

date: 7/9/17

# REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

## Remembering and Celebrating God's Abundant Blessings

### Equip

*Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

#### **Feast of Tabernacles: A Feast Celebrating God's Abundant Blessings**

God's people celebrated this festival with thanksgiving to remember God's many blessings. For seven days they lived in tents or temporary shelters they decorated with colorful ornaments. The New Testament significance of this feast reminds us that this life is temporary, and that all of our lifelong dreams, hopes, and aspirations will one day be fulfilled in our future home and inheritance with Jesus.

### Support

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

When we take time to remember and celebrate, we can become overwhelmed by thankfulness for the many blessings we've received—blessings we take for granted and may not even have noticed. We realize that even though we may be thankful for these blessings, we may not have praised God for them yet! God is the giver of every good gift, including the greatest gift: relationship with Him.

Take a moment and look around you. If you're inside, thank God that you have a roof over your head. If you're outside, thank God for the sun, the mountains, or the sea. Notice the small things and ask God to remind you of the important things. Take time to thank God for these blessings—small and large. Praise Him for the blessing of His presence in your life.

## 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.*

## Tru Clues!

Tru Clues is a fun and interactive game where children will engage in a scavenger hunt. They'll look for clues and answer basic questions to help them prepare for more remembrance and celebration with their faith community.

### SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Tru Clues notepad cover (see Resources)
- Tru Clues images: Wind, Telephone, Two Coins, Something Is Missing, Family Tree (see Resources)
- Tru Clues envelope art (see Resources)
- Leader Discussion clue card (see Resources)
- Notepads (1 per child)
- Crayons
- Envelopes (5)
- Glue sticks (1 per child) or glue dots (strips of 5 per child)
- Painter's tape
- Optional: paper, scissors, fasteners (brads, tape, lace, or staples), laminator

### PREPARE AHEAD

To create notepads, consider using five three- by five-inch pieces of paper and binding the pages together. Print the Leader Discussion clue card and one Tru Clues notepad cover per child and glue the covers onto the notepads. Note: Print envelope art directly onto envelopes, or attach to outside of an envelope. Consider laminating the envelopes and cutting openings to make them durable and reusable. Print enough Tru Clues images to have one per child, and put all of each Tru Clues image in its corresponding envelope (so all the Wind images are in one envelope and so on).

### SET UP

Place Tru Clues envelopes (filled with the "mystery" pictures) around the room in various spots, using the painter's tape to secure them in place. Gather all the notepads you've put together, along with glue dots (or glue sticks) and crayons. Have them ready to hand out as you start your scavenger hunt.

Fours through fives will need one notepad and one strip of glue dots or glue stick per child. Kindergarteners will need one notepad and one crayon per child.

### RELATE

Invite children to join you. Everyone will line up to head out on a scavenger hunt for clues. Give each child a notepad and a glue stick or crayon. Tell kids that each piece of paper in the notepad is for them to draw a picture of the clue, or to attach the clue to, as they're found. Children will use each picture to answer the questions.

Begin the scavenger hunt around the classroom, looking for the clues together as you go. When you see a clue, stop as a group. Have a child volunteer retrieve the clue envelope and look inside; then have a volunteer hold it up for everyone to see. Depending on the age of your group, give kids a minute or so to attach the picture of the clue or draw a picture of the item in their notepad. Hold the clue up for children to copy as they draw, and then return it to its place.

Repeat until all five clues have been found and drawn or attached. For younger children, you may want to find all the clues at once and then return to tables to discuss them and put them in the notepads. Gather all the children together and sit in a circle to investigate the clues.

### ASK

As you pull out each clue, have children refer to their notepads. Then ask the corresponding questions.

- Wind: **In what part of The Big God Story did we hear wind? Yes, it was when the disciples were on the boat and Jesus was walking on water. How did the disciples react when they saw Jesus walking on water? What happened next?**
- Telephone: **This is fun. What is this? How do we use it? What do you think the telephone can help us remember about God?**
- Two Coins: **Do you remember why we had two coins in the Wardrobe of Wonder? What do they help us remember about God?** Encourage kids to share their thoughts. **God is generous—that's right!**
- Something Is Missing (for Lost Sheep, Coin, and Son): **Something was missing from our wardrobe ... do you remember? How did we find the items? Children answer. Why did we find a sheep, a coin, and a son? What do they help us remember?** Dialogue with kids about the parables. **God wants everyone to be part of His family.**
- Family Tree: **Do you remember what this is? Kids answer. It's a family tree, that's right. Are you part of a family? Who are you in your family? Do you remember what this family tree helps us remember about God?**

Ask children: **I wonder, where have we seen all these things before?** Children will answer. **They were all What'sIts from the Wardrobe of Wonder. They can remind us to celebrate all the good things God has done! They helped us to learn and know what is true about God. When we know God, we can be part of His big story!**

## REMEMBER::: 30 min.

Host/Worship Leader

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

We'll remember God's faithfulness as we look back at what He has shown us about Himself from The Big God Story. Each time we remember together, we'll pause. Children will participate in traditions by connecting with one another and God through music, dance, song, and art as they worship together.

## 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 use numbered boxes to remember back to previous lessons and facilitate the festivities.

### SUPPLIES

- [Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect \(see Resources\)](#)
- [Numbers 1–6 master \(see Resources\)](#)
- Items for boxes (see images in Resources): **#1 Wind; #2 Telephone; #3 Two Coins; #4 Something Is Missing; #5**

**Family Tree;** #6 snack items for Chat & Chew

- Colorful boxes (6; may vary in size; large enough to hold items listed above)
- Chat & Chew snack items 

### PREPARE AHEAD

Print the Numbers 1–6 master and the images for each What'sIt, unless you prefer to use actual objects to recall the What'sIts. (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 #6 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.** Point to the six boxes on the stage or *Tech: Cue Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect* to indicate to Host and Worship Leader that there's something inside the Wardrobe of Wonder. **These are Remember Boxes. Each of these boxes has something special inside that can help us remember some of the things we've learned about God. And 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: Wind (Walking on Water). **What happened in this part of The Big God Story?** Wait for responses. **Yes, the disciples were crossing the lake on a boat when the wind and waves came up. How did Jesus get to the boat?** Children answer. **Yes! He walked on the water. Peter tried walking out on the water to Jesus. He started out fine, but then he focused on the strong wind instead of Jesus, and he started to sink. Did Jesus catch him?** Children answer. **Of course He did! What does this tell us about God?** Pause for answers. **God is near.**

Box #2: Telephone (Prayer). Hold up the telephone. **This reminds me of a story we heard from the Bible about prayer. One day, Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, or talk to God. We can pray in just the same way. When can we pray?** Children respond. **That's right—we can talk to God anytime and anywhere, and He will hear us.** Ponder Point: **God listens.**

Box #3: Two Coins (Giving as Worship). **Do you remember who gave two coins as an offering?** Wait for answers. **Yes, the poor widow gave the two coins. Why did Jesus think her offering was more than all the others?** Children answer. **That's right. It's because the two coins were all she had. God is generous to us. And since God has blessed us with so much, we can be generous by giving back to God, like the widow in The Big God Story, or by giving to others.** Ponder Point: **God is generous.**

Box #4: Something Is Missing (Lost Sheep, Coin, and Son). **Does anyone remember what we did when our What'sIt was missing?** Pause for responses. **That's right. We searched for it! What did we find?** Children answer. **We found a sheep, a coin, and a son. Jesus told stories about these three lost things. What did all the people do when their lost items were found? They celebrated! God celebrates too when one of His lost children is found.** Ponder Point: **God wants everyone to be part of His family.**

Box #5: Family Tree (Zacchaeus). **What kind of tree is this?** Children will answer. **Yes—a family tree. What does a family tree show?** Wait for answers. **It shows people in your family and how they're related to each other. In one part of The Big God Story, Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. What**

did he do? Children respond. **That's right ... He climbed a tall tree so he could see Jesus passing by. Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree, and told Zacchaeus that He was coming over to his house for dinner. Zacchaeus decided to follow Jesus that day, and he also promised to give back the money he had taken from the poor.** Ponder Point: **God wants everyone to be part of His family.**

## Questions

1. Who would like to say our Remember Verse for us? What do you like about this verse? What have you learned about God from this verse?
2. What is your favorite thing that God made? Why is this your favorite?
3. What is one thing you love about God? Why?
4. What is one thing God has given you that you're thankful for?
5. What are some things you would like us to pray for together?

## 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've been given to be a blessing to others. Each child will have the opportunity to bless the other children in their small group. Gather in a circle and give instructions for blessing the person on your left.

**God has given us so many good things, many of which we've remembered and celebrated together today. Before we leave, we're going to take a moment to give a blessing to the person on our left. Which side is your left? Children will respond. Good job. 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, "God loves you very much, and you're part of His big story." Let's say that together.** Repeat this a couple of times with children. Do a quick check of their left and right again, making sure they understand which of their neighbors they'll be blessing. You can have them touch the shoulder of the child on their left if they'd like.

Before the children head out for the week, invite parents and leaders to stand behind them for this final blessing. Invite them to place a hand on their child's shoulder.

**Children, may God bless you, and may you generously share those blessings with others.**