



2026 FESTIVAL YOUTH INSTRUCTION GRADES 3-6

Festival Youth Instruction 2026

Grades 3-6 Lesson 1

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Welcome!

Dear Youth Instruction Volunteers,

Thank you for serving our youth and parents this Feast!

Ministerial and Member Services has provided these lessons to help guide youth instruction at all Feast of Tabernacles sites this year. They are designed to provide teachers with a clear topic and teaching points in a simple lesson flow that can be followed with confidence, even by someone who has never taught before.

While we expect the overall topic and teaching points to be followed, the provided script does not need to be read word-for-word as written! Please feel free to teach the material naturally in your own voice and/or adjust the activities so they better meet the needs of your class of children. You are also welcome to replace activities with your own to go along with the lessons if desired.

Thank you again for your help, and we pray that you have a wonderful experience serving our youth and an inspiring Feast of Tabernacles!

Materials

- Plastic paper protectors
- Colored copy paper or tissue paper
- Small shoe boxes (or poster board) with the seven annual festivals written on them.
- Reproducible sheets of the artwork for Feast cards
- Colored pencils, markers or crayons
- Folders or sandwich bags to keep the children's artwork until the next class

Please note, you will have to create these small boxes or posters ahead of class for the children. You will need to divide the children up into groups. You can decide beforehand how many students will be in each group so that you know how many posters/boxes to make. You will need one set for each group.

For Feast sites with large classes, you may want to just use colored copy paper with the names of the festivals on them. The children will race to put these festivals and Holy Days in the correct order. The example lesson provides a more detailed explanation.

Lesson One Overview

“God’s Clear Vision for Your Future”

This lesson teaches that God has always had a clear plan for mankind—and for each of us personally. Through Scripture, a simple object lesson and a review of the Holy Days, students will see how God’s festivals reveal His plan to bring people into His family and His coming Kingdom.

Here is the basic structure of the lesson with teaching points to follow (an example script that teachers can follow word-for-word is included later in this packet):

1. Welcome and Opening Scripture

- Welcome the children to class.
- Read Proverbs 29:18, and ask what they think it means.
- Explain that today they will learn what God’s vision is for them and what His plan is for the whole world.

2. Explain “Vision” as a Plan

- Explain that “vision” can mean a plan.
- Give simple examples (e.g. how their family prepared and planned for the Feast).
- Transition question/thought: Did you know God had a vision or plan for your future before you were born?

3. God Had a Plan for Mankind from the Beginning

- Scriptures:
 - Genesis 1:26—God made mankind in His image.
 - Jeremiah 1:5—God knew us before we were born.
- Teaching points:
 - God created human beings in His own image, not like animals.
 - God knew and envisioned us before we were born.
 - God is powerful, creative and purposeful, so He can clearly envision our future.

4. Object Lesson: Clear Vision vs. Blocked Vision

- See activity description for details.
- What to learn/notice from the activity:
 - There is a difference between seeing clearly and having your vision blocked.

- Clear vision makes it easier to move toward a goal.
- God has a clear vision of the future.
- God is organized and does not leave His plan to chance.

5. God Has a Vision for the Whole World

- Scriptures:
 - Genesis 1:27-28—God created mankind and gave them purpose.
 - Genesis 1:31—God saw that His creation was very good.
- Teaching points:
 - From the beginning, God was looking toward mankind's future.
 - Even after Adam and Eve sinned, God still had a plan for them and for all people after them.
 - God worked with many people—Noah, Abraham and others—and still works with us today.
 - God taught His servants about His Kingdom, an important part of His plan.

6. Holy Days as an Outline of God's Plan

- Scripture reference: Leviticus 23:4-36
- Activity: Students play a game to put the Holy Days in the correct order.
 - Use small poster boards, cards or boxes with the festival names written on them.
 - Place them face down and mixed up.
 - Divide the class into teams.
 - Have each team race to turn them over and arrange them in the correct order.
 - The first team to complete the order correctly wins.
- Festival summaries:
 - Passover—Christ's sacrifice for sin, so people can be forgiven and not face eternal death.
 - Days of Unleavened Bread—just like we put leaven out of the house, we need to put sin out of our life and live by God's law.
 - Pentecost—God gives us His Holy Spirit at baptism to help us overcome sin and become more like Him. (This is where we are right now in God's plan!)
 - Feast of Trumpets—Jesus Christ will return to rule the world, and the Church will be resurrected to rule with Him.
 - Day of Atonement—Satan and his evil influence will be put away so the world can heal and learn God's ways.
 - Feast of Tabernacles—Christ and the Church will rule the world for 1,000 years, teaching all people His way.

