



## **Feast of Sukkot**

The Feast of Tabernacles or Feast of Booths is absolutely my favorite to celebrate as a family! Commonly called Sukkot, it is not just one day but seven PLUS one more called the Eighth Day. Some refer to the eighth day as the "Great Day".

I remember the first year we celebrated. It was very daunting not having it all figured out. Steve and I wanted to know everything like - yesterday. We stumbled our way through it knowing we wanted to celebrate it. We dove right in having a whirlwind of a week with teachings, special classes, and outings.

We learned a lot that first Sukkot. As a family, the most important thing we learned was that all the activities, outings, and special classes were not needed to "celebrate". We started the week off flustered, wishing we had it all figured out. Little did we understand that the very simple acts of tenting, keeping the high sabbaths, and gathering with other believers were all that were needed. I want to share with you these simple basics for this feast.

### **When is Sukkot?**

Sukkot is third of the set apart Holy Days celebrated in the Fall Feasts. On the Hebrew calendar, it is lands on the 15th day of Tishrei thru the 21st of Tishrei. Let's look at the scripture verses concerning the most joyous of the commanded feasts:

Lev. 23:39 “On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of YHWH seven days. On the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest.<sup>40</sup> And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before YHWH your God seven days.<sup>41</sup> You shall celebrate it as a feast to YHWH for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month.<sup>42</sup> You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths,<sup>43</sup> that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am YHWH your God.”

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Num. 29:12 “On the fifteenth day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall keep a feast to YHWH seven days. [Num. 29:13-34 describe the sacrifices which are to be made on each day of the feast at the Tabernacle (or Temple).] 29:35 “On the eighth day you shall have a solemn assembly. You shall not do any ordinary work. [Verses 36-38 tell of the sacrifices for the 8th day.]

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Sukkot is the feast that we are commanded to rejoice! (Lev. 23:40) It is a joyous time. YHWH tells us to set this day as a remembrance. Lev. 23:43 "that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." He tells us to celebrate what He has done!

How do we observe Sukkot?

Sukkot is one of the three feasts that the men are required to travel to Jerusalem and appear before YHWH. Since there is no temple or priesthood today, we are not able to appear before Him as commanded. However, this does not prevent us from practicing and pursuing what we can.

1. We are to put up a sukkah, temporary dwelling, and dwell in it for 7 days. Many people choose to place it outside their home while others will join in groups at specific locations in tents, campers, or other means of a "temporary dwelling".
2. The first and 8th days are sabbath rests along with being a holy convocation. (gathering together with like minded believers)
3. Also, on the first day you are to take fruit from the trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willows from the brook. Since this is a feast that you make as a pilgrimage to the land these specific plants may or may not be readily available. It can still be a wonderful opportunity to go outside gathering various vegetations and rejoicing in all He has created!

For those who are trying to understand and observe Sukkot for the first time, try not to be overwhelmed with worry, not knowing if you have it all "right". Give yourself time and grace with knowing that it's okay to learn as you go. Regardless if you are new or you have celebrated many years and still learning, go ahead and REJOICE. Wish someone a Happy Sukkot!

Growing in Him,  
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