions. Remember, our Sunday Connect Groups are not about teachers lecturing, students just listening, or a time of question and answer. Instead, our goal is teachers asking questions and students to engage in conversations and discussions. So students, feel the freedom to speak up, answer, ask more questions, as we want everyone to be a part of the discussion.

## **Connect Group Discussion #1 (30 mins at 9:40 & 11:40)**

**Connect Group Leader Note:** The purpose of this section is to study the Feasts of the Old Testament, to see their fulfillment in Jesus, and to glorify God in the way we eat and party!

***Please study this lesson, internalize it, pray through it, and own it so that you don't have to just read the answers or the teaching points from this curriculum. I realize you will need to read the questions of course, but the more the students hear the answers and the teaching points from your heart, the more they will want to memorize it as well and let it sink deeply into their hearts!***

***We are well aware you will not be able to get to or through every single question in the curriculum. Please do not even try! We put more questions than you need into the curriculum because we know that some questions will connect with some***

**groups better than others. Please prayerfully study which questions to facilitate your Connect Group through.**

- What is your favorite food in the world?
- What is the best buffet you've ever been to?
- Which holiday has the best food?
- What is the best party you've ever been to?
- What have you learned most about Leviticus so far?
- What has surprised you about Leviticus the most?
- What has been your favorite part about Leviticus?

**Read Leviticus 23:1-3. Please remember that there are more feasts than the specific ones that we'll study, but we want to center in on just a few.**

- **(23:1) Why do you think God commanded His people to feast when no one has to tell us to feast? How might their food situation be different than ours? Describe what their food situation may have been like and describe how ours is different.**

God had to command them to feast because food during that day was scarce. Famines were common. Rationing and storing food was important for the life and future of every nation. God's command to feast seemed risky to them, but He was encouraging them to trust Him and His provision.

- **What do you think God meant by "holy convocations" and "appointed feasts" (23:2)?**

"Holy convocation" meant a set-aside time for the people to come together to worship God. "Appointed feasts" meant God had appointed certain feasts for certain times to communicate different truths.

**FEAST #1: PASSOVER. Read Leviticus 23:4-8 (You may also supplement Exodus 12:2-20).**

- **What did the Passover Feast look like for the Old Testament people of God? *Get into groups of 2-3 students each, read these passages, and write down your group's description of this feast.***
- **What was the Passover Feast pointing the people back to remember and pointing them ahead to hope in?**

This feast was designed by God to help them remember His gracious deliverance from slavery in Egypt and ultimately Jesus' death for deliverance from the slavery of sin.

- **Have one student read 1 Corinthians 5:7 and another read John 19:14. How amazing is it that the Passover Feast not only pointed forward to Jesus, but Jesus actually died during the Passover Feast?**
- **How many connections between the Passover Feast and Jesus' Death can you come up with that helps us understand Jesus' death actually fulfilled the Passover Feast (which is why we don't still observe it today)?**

There are many answers appropriate here. But ultimately, because of the blood of Jesus shed for us, we will not experience the second death and hell, but eternal life and heaven. Jesus' died in our place for our sins as our Passover Lamb during the Passover Feast!

**FEAST #2: FIRST FRUITS. Read Leviticus 23:9-14 (You may also supplement Exodus 23:15, 34:18-20).**

- **What did the Passover Feast look like for the Old Testament people of God? *Get back into your groups of 2-3 students each, read these passages, and write down your groups description of this feast.***
- **What was the Feast of First Fruits designed to help the Israelites remember?**

This Feast was to remind the people to remember that God will provide food for them this coming year.

- **Have one student look up and read 1 Corinthians 15:20. Did you know that the first fruits not only pointed forward to Jesus, but that Jesus also raised from the dead on the Feast of First Fruits?**
- **What does it mean that Jesus is the "first fruits" of the resurrection from the dead? Because Jesus rose from the dead, what do we have to look forward to if we have Him as the Lord of our life? How does our belief in our personal resurrection after death change the way we live our lives today?**

Jesus is the first to rise from the dead, never to die again. Resurrection is for eternity. Because Jesus rose from the dead, if we are in Him, then so will we. If we believe this, then we won't live our life for this life, but the next.

**FEAST #3: FEAST OF WEEKS / Pentecost. Read Leviticus 23:15-22 (You may also supplement Exodus 23:16, 34:22).**

- **What did the Feast of Weeks / Pentecost look like for the Old Testament people of God? *Get back into your groups of 2-3 students each, read these passages, and write down your groups description of this feast.***
- **What was the Feast of Weeks / Pentecost designed to produce in the Israelites?**

Simply, the Feast of Weeks / Pentecost was designed to show the people God's provision and provided a way for them to thank Him.