- Eighth Day—God will resurrect those who never had a full opportunity to know His way. They will be taught God’s way so they can join God’s family too.

7. God Wants Us in His Family

- Scriptures: John 3:16 and John 6:40
 - God gave His Son so people may have everlasting life with Him.
 - God’s plan for you is to live forever in His Kingdom as part of His family.
- Teaching points:
 - God’s plan did not stop with Moses, David, Ruth or Paul.
 - God the Father and Jesus Christ planned mankind's future together.
 - God wants each of us in His family.
 - The Holy Days reveal God’s vision of His coming Kingdom.

8. Craft Activity: Feast Pop-Up Card

- Purpose: Children begin making a pop-up card to give to someone at the Feast.
- Instructions:
 - Children choose one or two festival art scenes to color and cut out.
 - Most likely the cards will not be finished in this class—teachers can collect the work with each child’s name or initials on it to finish at the next lesson.

Lesson One Example Script

Say: Hello and welcome! I hope you are having a great Feast so far! I would like to read a scripture to you today. Proverbs 29:18 says,

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law,
happy is he (King James Version).

Ask: What do you think vision means? (*Allow time for discussion.*)

Say: Here, vision means God’s revealed guidance. I’m sure your parents or teachers have had plans to help you learn to read or to memorize a scripture from the Bible.

Plan can also mean “prepare.” I’m sure your parents made a “plan” or “prepared” to come to the Feast this year.

Ask: Did you know that God had a vision or plan for your future before you were ever born? What kinds of plans do you think God might have had for you?

Say: Long ago it was written in Genesis 1:26, after God had created all the heavens and earth and all the animals and plant life found on earth, God said,

Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.

God did not say let Us make man to look like a fish, a bird or some other kind of animal! (*Optional: You could show children pictures of animals to emphasize how their design differs from that of humans.*)

Say: God said, “Let Us make man in Our image,” showing that mankind was made according to God’s purpose and likeness.

In fact, God says He knows us before we grow in our mother’s body! Can you imagine that! He explained it to Jeremiah this way:

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you (Jeremiah 1:5).

That is amazing! God envisioned or knew you and me before we were even born! So, if we stop and think about how awesome, powerful and creative God is, it is no wonder He can envision a future for us!

Let’s do a little experiment!

(Teachers: Use the plastic sheet protectors. Please note that if you have a better illustration to use here, please do so.)

Ask: What do you see? *(Possible answers: my hands, the other side of the room.)*

(Next, place an object like a little piece of candy or small trinket on a table a few feet in front of the children. Tell the children to hold their plastic sheet in front of their face, walk toward the candy/trinket and pick it up.)

Say: Pretty easy, right? Let's try it a different way.

(Have children put a different colored paper in the protector so that it obstructs their view of the item. The point of the exercise is to make the plastic cover more difficult to see through. Have the children look through their plastic protectors and describe what they see.)

Ask: Could you see the trinket/candy clearly like you did the first time?

(Answers might vary, but in general the children should realize they now don't have clear vision to the candy/trinket.)

Say: We did this activity because I want to show the difference between seeing something clearly and in focus, compared to not being able to see something clearly.

God has a clear vision of the future. He is very organized. He has a vision not only for you and me, but for the whole world! God does not leave things to chance!

Ask: How do I know this? *(Possible answers: By reading my Bible!)*

Say: God tells us about His plans all through the Bible. For example, in the very beginning of creation, God had a vision for mankind. We can find this in Genesis 1:27-28:

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God, He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it."

He gave them a job and a goal—to have children and to go enjoy the world He made for us. And in Genesis 1:31, it says:

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good...

Even when Adam and Eve sinned and were kicked out of the Garden of Eden, God still had a vision and a plan for them and everyone after them, including us.

We see from reading the Bible that God worked with Abel, Noah, Abraham and others, and taught them His vision for the future—His soon coming Kingdom!

Say: Leviticus 23:4-36 tells us about God’s yearly Holy Days, including the Feast of Tabernacles we’re celebrating this week.

God’s Holy Days throughout the year each represent a part of God’s plan for bringing human beings—that’s us!—into His family.

(Teachers: depending on the size of your class you may want to have the children sitting at tables with the small poster boards with the festivals on them. Place them face down and make sure that they are mixed up. If you have the room, you can have the boxes or posters across the room on the floor or on a table, facing down.)

Divide the children up into different groups. When you say go, they will race to turn over the posters or boxes and work together to put these special events in order. The first group to finish them in the correct order wins. For this activity you might need extra helpers to keep track of the children and who put the festivals in order correctly first. You could even have a special treat for the winning team.)

