

Feasts of the Bible



Passover

Pesach

Pentecost

Shavuot

Trumpets

Rosh HaShanah

Day of Atonement

Yom Kippur

Tabernacles

Sukkot

"Dr. Sam Nadler is amazing! I was suddenly swept away by the magnificent symbolism and vibrant truth the feasts portray. His perspective as a Jewish believer brought up in a traditional home made the Old Testament Feasts come alive as never before." — Dave Weeden



Feasts of the Bible Participant Guide

Sam Nadler, PhD

This Participant Guide accompanies the

Feasts of the Bible 6-Session DVD-Based Study

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with

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About This Study

Many times history may look like a series of events occurring randomly and haphazardly, but we know that history is “His Story”—it’s God’s story of restoring us to himself. In order to understand the present, we have to look back and appreciate how we got here and what it took to bring us to where we are now. Looking back can give us confidence to press on toward the future God has prepared for us in Messiah. The seven appointed feasts in the Bible reveal how God’s redemptive program is woven throughout history with the redemptive thread of Messiah’s sacrifice for us.

In this study, Dr. Sam Nadler will take you on a pilgrimage through the seven feasts of Israel. This study begins at the place where the need for redemption was born, in the Garden of Eden, when sin entered the world and our Sabbath rest was broken. Then you will journey through the path of redemption pictured in the biblical feasts. These six sessions will help you arrive at a greater understanding of God’s unfailing love for us all and a deeper appreciation of his provision of the perfect Lamb prepared before the foundations of the world.

About the Author

Sam Nadler is a Jewish believer in Jesus who has a passion to communicate the Good News to his people, and to see discipleship established in Jewish communities around the world.

Serving with Jews for Jesus, Sam established the Jews for Jesus New York City branch in 1975. Later as the President of Chosen People Ministries, he helped build international outreach, congregational planting and leadership development in Israel, the Ukraine, Germany, South America, Canada as well as the United States.

Today as president of Word of Messiah Ministries, Sam is continuing to develop leaders and outreach to make a worldwide impact for the gospel to Jew and Gentile alike. Sam also reaches out to the Christian community teaching them to better understand the Jewish roots of their faith so they'll be able to more effectively reach out with the Good News of Messiah, as well as more fully appreciate believers' unique unity in Messiah and the ongoing testimony of God's faithfulness to his promises.

Sam received a doctoral degree from Southern Evangelical Seminary. He has authored several books including *Messiah in the Feasts of Israel*, *The Messianic Answer Book*, *Messianic Foundations*, and devotional commentaries on Jonah and Ruth.

About the Complete DVD-Based Kit

The Kit (ISBN 9781596364646) includes everything you need to teach *Feasts of the Bible* using professionally produced video sessions, leader and participant guides, and a PowerPoint® presentation.

The Kit includes:

- DVD with 6 teaching sessions
- One printed Feasts of the Bible Participant Guide (ISBN 9781596364677)
- One printed Feasts of the Bible Leader Guide (ISBN 9781596364660) + PDF Leader Guide
- One printed *Messiah in the Feasts of Israel* handbook (ISBN 9780970261977)
- One *Feasts of the Bible* pamphlet which includes nine Jewish feasts and holidays (ISBN 9781890947583)
- *Feasts of the Bible* PowerPoint® presentation on CD-ROM (ISBN 9781596361775)
- PDF files for posters, fliers, handouts, and bulletin inserts for promotion.

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Session One

Sabbath Rest

The Theme of God's Redemptive Program

Follow Along and Take Notes

Be sure to see the key terms and charts starting on page 12.

Session 1 Outline: *Sabbath Rest*

I. Sabbath Rest: The Theme of God's Redemptive Program

A. Creation

a) Matthew 11:28

1. Created in his image to:

a) Represent

b) Genesis 3:15

c) Restore

d) Exodus 20

e) Relate

B. Redemption

1. Deuteronomy 5:15
2. Restored relationship

C. Sabbath Peace

1. Rest
2. Sanctify (set apart)
 - a) Exodus 31:13
3. Eternity
 - a) Exodus 31:17
 - b) Psalm 95:11; Hebrews 4:3
 - c) Sign pointing to eternal rest

4. Lord of the Sabbath

a) Matthew 12:8

b) John 15:5

c) Sabbath = Promise completed in Messiah

II. Seven Feasts of Israel (Leviticus 23)

A. Moedim = “appointments”

B. Passover

C. Feast of Unleavened Bread

D. Firstfruits (Reishit)

E. Pentecost

a) Leviticus 23:22; Harvest

F. Feast of Trumpets (Yom HaTeruah; Rosh HaShanah)

- a) Isa. 27:13; 1 Cor. 15:51–52; 1 Thess. 4:16–18

G. Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

- a) Zechariah 12:10

- b) Isaiah 53:6

- c) Romans 11:23–26

H. Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)

- a) Zechariah 14:9

- b) Revelation 7:9, 15

Key Terms

Atonement – The covering of sin; the reconciliation between God and humanity. The final atonement was made by Jesus on behalf of sinners to bring peace between humankind and God through Jesus' death on the cross. He became our sin offering. The concept of atonement spans both Testaments, everywhere pointing to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus for the sins of the world.