- **Have one student look up Acts 2:1-4. Did you know that the Feast of Weeks / Pentecost not only pointed forward to this event, but it was actually fulfilled during this event?**
- **How many connections can you make between God providing them with physical nourishment in the Feast of Weeks / Pentecost and God providing them with spiritual nourishment by the Holy Spirit in Acts 2?**

**FEAST #4: FEAST OF TRUMPETS. Read Leviticus 23:23-25 (You may also supplement Numbers 29:1-6).**

- **What did the Feast of Trumpets look like for the Old Testament people of God? *Get back into your groups of 2-3 students each, read these passages, and write down your groups description of this feast.***
- **What was the Feast of Trumpets designed to produce in the lives of the Israelites? What was the purpose of the Feast?**

The Feast of Trumpets was ultimately meant to show the Israelites how God provided for them all Harvest season.

- **Have one student look up 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and another look up 1 Corinthians 15:52.**
- **How does Jesus' second coming fulfill the Feast of Trumpets? What connections do we see between the two?**

Jesus' second coming signal the end of mortal life and the beginning of eternal life just like the Feast of Trumpets would signal the end of the harvest season.

**FEAST #5: FEAST OF BOOTHS. Read Leviticus 23:33-44 (You may also supplement Numbers 29:12-39 and Deuteronomy 16:13).**

- **What did the Feast of Booths look like for the Old Testament people of God? *Get back into your groups of 2-3 students each, read these passages, and write down your groups description of this feast.***
- **What was the Feast of Booths designed to produce in the lives of the Israelites? What was the purpose of the Feast?**

The Feast of Booths reminded the people of Israel of the times that they lived in shabby huts while they were in Egypt.

- **Have one student look up Revelation 21:1-6.**
- **How does the 2nd Coming of Jesus fulfill the Feast of Booths? How many connections can you draw between the Feast and its Fulfillment?**

The Feast of Booths is also called the Feast of Tabernacles. The Old Testament Tabernacle was where God dwelled with His people. In John 1:14, John said that Jesus dwelled (literally Tabernacled) among us. Jesus' second coming is both the fulfillment of the Feast of Booths / Tabernacles and His First Coming, as well.

#### **LEADER NOTE**

**This next section points us to the ultimate fulfillment (Gospel) of Jesus when it comes to FEASTS. Please leave enough time for this section and the next on Personal Application.**

**Have the students look up and read Zephaniah 3:17.**

Teaching Point: this is a Scripture about what's called "The Marriage Supper of the Lamb" from Revelation 19. This is the FEAST OF FEASTS. This is the Feast and ultimately all Feasts and pointing toward. Look at all that our Lord, Jesus, is going to do at this Feast which will kick-start eternity forever.

- **What does it mean that Jesus will "rejoice over us with gladness?" Describe what this experience might sound like, look like, feel like.**
- **What does it mean that Jesus will "quiet you by His love?" Describe what this experience might sound like, look like, feel like.**
- **What does it mean that Jesus will "exult over you with loud singing?" Describe what this experience might sound like, look like, feel like.**

**Have the student look up and read 1 Corinthians 10:31.**

Teaching Point: This means that there is a way to glorify God with eating and drinking, and there is a way to sin against God with eating and drinking.

- **What are ways of eating and drinking today would be sin against God?**  
Eating disorders, sinful partying, drunkenness, gluttony, etc.
- **What are ways of eating and drinking today that would glorify God?**  
Eating with your family, fellowshiping with other believers, thanking God for providing the meal, The Lord's Supper with the church to remember Jesus' death and resurrection, fellowshiping with your Connect Group, treating an unbelieving friend to a meal to share the Gospel with them.

### **Closing by Lead Teacher (5 min at 10:10 & 12:10)**

God commanded and appointed His people to feast together at certain times throughout the year to remind them of His love, provision, blessing, salvation, and coming.

The reason we don't still eat of those same feasts today is because Jesus Himself has fulfilled them with His death (Passover), resurrection (First Fruits), sending the Holy Spirit (Pentecost), 2nd Coming (Trumpets), dwelling with us forever (Booths).

Because Jesus fulfilled them, we need to continue to both eat and feast together in ways that glorify God! We need to eat together and fellowship by talking about Jesus and our lives for Him. We need to be eating together as families to grow in Jesus together. We need to be eating together with unbelievers to share the Gospel with them.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT REMINDERS**

- This Wednesday, don't forget to bring a first timer this Wednesday for a chance to win **THE IMPOSSIBLE SHOT**.
- **CAMP**: All this month camp price is \$325. Register with your \$100 deposit to reserve your spot and this pricing.
- **GAME NIGHT THIS WEDNESDAY!** Our doors open at 3:30pm, service at 6:15pm, and we'll close at 9:00pm.
- You are not dismissed until your Connect Group Leader dismisses you.