Say: Great job everyone! That is so awesome that so many of you were able to complete this game. You did a great job working together! God’s annual festivals and Holy Days give us an outline of His plan for bringing human beings into His family.

(Teachers, summarize the meaning of the festivals/Holy Days in your own words, according to the time you have available.)

Example explanations of each Holy Day:

Passover—Christ’s sacrifice for sin, so people can be forgiven and not face eternal death.

Days of Unleavened Bread—just like we put leaven out of the house, we need to put sin out of our life and live by God’s law.

Pentecost—God gives us His Holy Spirit at baptism to help us overcome sin and become more like Him. (This is where we are right now in God’s plan!)

Feast of Trumpets—Jesus Christ will return to rule the world, and the Church will be resurrected to rule with Him.

Day of Atonement—Satan and his evil influence will be put away so the world can heal and learn God’s ways.

Feast of Tabernacles—Christ and the Church will rule the world for 1,000 years, teaching all people His way.

Eighth Day—God will resurrect those who never had a full opportunity to know His way. They will be taught God’s way so they can join God’s family too.

Say: Remember, God wants you and me to be in His family. He did not just work with Moses, David, Ruth and Paul. God did not stop with them. He worked and planned with His Son, Jesus Christ, for Jesus to pay the penalty for all of mankind’s sins.

We know this because in John 3:16 it states:

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

That’s the whole point of God’s plan for us! He wants us to believe in Him, to follow Him and to live forever with Him.

Also, in John 6:40 Jesus said:

And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up in the last day.

Say: These are some powerful statements! God the Father and Jesus Christ planned our future. We are special to God, and He is pleased when we keep His commandments, festivals and Holy Days! We should all be thankful that we can observe these Holy Days, which reveal the vision of His soon coming Kingdom and how we can be a part of it!

Say: Now, each of you is going to begin making a pop-up card to give to someone here at the Feast. Please follow my directions carefully so you know how to complete the card. Most likely we will not finish today, so I will collect your work with your name on it and I will hand it back to you during our next class. Let’s get started!

(Teachers, please consider using some of today’s class time for children to pick out one or two festival art scenes to begin coloring and cutting out. Refer to the directions and examples in this lesson for you to use as a reference in guiding the children.)

In the next class, the children can begin assembling the pop-up cards. Please make sure the children put their initials on the back of their designs in pencil before you collect and keep them in a sandwich bag or folder for safekeeping. Then they can be passed out for the next class, and children can pick up where they left off after you finish the second lesson.)

Lesson Two Overview

“Love in Action at the Feast”

This lesson teaches that the Feast is not only a time to rejoice, but also a time to notice and care for others. Through the example of Israel rediscovering God’s law, Jesus’ teaching about serving “the least of these,” and practical Feast examples, students will learn that loving God includes showing love to people through action.

Here is the basic structure of the lesson with teaching points to follow:

1. Welcome and Review

- Welcome the children back to class, briefly remind them of the first lesson:
 - God has a vision and plan for us.
 - The Holy Days help us understand God’s plan.
 - The Feast of Tabernacles reminds us of God’s coming Kingdom.
- Transition thought: Long ago, there was a time when the children of Israel had forgotten about God’s Feast days. When they rediscovered God’s law, they also learned how God wanted them to rejoice and care for others.

2. Israel Rediscovered God’s Feast

- Read Nehemiah 8:9-10—The people hear God’s law, learn that the day is holy, and are told to rejoice and “send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared.”
- Teaching points:
 - The people had lost knowledge of God’s law and Holy Days.
 - When Ezra read God’s law, the people were deeply moved.
 - God did not want them to only feel sad—He wanted them to rejoice.
 - Part of rejoicing was sharing with others who did not have enough.
- Key question: What do you think it means to “send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared”?

3. God Teaches Us to Help Others

- Scriptures:
 - James 1:27—Pure religion includes caring for widows and orphans.
 - Leviticus 19:18—“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Teaching points:
 - God instructs His people to notice and help those who need care.
 - Serving others can include helping older people, neighbors, brethren at

church, younger children or people who are having a hard time.

- Loving your neighbor is not just a feeling—it shows up in what we do.
- Discuss some practical examples of loving/serving/helping others.

4. Loving People Through Action

- Introduce the phrase: “Loving God includes loving people through action.”
- Teaching points:
 - There are many people and organizations that serve others in times of need.
 - The main idea for students is that love becomes real when we act on it.
 - We can show love in ordinary daily ways, not only during big emergencies.
- Ask/discuss: What do you think “loving people through action” means?

