

April 17, 2024

Remember & Celebrate

Feast of Trumpets: Remembering & Celebrating God's Faithfulness

LESSON OVERVIEW

EXPLORE//
10 minutes



Option 1: Moon Phases
(for younger kids)

SUPPLIES

- Moon Phase templates*
- Disposable plates (1 per child)
- Scissors (1 pair per child)
- Markers and colored pencils
- Optional: pebbles, dried pasta, sand, crumpled paper, or other items to resemble the "craggy" surface of the moon; glue sticks; dowel (3"-4" long); string (12"-24" per child); Moon Questions*



Option 2: Earth and Moon Mobile (for younger and older kids)

- Card stock (1-2 sheets per child)
- Scissors (1 pair per child)
- Pens or pencils
- Markers
- Foam balls (3 per child, white)
- Tape
- String (24' per child)
- Optional: Star template, Moon Questions*

Option 3: Moon Charades
(for older kids)

SUPPLIES

- Moon Questions*

- Optional: stopwatch or timer, tape

REMEMBER//
30 minutes



Traditions and Remember Verse

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse image*
- Remember Verse animation*
- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gumballs, etc.)

Feast of Trumpets

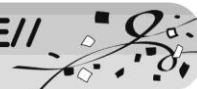
Remember and Play

ZONK!

SUPPLIES

- Images: ZONK! Questions, ZONK! Answers*

CELEBRATE//
15 minutes



My Experience with God

SUPPLIES

- Bibles
- Worship as Response pieces from previous weeks

Storytelling

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Campfire videos*
- Bibles

Celebrating Together

(Optional) Breaking Bread

SUPPLIES

- Food, drinks, plates, napkins, utensils, cups



Music

SUPPLIES

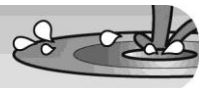
- Worship music (suggestion: "Celebrate," TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)
- Construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- Tape

(Optional) Station

SUPPLIES

- Rocks (1 per child)
- Permanent markers

BLESS//
5 minutes



SUPPLIES

- At Home Weekly: Lesson 7*
- Bible

Further Resources

To help you plan and lead:

**Customizable copy of Lesson 6
2018-19 Scope and Sequence
TruStory How It Works
Festival Investigation**

At Home Weekly: Lesson 6

The weekly for the next lesson—to be sent home for preteaching by parents—is found in BLESS.

LEADER PREP

Each week you'll find a list of resources along with encouraging articles that help you prepare your heart to present the lesson.

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: Remembering and 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

EXPLORE//10 minutes

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

The Moon

God commanded His people to celebrate the Feast of Trumpets, or “Rosh Hashanah.” Through this fall feast, God's people celebrated His faithfulness. Because the Feast of Trumpets was celebrated when the tiniest sliver of a moon could be seen, Jewish people watched the sky very closely, looking for the crescent moon to appear. Today's EXPLORE celebrates the idea of watching and waiting for the crescent moon by encouraging children to engage with games and activities centered on the cycles of the moon.

Option 1: Moon Phases (for younger kids)

SUPPLIES

- Moon Phase templates (see Resources)
- Disposable plates (1 per child)
- Scissors (1 pair per child)
- Markers and colored pencils
- Optional: pebbles, dried pasta, sand, crumpled paper, or other items to resemble the “craggy” surface of the moon; glue sticks; dowel (3"–4" long); string (12"–24" per child); Moon Questions (see Resources)



RELATE

Help children create the phases of the moon by cutting them out of disposable plates. Using the Moon Phase templates, each child can choose to create a crescent moon, half moon, gibbous moon, or full moon (a whole, uncut plate). They can decorate their moons by creating craggy surfaces with pebbles, dried pasta, sand, crumpled paper, etc. Once kids finish their moon phases, arrange them on a table, waxing to waning (crescent to full and back to crescent). If you'd like, hang the phases of the moon from strings tied to the dowel, waxing to waning. Once you have the phases of the moon in order, talk with the kids about this. Ask them if they notice that the moon changes from a slim “toenail clipping” to a full circle. You might also go over the Moon Questions and ask kids which ones they like best.

Option 2: Earth and Moon Mobile (for younger and older kids)

SUPPLIES

- Card stock (1–2 sheets per child)
- Scissors (1 pair per child)
- Pens or pencils
- Markers
- Foam balls (3 per child, white)
- Tape
- String (24' per child)
- Optional: Star template, Moon Questions (see Resources)

PREPARE AHEAD

Optional: Print the Moon Questions and the Star template.