The Exodus – The story of how God delivered the Israelites from bondage in ancient Egypt by Moses. This account is recorded in the book of Exodus.

Image of God – The spiritual character of God as described in Ephesians 4:24: "Put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

Messiah – Hebrew *Mashiach*, literally, "anointed one" as a prince or king of Israel. The Greek equivalent of this word is *christos*, which is transliterated into English as "Christ."

Moedim – Literally "appointments" in Hebrew from Leviticus 23:2. These appointments were the scheduled times to appear before the Lord for worship and sacrifices. The feasts of Israel from Leviticus 23 were God's appointed times.

Redemptive Program – The word *redemption* means "to buy back." The Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden through sin caused separation with God and spiritual death. Since then God launched his program to restore humanity to himself. The feasts of Israel picture how God's redemptive work will be accomplished.

Sanctification – A biblical term that encompasses two aspects: Sanctification is a one-time act that sets a person apart to God at salvation, thus believers are called "saints" in the Bible; and it is also the process of spiritually maturing into the likeness of Jesus.

Sabbath – An Anglicized word for *Shabbat* that literally means "cessation" in Hebrew and is understood as "rest." In the Old Testament, the Sabbath is the seventh day of the week. Shabbat begins at sundown on Friday until sundown on Saturday and is a day of rest unto God.

Sheva – Hebrew word for the number seven. It means "completion," as seven days make a complete week. It also means "oath" or "vow." For example, the name Elizabeth in Hebrew, *Eli-sheva*, means "the oath of God."

Shabbat Shalom – The traditional Sabbath greeting in Hebrew said in Jewish communities on Shabbat, meaning “Sabbath Peace.”

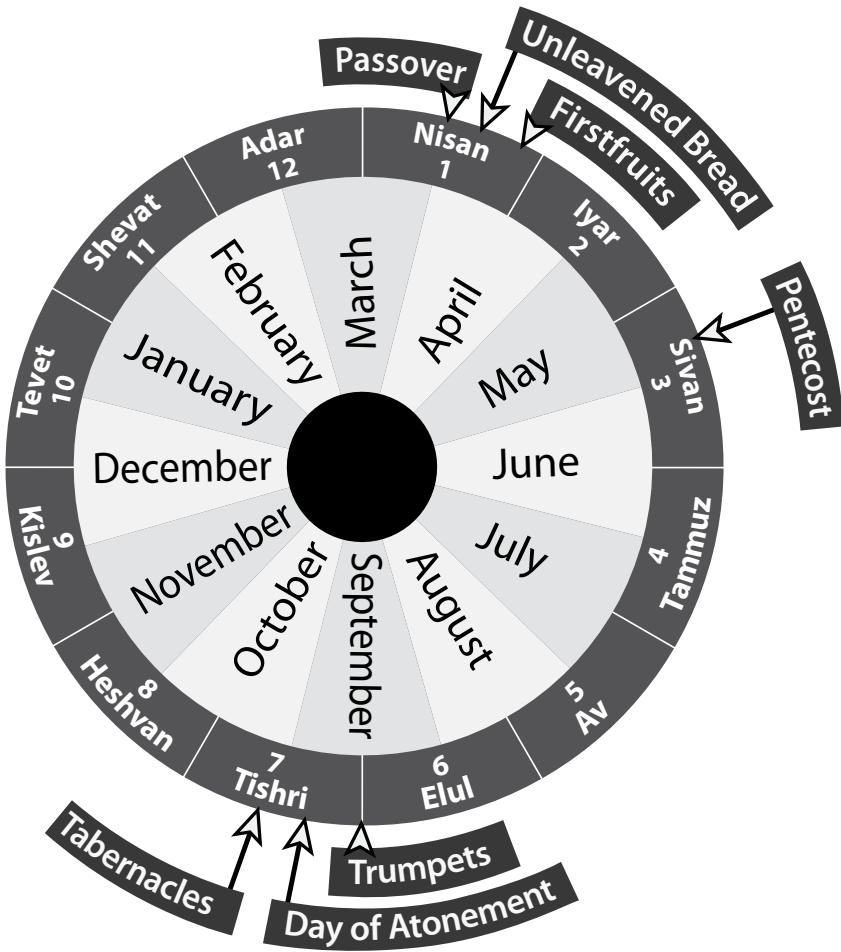
Ten Commandments – Part of the Law written by God on two tablets received by Moses on Mt. Sinai. These two tablets were placed in the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies.