5. Jesus Says Serving Others Is Serving Him

- Read Matthew 25:34-40—Jesus teaches that feeding, helping, clothing and visiting others is counted as service to Him.
- Teaching points:
 - Jesus notices how we treat people who need help.
 - When we serve others, we are also showing love toward God.
 - Small acts of kindness matter to God.
 - God wants His people to help those who are hungry, lonely, sick or in need.
- Key thought: When we help someone in need, Jesus says it is as though we did it for Him.

6. The Two Greatest Commandments

- Read Mark 12:30-31—Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.
- Teaching points:
 - Loving God and loving others are connected.
 - We cannot separate obedience to God from how we treat people.
 - The Feast should help us practice both rejoicing before God and showing kindness to others.
- Ask: What are some ways children can love their neighbor?

7. The Church Serves Others Too

- The Church’s Good Works Program helps people in need through service, disaster assistance, international projects and other support.

- Teaching points:
 - The Church has organized ways to help people.
 - Young adults and members have served in places around the world.
 - Brethren can be helped when they face disasters or serious needs.
 - These examples are part of how we show love in action.
 - As God's people, we should be known for caring, helping and serving.

8. How We Can Serve at the Feast

- Return to Nehemiah 8:10: "Send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared."
- Teaching points:
 - At the Feast, we should look for ways to share joy with others.
 - Children can serve too.
 - Service does not have to be big or complicated. A smile, a kind word or a simple card can encourage someone.
- Give practical examples for students.

9. Craft Activity: Finish Feast Pop-Up Cards

- Let children finish their pop-up cards so they can give them to someone at the Feast as an act of love and encouragement.
- Instructions:
 - Continue coloring the festival scenes and card fronts.
 - Cut and glue the pieces according to the card instructions.
 - Allow cards to dry.
 - If a child finishes one card early, they may begin another to finish later.
 - Encourage each child to think about someone at the Feast who might be encouraged by receiving a card.

Lesson Two Example Script

Say: Welcome back! I hope you are having a wonderful Feast so far. We are blessed to be keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in a nice location and I am sure we are all enjoying good food, fellowship and sermons! It is such a wonderful time! In the last class we discussed that God has a vision for us! He always has, and His purpose for all mankind will be accomplished! We keep the Feasts and all the Holy Days to remind us of the vision of the Kingdom of God!

But did you know there was a time long ago when the children of Israel did not know about the Feast? Because of bad choices and decisions made by the leaders, the people lost the knowledge and vision of God's Kingdom and His Holy Days and festivals!

Can you imagine that? They had forgotten all about it until a scribe, who is like a teacher about laws, named Ezra, read the Book of the Law of Moses aloud to the people. We can find this event in Nehemiah 8:3. We are going to read Nehemiah 8:9-10:

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn, nor weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Say: So, all the people learned about the Feast and how to keep it! Notice, verse 10 again specifically: "...and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared."

Ask: What are some ways you could do this at the Feast? (*Possible answers: sending food, helping others, just to name a few.*)

Say: That's right! Did you know that God instructs us to help others? We can observe this in James 1:27:

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this, to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Ask: Do any of you have an older person that you know? Someone you are not related to, maybe an older neighbor or an older person at church that you enjoy talking to? Maybe your family picks up an older woman or man and takes them to church? Maybe you have even helped rake leaves, shovel snow or sweep a sidewalk for a neighbor who could not do it themselves.

This is the type of service that God is talking about.

Say: Also, Leviticus 19:18 says: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Ask: So how do we love our neighbor as ourselves? How can we do that in our lives?
(Allow for possible answers.)

Say: In our world today, we have many volunteer organizations that help people who are in need. Some of you may have heard of The Red Cross or The Salvation Army. Those two organizations help people in emergencies when families experience problems because of tornadoes, hurricanes, floods or other disasters. However, they also help and serve people from day to day as well, not just in times of crisis.

The Salvation Army is the organization that you might see with the red bucket. They help the homeless and those in need. In fact, the Salvation Army was established in London, England, in 1865. So, the Salvation Army has been helping people for more than 160 years! That is a long time! The founders of the Salvation Army, William and Catherine Booth, had a saying: “Loving God means loving people through action.”

There are lots of things we probably do every day to love others through our actions!

Ask: What do you think “loving people through action” means?

(Allow time for some discussion and examples. You might discuss how loving through action might include things like helping an elderly person carry their groceries into their house or volunteering to play with your little brother or sister. Maybe even your teacher at school asks you to help a new student learn where to store their lunch and school supplies.)

Say: I really like that saying! God shows how important this is by talking about it in Matthew 25:34–40.

