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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 gets 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. The Jewish people 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 way 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).

SMALL GROUP SECTION

EXPLORE// 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day’s biblical feast or festival.

Remember the Objects

Today children will celebrate and remember what God did for His people long ago and what He is doing for His children even today! Invite kids to play this game as they remember the marvelous events in The Big God Story that they have heard in the past few weeks.

SUPPLIES

- Bottle of water (any size)
- Stones (any size, at least 2)
- Woven beach mat or placemat
- Piece of linen (any size)
- Horn, kazoo, or trumpet
- Tub or basket (to hold objects)

RELATE

God established feasts and festivals as days set apart for His people to remember His faithfulness. During the Feast of Trumpets, also called Rosh Hashanah, the people of Israel would gather, rest from

their work, present offerings to the Lord, and blow trumpets. Blowing trumpets signaled the beginning of 10 days of repentance, during which everyone in Israel would prepare for the Day of Atonement, a festival that called the Israelites to repent of their sins.

The Feast of Trumpets took place in the fall and celebrated the beginning of Israel's new year. Like the other feasts, the Feast of Trumpets gave the people time to remember what God had done for them and to refocus on obeying and loving *Yahweh*, who had been so faithful to them.

Let's see if we can remember what we heard in The Big God Story during the past several weeks.

Bring out each item one at a time (except for the horn, kazoo, or trumpet), and invite children to guess what Bible passage each object represents. Then briefly recap what happened in that passage.

Bottle of water: 3.1, God Is Faithful (John the Baptist)

Stones: 3.2, God Leads (Temptation in the Wilderness)

Woven beach mat or placemat: 3.3, God Forgives (Healing of the Paralyzed Man)

Piece of linen: 3.4, God Is Help (Healing of the Leper, Jairus's Daughter, Sick Woman)

Once each item has been identified and that portion of The Big God Story has been briefly recapped, place two or three objects on the table. Give kids 10 seconds to memorize the objects and their order, and then have them turn away and recall the items and the Bible passages they represent. When the kids guess all items correctly, surprise them and celebrate by sounding the horn, trumpet, or kazoo. Repeat five or six times using different combinations of items. At the end of each successful round, sound the horn again.

LARGE GROUP

SECTION

REMEMBER// 30 min.

Host/ Worship Leader/Storyteller

Through a sequence of traditions and play, children are given the opportunity to pause and remember who God is.

Traditions and Remember Verse

SUPPLIES

- [Remember Verse image](#) (see Resources)
- [Remember Verse animation](#) (see Resources)
- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gumballs, etc.)

RELATE

After everyone gathers as a large group, open with Traditions. During Traditions, you're helping the children work toward a common goal and giving them mementos to celebrate accomplishments such as memorizing the Remember Verse, inviting friends to church, or bringing their Bibles. Once children receive their mementos, have them put the objects in the designated container. Once kids fill the container, hold a celebration.

If your kids fill a clear container or build a structure as part of a Tradition, give out simple foods (e.g., pretzels

or animal crackers) if you eat together on Remember & Celebrate weekends. Save the more extensive party for when they complete their goal.

Recall the Remember Verse from the previous weeks.

REMEMBER VERSE

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

Remember and Play

SUPPLIES

- Images: [ZONK! Questions](#), [ZONK! Answers](#) (see Resources)

Note: See the How It Works document for more information.

ZONK!

Questions and Answers

1) What did John the Baptist want people to do?

- Repent
- Get everything they want
- Take care of people
- Say please and thank you

ANSWER: A. John the Baptist called people to repent, or turn away from sin.

2) True or False: God used John the Baptist to help prepare people's hearts to receive His Son, Jesus.

ANSWER: True

3) Why did Jesus go into the wilderness for 40 days and nights?

- Because He was bored
- Because He thought it sounded fun
- Because the Spirit led Him there
- Because He thought He'd make friends

ANSWER: C. The Bible says, "Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1).

4) How did Jesus resist the temptations of Satan in the wilderness?

- He quoted Scripture
- He fought the devil with a big sword
- He asked the devil to go away
- He chased the devil away

ANSWER: A. Each time Satan tempted Him, Jesus responded by quoting Scripture.

5) True or False: Jesus healed the paralyzed man's body first and then forgave his sins.

ANSWER: False. Jesus forgave the man's sins first.

- 6) How did the paralyzed man get to Jesus?
- He yelled for Jesus to come over and heal him
 - A stranger helped him
 - His friends brought him to Jesus
 - He flew

ANSWER: C. The man's friends dug a hole in the roof of the house where Jesus was teaching and lowered their friend down.

- 7) When the man with leprosy begged Jesus to heal him, what did Jesus do?
- Told him to go away
 - Said the word and the man was healed
 - Told him to go wash in the Jordan River
 - Reached out His hand and touched him

ANSWER: D. Even though people with leprosy were considered unclean, Jesus showed compassion to the man, touched him, and healed him.

- 8) Jesus told the woman who had been sick for 12 years that her _____ had healed her.

ANSWER: Faith. The woman reached out her hand and touched the hem of Jesus' robe because she had faith that Jesus had the power to heal her.

- 9) When the men came to Jairus and told him his daughter was dead, what did Jesus say?
- "I can raise the dead"
 - "Don't be afraid; just believe"
 - "Guess I'm too late"
 - "Get me some water"

ANSWER: B

- 10) True or False: When we call out to God for help, He responds to us.

ANSWER: True. God is help. He will always respond to us because He loves us.

SMALL GROUP

SECTION

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.

SUPPLIES

- Bible

RELATE

As you bless your kids, tell them they have the opportunity to also be a blessing to others. Encourage them to freely share the joy and love they have received from God.

Spend time praying over the kids in your small group, and think of a short blessing for each child. A blessing

can be a phrase such as, “I pray you have peace,” “I pray God blesses you at home, at school, etc., this week,” or “I pray God gives you joy.”

Have the kids hold their hands in front of them, palms up, as you pray the blessing from Psalm 100:4–5:

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

End with the following blessing over your entire group:

May you trust in God whose faithfulness is bigger than we can ever imagine. He loves you, hears you, and rejoices in you. May you remember His faithfulness this week.