Yeshua – The Hebrew name of Messiah, transliterated through the Greek as *Jesus*, meaning “the Lord is salvation” or “the Lord saves.”

God's Redemptive Program

Feast	Also Known As	Scripture	Fulfillment
Passover	Pesach	Lev. 23:4–5	1 Cor. 5:7
Unleavened Bread	Hag HaMatzot	Lev. 23:6–8	1 Cor. 5:8
Firstfruits	Reishit	Lev. 23:9–14	1 Cor. 15:21–23
Pentecost	Feast of Weeks Shavuot	Lev. 23:15–21	Acts 2:1–10 James 1:18
Feast of Trumpets	Yom HaTeruah Rosh HaShanah	Lev. 23:23–25	1 Cor. 15:52 1 Thess. 4:16–17
Day of Atonement	Yom Kippur	Lev. 23:28–32	Zech. 12:10–13:1 Matt. 23:39
Feast of Tabernacles	Feast of Booths Sukkot	Lev. 23:33–44	Zech. 14:16 Rev. 7:9, 15

Feasts of the Bible Calendar



Get into God's Word

Key Bible Verses

Read: Exodus 20:8–11

Study Question: According to this passage, how did people in the Bible keep the Sabbath holy?

Read: Romans 5:1–2

Study Question: How does a person find peace with God?

Read: Hebrews 4:1–11

Study Question: What prevents some people from entering God's rest?

Read: Leviticus 23:1–44

Write down each of the feasts you can identify in this passage and some of the instructions for how each feast should be observed.

Talk about It

Discussion Questions

1. Why did God establish the Sabbath?

2. How does Messiah Jesus fulfill the Sabbath?

3. How can resting from our daily routines of work honor the Lord?

4. What does God want to teach us through dedicating a day to rest in him?

5. After watching this introduction to the seven biblical feasts, what are you most looking forward to learning in the upcoming sessions?

Stop and Pray

Sabbath Prayer

In traditional Jewish households worldwide there is a Sabbath prayer that is chanted by the lady of the home to welcome the Sabbath by lighting the candles. For Jewish people who have accepted Jesus as their Messiah, this traditional Hebrew prayer is modified to honor Jesus in this blessing.

English

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe who has sanctified us through faith in Jesus the Messiah, the Light of the World, and in his name we kindle the Sabbath lights.

Hebrew

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu, Melech Ha'olam, asher kidshanu al yaday emuna b'Yeshua haMashiach, Or HaOlam, oo'b'Shmo anu madlikiim haner shel Shabbat.

Notes:

Think about It

Reflection Questions

1. Read Colossians 2:16–17. Meditate on the liberty that is given to us in Jesus.

2. Take a few minutes to reflect and see if you have set apart a regular time to focus on the Lord. If you do not have a regular time, what do you need to do to find the time?

3. If you already have a weekly meeting with the Lord to reorient your life around his values, how has this changed your priorities?

Learn More

Digging Deeper

1. What does it mean that the Sabbath Day is “holy”?

After creation, God was pleased with all that was done and rested on the seventh day. “Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done” (Gen. 2:3 NIV). Other English translations say God “sanctified” the seventh day. To sanctify or “to make holy to the Lord” something or someone is to set it apart for God’s purposes. In ancient Israel, items set apart for sacred use, such as the altar (Ex. 29:37) and anointing oil (Ex. 30:25), were made holy. People set apart for special purposes, such as the priests (Lev. 21:6) and the nation of Israel (Jer. 2:3), are called holy. Fast forward to the first century; Jesus is said to be sanctified and set apart by God (Heb. 7:26). Believers in Jesus are therefore also considered holy (Eph. 2:21). To be made holy means that God qualifies the person or thing to be used for his purposes, and what God qualifies and sets apart for himself is considered holy and acceptable in his presence.

God instructed his people to keep the seventh day, or Sabbath, holy by remembering his work of creation and relating to him by setting usual business aside. “For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a Sabbath of complete rest, a holy convocation. You shall not do any work; it is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwellings” (Lev. 23:3). The point of this command to rest was not simply to avoid work, but to ensure that the holy day is truly set apart for relating to the Lord.

The children of Israel understood that it is not optional to meet with God regularly. God created us for relationship with him, and Sabbath was God’s invitation to enter into that relationship. He commanded us as well to abide in him for it is in our best interest to grow in our relationship with him. Jesus told his followers: “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me” (John 15:4).