Let’s read it together:

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me food; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you took Me in; I was naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.”

Then the righteous will answer Him saying, “Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?”

And the King will answer and say to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”

Say: God points out that when we show love and help others in need, we are showing love toward God as well! In fact, we know that showing love and obedience to God and showing love toward one another are the two greatest commandments!

Let's notice this in Mark 12:30-31:

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.

Ask: Have any of you ever read or heard this scripture before? (*Leave time for children to comment.*)

Say: Our Church even has special programs which help others in need too! It is called “The Good Works Program.” Through this program the Church has sent many young adults to help in areas all over the world! They have served orphanages in Guatemala and summer camps in Africa!

The Good Works program has also helped when brethren have faced disastrous house fires by providing financial assistance to help get them back on their feet! It has also helped provide scholarships for some of our young adults to help them attend college. All these examples show love in action toward our fellow man!

Say: So, with the idea of loving other people through action let's revisit one of the scriptures we read earlier in Nehemiah 8:10:

Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared.”

Remember, this was the time when ancient Israel discovered the law and the feasts of the Lord, such as the Feast of Tabernacles that we are celebrating right now.

Ask: While we are here at the Feast of Tabernacles, how can we show love to one another? How can we send portions to those who don't have as much?

(*Allow possible answers such as maybe your family invites someone over for dinner or pays for someone's meal. Maybe give little stuffed animals to children who may not have one. Or it can simply be sharing a smile or saying “Hi” to someone who is sitting by themselves.*)

Say: This Feast you could serve others by picking up trash on the floor or making sure to be extra quiet during services. You could even hold the door open for someone who maybe has their hands full! There are many, many things you can do to love your neighbor as yourself!

Today we are going to put that love into action! We are going to pick up where we left off last class with making our special cards for brethren here at the Feast of Tabernacles. I know that I love getting special cards. We have pop-up cards that you can choose from.

For the rest of the class, you can finish coloring your scenes and the front of your cards. Then you can glue them down to dry. If you finish one before class is over, you may start another card and finish it at home to give to someone tomorrow.

Have a great rest of your Feast!

(You can encourage older students to write one sentence inside the card connecting the artwork to the Kingdom of God. Emphasize personalizing a card with a personal note rather than making multiple empty cards.)

Activities & Printables



1. Items needed for this project:

- glue stick
 - scissors
 - colored pencils/markers/crayons
 - 2 pieces of cardstock or construction paper
-



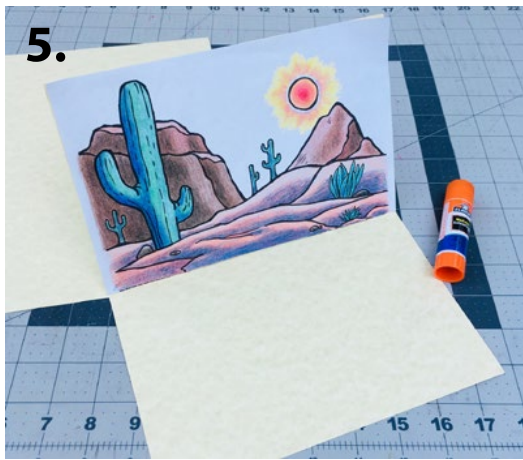
2. Choose and color one of the cards provided. Be creative!



3. Use the dotted lines to cut out the pictures.



4. Fold one sheet of the cardstock/ construction paper in half.



5. Glue background picture to upper half of folded cardstock/construction paper.



6. Bend card back in half the opposite way with picture facing out. Cut about a 2-inch section in middle of card on the fold.



7. Push flap out and crease towards the inside of card.

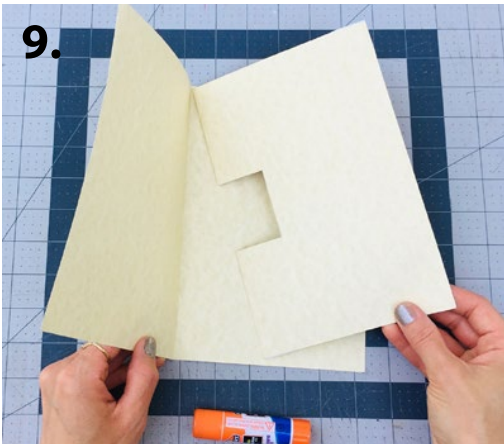


8a. Put glue on the front of flap.

8b. Place second cut-out on flap.



9.



9. Fold second sheet of cardstock/ construction paper in half. Glue second sheet to the back of card to hide cut-out opening.

10.



10. