

“Breakthrough!” in 2022

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 10.16.2022

Living with Longing in Our Hearts – Deuteronomy 16:13-16



Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

The word ‘tabernacle’ speaks of a temporary dwelling or abode. Today, we would use the word tent. As we will see, camping plays a key role in the celebration of this feast, but the main purpose of Tabernacles is to celebrate the final ingathering of the harvest. It was a time of great rejoicing as the people celebrated all that God had provided during the previous year. That is why the feast is also known as ‘the season of our joy.’ In this passage we learn that Tabernacles lasted for a week and that it was a massive celebration. In Leviticus 23, we learn about the daily sacrifices associated with the feast. It’s also there that we learn that the people were to move out of their homes and into temporary shelters or tabernacles for the whole feast. Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you from this week’s sermon?
2. What was the last event you celebrated?
3. As far as you’re concerned, are celebrations typically a “have to” or a “get to”? Why?
4. When was the last time you specifically celebrated God for who He is and what He has done?

Many people love to celebrate the significant moments in life—birthdays, holidays, accomplishments, and the like. Yet, less frequently do we celebrate who God is and what He has done. Our spiritual milestones are no less significant than our personal achievements or experiences (often they are more). In today’s passage, we’ll see that God’s instructions to the Israelites to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER DEUTERONOMY 16:13-15

The third annual major festival was the Feast of Tabernacles (“Booths”). It was celebrated for seven days after the people had harvested grain and grapes.

1. What did God want His people to remember through the festivals described in these verses? Why?
2. How long were these celebrations to last? What temptations might God’s people have had in setting aside so much time to simply celebrate?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER DEUTERONOMY 16:16-17

1. How many times a year were the men of Israel required to stand before the Lord? (16:16)
2. According to these verses, who determined the amount that would be given? Why is this important?
3. How much, or what, was each person to bring?

From this passage, we can clearly see that God was looking for an offering. Three times a year, the people of Israel were required to appear before the Lord for celebrations of worship for His deliverance and blessings. God chose the place, and

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He commanded the people to give, but He did not determine the amount. In fact, He said the givers were to give as they were able. Unlike the IRS, your mortgage company, or your utility company, God does not set a price, fee, amount, or formula for our giving. We find this truth throughout both the Old Testament and the New Testament. According to God’s Word, giving is much more about a personal relationship. That’s good news!

4. Which type of gift do you think God is seeking from us? **The gift where He determines the amount and we simply write the check? Or the gift where we get to know Him, listen for His prompting, seek to understand His heart, and give something acceptable?** Explain.
5. How does a heart of celebration change our perspective when circumstances are not going well? What Does it Mean for Me?
6. What step can you take to celebrate the Lord today?

TABERNACLES FULFILLED: Review the description below of how The Feast of Tabernacles foreshadows the Millennium. Discuss with your group what this will be like and how is it similar to the Garden of Eden.

The Feast of Tabernacles foreshadows God’s ultimate plan of restoration that will unfold on the day Jesus comes back and restores everything and rules and reigns from Jerusalem for 1,000 years. The Bible describes this period of history as the Millennium.

1. During the Millennium, **Satan will be locked up**, and Jesus will rule.
2. War will become a thing of the past. Isaiah says, ‘they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.’ There will **finally be world peace!**
3. The **earth will be restored to an Eden like state** (this earth is beautiful, but it’s cursed! Imagine what it will look like when God restores it!!!)
4. ‘For **waters shall burst forth in the wilderness**, and streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water.’ {Isaiah 35:6-7}
5. The **lion will lie down with the lamb.**
6. Things like **death, sorrow and suffering** will become **distant memories**
7. According to Zechariah 14 we will all go to Jerusalem every year to **celebrate The Feast of Tabernacles** during the millennium.
8. Why would God have us **celebrate Tabernacles during the millennium?** For the same reason He had His people celebrate it. It will serve as a reminder to us of the time that God led us through the wilderness of this world and safely delivered us into our permanent home.

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

From the Garden of Eden to the Tabernacle in the wilderness, to the Temple, to Jesus; it has always been about God’s desire to draw near and come close. Now, because of what Jesus accomplished for us on the cross, we no longer must go to a specific place to meet with God, for we have become the tabernacle. And yet, there’s a sense in which we still recognize that we’re still not home yet. There is a longing that has yet to be fulfilled. It is a longing for the Lord to come back and right every wrong and fix every broken thing in this wicked world. That day is coming. When Jesus comes back, that is exactly what is going to happen.

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1. What does it tell you about God and His relationship with humankind that He wants us to spend significant and regular time in celebration?
2. How does recalling what our lives were like before Jesus Christ help us keep our daily problems in perspective?
3. What steps can we take so that our celebrations become “get to’s” instead of “have to’s”? What can we make sure that our regular rhythms of celebration center on recognizing who the Lord is and what He has done in our lives?

PRAYER - Thank God for who He is and what He has done for you. Ask Him to show you how you can more fully participate in regular rhythms of celebratory worship with His people. Invite Him to let your celebrations serve as a testimony to others who do not know Him.

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven." {2nd Corinthians 5:1-2 KJV}.