RELATE

Help each child draw a spiral on a square piece of card stock and cut out the spiral. Meanwhile, draw stars onto card stock (or use the Star template as a guide) and let the kids cut those out too. Also have each child color one foam ball green and blue to create an earth and another foam ball yellow to create the sun. To create the moon, each child can leave a foam ball white or draw craters on it. If you want, have the kids paint one side of the moon black because that side never sees the sun. Talk about what it might be like to be on the dark side of the moon!

Help each child tape a piece of string to his earth, moon, sun, and star(s). Then help him tape the strings to his spiral. Discuss how the moon orbits (circles) the earth and how the earth orbits the sun. You might also go over the Moon Questions and ask the kids which questions they like best.

Option 3: Moon Charades (for older kids)

SUPPLIES

- Moon Questions (see Resources)
- Optional: stopwatch or timer, tape

PREPARE AHEAD

Print the Moon Questions. Optional: Cut the sheets in half and tape each question and answer on the wall (with the question on top of the answer).

RELATE

Group kids into teams of two to four and play a game of Reverse Charades. To play, fold the question and answer sheets so the questions are on top. Have one child in each team pick up a folded sheet, looking only at the question. Have her hold up the paper so the rest of her team can see the answer. Then have her read the question out loud and let the rest of the team act out the answer. She must then guess the answer based upon the kids' actions. If she guesses correctly, she gets a point.

LARGE GROUP

SECTION

REMEMBER//30 minutes



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

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3

Feast of Trumpets

RELATE

The Feast of Trumpets was a giant celebration of God's faithfulness. It was the beginning of a new year and the end of a harvest season. It marked the start of 10 days for the people of Israel to prepare themselves and repent before the Day of Atonement. The Feast of Trumpets was a yearly feast to remind Israel that God had not forsaken them, that God had kept His covenant to them, that God had led them, and that God had provided for them and forgiven their sins. Even though these people had so often fallen short of God's perfect law, God kept

His covenant to them because He is faithful. God always does what He says He will do.

QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

- **What does *faithful* mean?**
- **How can someone be faithful?**
- **How has God been faithful to you?**

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) John the Baptist was a man who:

- a. Ate locusts and honey
- b. Prepared the way for Jesus' ministry
- c. All of the above
- d. None of the above

ANSWER: C

2) **True or False:** John baptized Jesus even though he didn't think he should.

ANSWER: True. Jesus was sinless, so John didn't think Jesus needed to be baptized! But he did it anyway because Jesus had asked him to.

3) While Martha was busy in the kitchen, her sister, Mary, was:

- a. Out of town
- b. Helping her
- c. Sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening to Him like a disciple would
- d. Walking in circles

ANSWER: C

4) **Why did Mary sit at Jesus' feet and listen to His teaching?**

- a. She knew that He is worthy, and she wanted to follow Him and learn from Him like His disciples.
- b. Martha told her to sit there.
- c. She thought Jesus was funny.
- d. She was just part of the crowd.

ANSWER: A

5) Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a _____.

ANSWER: Donkey. Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, which was the fulfillment of a 500-year-old prophecy.

6) When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, what did it show about Him?

- a. He really likes animals.
- b. He didn't have a lot of money for a chariot.
- c. He is the King of Kings, who came not to save His people from Roman rule but to save His people from their sins.
- d. He forgot His shoes that day.

ANSWER: C

7) When Simon Peter got to Jesus' tomb, why did he see the stone rolled away and strips of linen lying there?

- a. The guards had moved Jesus' body.
- b. Jesus was no longer in the tomb because He had risen from the dead! Jesus is alive!
- c. Peter had gone to the wrong tomb.
- d. Peter was just dreaming.

ANSWER: B.

8) The main character in The Big God Story is _____.

ANSWER: God

9) In the parable of the wise and foolish builders, the foolish man built his house on:

- a. Bricks
- b. Sand
- c. Bread
- d. Pillows

ANSWER: B. The foolish man built his house on sand, which wasn't a firm foundation.

10) The wise man built his house on rock. What does the rock represent?

- a. A loaf of bread
- b. Being mean to others
- c. Sculpting a statue
- d. Obeying God

ANSWER: D. Jesus said that when we hear His words and obey them, we build our lives on a firm foundation that can't be shaken.

CELEBRATE//15 minutes



Through interactive games and activities, children will share how God is working in their lives.

My Experience with God

Invite children to look back at how they've experienced God through Worship as Response during the past several lessons.

SUPPLIES

Bibles

- Worship as Response pieces from previous weeks

SET UP

Place the Worship as Response pieces around the room in lesson order.

RELATE

Discuss the Worship as Response pieces and encourage kids to share memories of those response experiences or activities.

WORSHIP AS RESPONSE

- Lesson 1, Jesus Is God's Son: **The God of the universe loves us as His children and calls us His own. How does it make you feel to know nothing can separate you from the love of God?**
- Lesson 2, Jesus Is Worthy: **Jesus is worthy of our devotion and our worship, and He invites us to sit at His feet, learn from Him, and be in relationship with Him. What word did you write on your fabric strip? Why do you love to worship God for being that way?**
- Lesson 3, Jesus Is King of Kings: **Jesus is the King of Kings who came to save the world from its sins. What area of your life did you invite Jesus to be King over? How does it feel knowing that Jesus is King of Kings over everything in the universe?**
- Lesson 4, Jesus Is Alive: **Since the beginning of The Big God Story, God planned to send a Redeemer, Jesus, to be the sacrifice for our sins. This is the biggest news ever! How has Jesus, God's Redeemer, changed your life or the lives of those you know?**
- Lesson 5, God Requires Obedience: **Jesus doesn't just want us to hear His words; He wants us to obey them. But we don't have to do it alone. How does God help us obey Him?**

Storytelling

Storytelling allows members of the community to tell stories about what God has been doing in their hearts—at church and at home.

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Campfire videos (see Resources)

- Bibles
- See the How It Works document for more storytelling ideas.

PREPARE AHEAD

Gather stories from your faith community, or invite kids and families to start thinking of stories they may want to share. Optional: Set up your Storytelling time like an experience of telling stories around a campfire. Be creative with ways to create the sense of being around a campfire by playing the Campfire video or playing sound effects (crackling fire, crickets, etc.), setting out wood, and more.

RELATE


Have kids sit in a giant circle. You and your kids and parents can share stories in various forms—videos, emails, written or spoken stories, etc. As you tell stories, encourage children to be respectful of their friends and leaders by listening quietly while others speak. Also, whether you choose to experience storytelling with high energy or in a more restful way, remember to continue in a spirit of celebration for what God has done in the lives of your kids, leaders, church, and families.

Celebrating Together

Each time you gather for this part of Remember & Celebrate, your group can focus on one of three ways to celebrate, such as eating together, participating with music, or responding at a worship station. You can do all three sections if you have time!

(Optional) Breaking Bread

SUPPLIES

- Food, drinks, plates, napkins, utensils, cups 

RELATE

Celebrate with the kids by “breaking bread” together. Eating together is one of the ways people celebrate today and one of the ways the Israelites celebrated together during their festivals. You can break bread many ways. For example, have parents bring food and come to eat with the kids—on both Remember & Celebrate weekends or on the last weekend of the quarter. Another idea is to hold a feast after church—a potluck or smorgasbord. Parents, leaders, and kids can make food, bring it to church, and then eat together after the service.

Music

SUPPLIES

- Worship music (suggestion: “Celebrate,” TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)
- Construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- Tape

RELATE

Have children roll their paper into a cone shape. Encourage them to leave a small opening at the small end of the cone. Tape the paper so that it stays cone-shaped. Divide the room into four sections. Have everyone put his “trumpet” to their mouth and make a trumpeting sound.

Then, practice having each section of the room take turns using their cone as a trumpet. After a few rounds, turn on worship music and encourage everyone to continue trumpeting as they worship together.

(Optional) Station

SUPPLIES

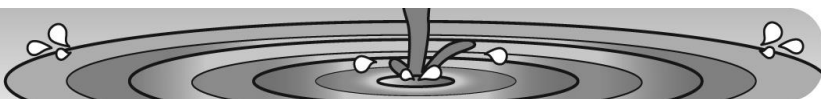
- Rocks (1 per child)
- Permanent markers

SET UP

Set out rocks and markers for children and families to use.

RELATE

Rocks are symbols of remembrance in Scripture (such as Samuel setting up an Ebenezer pile of stones for remembrance). At this station, kids and parents write words or phrases they want to celebrate (such as “new job,” “God is faithful,” “God has a plan for my life”) on rocks.

BLESS//5 minutes

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

- At Home Weekly: Lesson 7 (see Resources)
- Bible

RELATE

Have children lie down and pretend to sleep. Then, when you say, “Morning,” have children pretend to wake up. Have them stand up and say, “Great is Your faithfulness!” Practice a couple times, and then have children do the motions as you read Lamentations 3:22–23:

Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

End with the following blessing over your entire group:

May you know God’s love for you stretches from the earth all the way up to heaven. His faithfulness to you reaches the sky.

Send home the At Home Weekly with your kids.