

date: **4/2/17**

REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

Feast of Trumpets: Remembering and Celebrating God's Faithfulness

Inspire

Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives

God is faithful. He teaches me this lesson just about every day. One day my wife's car breaks down, and the next week she receives a new one. Another time, our washing machine breaks, and that weekend someone gives us a new one. We're short on money one month, and that exact amount shows up in the mail. That kind of thing happens all the time. Our faith community surrounds us, and God uses them in miraculous ways.

But, one time, our trust in God's faithfulness was pushed to the limit. Our five-week-old son wasn't gaining weight. Though he would eat, the food wouldn't stay down. After several weeks, my wife took him to the doctor. I expected to hear that this was normal and would pass. But instead I got a call to rush to the hospital because they were taking my child into emergency surgery. That was when the true test—whether or not I actually believed in God's faithfulness—hit home.

When I got to the hospital and held my son's tiny body in my arms, I couldn't imagine a surgeon cutting into him. I knew that God never promised freedom from sickness or disease, but this was my baby! I prayed and spread the word. Folks all over the country were praying within a matter of minutes. My son came through the surgery just fine. The experience stretched our faith, but God sustained us. I'm so thankful for how God grows our faith—and that He's faithful.

Jeff Carter

Director of HaDavar Ministries, Irvine, Calif.

Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage

Feast of Trumpets: A Feast Celebrating God's Faithfulness

This feast is the first of the fall feasts. Jewish people today call this feast Rosh Hashanah, which literally means "head of the year," as it's observed as the start of the civil year on the Jewish calendar (in contrast with the religious year, which starts with Passover). This celebration focused on the faithfulness of God. It consisted of a time of rest, "an offering made by fire," and the blowing of the trumpets. The Feast of Trumpets would occur at the new moon when only the

slightest crescent would be visible. Watchfulness was a critical ingredient of the feast. This need for watchfulness and preparedness with the Feast of Trumpets is echoed throughout the New Testament in connection with the Lord's second coming.

Support

Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word

What are your stories of God's faithfulness? How has God used the faith community to rally around you in times of need? How has God orchestrated events so that the right help came just when you needed it? When did that much-needed listening ear, exact amount of money, or perfectly-timed event arrive at exactly the right time, in ways you knew could only come from God's faithful hand? Think back on your life and remember these stories. Write them down. Tell them to a trusted family member or friend.

Whether we're in times of trial or rejoicing, the stories of God's faithfulness remind us of the ways God has shown Himself to be real. He is our strength, the hope of our life, and the One who loves us. As you remember God's faithfulness in your life, praise Him for His love. Praise Him for His mercies that are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22–23).

EXPLORE::: 15 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's biblical feast or festival as well as what they've learned about God in the past several weeks.

Station FreePlay

Chloe's Rules

SUPPLIES

- [Chloe's Rules](#)

Remember and Play


Host/Storyteller

Remember Boxes

Today as you lead this time of remembering and celebrating God, you'll be using numbered boxes to remember back to previous lessons and facilitate the festivities.

SUPPLIES

- [Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect \(see Resources\)](#)

- Remember Box Numbers template (see Resources)
- Items for boxes (see images in Resources): #1 Fire; #2 Lion; #3 Pair of Running Shoes; #4 Crown; #5 snack items for Chat & Chew
- Colorful boxes (5; may vary in size; large enough to hold items listed above)
- Chat & Chew snack items 
- Resealable bags (1 per child)
- Paper towels (1 per child)
- Upbeat worship song (suggestion: “Celebrate,” TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)

PREPARE AHEAD

Print the Remember Box Numbers template and the images for each What’s/It, unless you prefer to use actual objects to recall the What’s/Its. (Files suitable for projecting the images have also been provided.) Place the numbers on the front of each box and the items inside the corresponding Remember Box. Create snack packs by placing the Chat & Chew snack items in resealable bags, enough for each child in every small group, along with paper towels. Place the Chat & Chew snack packs in box #5 to be used later. Optional: Place the Remember Boxes inside the Wardrobe of Wonder.

Remember Boxes Storytelling

Consider having child volunteers help you reveal the item in each box. Choose a different child for each box and include him in the reveal and discussion. If you’d like, you may refer to the Tru Clue as you’re discussing the Remember Box. Typically the Tru Clue and box item are identical, and each will prompt the children to recall a part of The Big God Story. Use them to lead the children to the Ponder Point and what this helps us remember about God.

RELATE

Look what I found waiting for us. Refer to the five boxes on the stage or *cue Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect* to indicate to the Host and Worship Leader that there’s something inside the Wardrobe of Wonder. **These are Remember Boxes. Each box has something special inside that can help us remember even more about God! After we remember, what do we do together?** Wait for children. **We celebrate! That’s right! Let’s take a look inside our first box and remember.**

Box #1: Fire (Fiery Furnace). **Friends, what part of The Big God Story had a hot, crackling fire?** Children answer. **Good remembering. When King Nebuchadnezzar demanded all the people bow down and worship a giant statue, why wouldn’t Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worship the idol?** Children answer. **They only worshipped the one true God, that’s right. When the king threw the young men in the fiery furnace, did they get burned? No! God protected them. God protects us too, sometimes in ways we don’t even see or know. What does this part of The Big God Story tell us about God? God protects.**

Box #2: Lion (Daniel). Hold up lion. **What does the lion remind us about God and His big story?** Children respond. **Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den for praying to God and no one else. How did God show Daniel that He is the living God?** Children respond. **God protected Daniel from the people who wanted to hurt him, and from the hungry lions. God is more powerful than anyone or anything. There’s no one like Him. God is the one true living God.**

Box #3: Pair of Running Shoes (Jonah). **Hmmm. Running shoes. Who remembers what these tell us from The Big God Story?** Pause for answers. **Jonah tried to run from God, didn’t he? God had a message for Jonah to take to some people, but Jonah tried to run the other way. The sailors, Jonah, and the people of Nineveh—how did God save each of them?** Children answer. **God saved the sailors from the storm. God saved Jonah from drowning by sending a fish. God saved the people of Nineveh from their sin when they turned from their behavior and began to live differently. What can the running shoes remind us about God? Kids respond. Instead of trying to run from God, if we turn to Him, God will always love us and save us. God saves!**

Box #4: Crown (Esther). **What does this crown remind us of from The Big God Story?** Children respond. **Haman had an evil plan to kill God's people. But God worked through Esther and her cousin Mordecai to save His people from being destroyed. What does this part of The Big God Story tell us about God? Yes, God saves! He will save us too if we call to Him.**

Questions

1. The Bible says that God is faithful to us. What are some ways that God has been faithful to you?
2. Who made the way for us to be with God forever?
3. How would you like to thank God today?
4. Would someone like to say our Remember Verse for us? What do you like about this verse? What have you learned about God from this verse?

BLESS:: 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

RELATE

Today, leaders, parents, and children will have the opportunity to take what they have been given to be a blessing to others. Gather in a circle and give instructions for blessing the person on your left.

Before we leave, we're going to take a moment to give a blessing to the person sitting next to us. When we bless someone, we tell her something that's true about God and the special person God has made her to be. Today, when it's our turn to bless our neighbor, we'll turn to her and say, "May you remember God's love and faithfulness to you." Let's say that together. Repeat this a couple times with children. You can have them touch the shoulder of the child on their left if they'd like.

Begin the time of blessing by leading by example. **I'll go first.** Turn to the child on your left and say, "(Child's name), **may you remember God's love and faithfulness to you.**" Encourage the child you just blessed to turn and bless the person on his left.

Once every child has been blessed, invite parents and leaders to stand behind them for this final blessing. Encourage them to place a hand on their child's shoulder.

Children, may you see how much God loves and cares for you as He continues to show you His faithfulness.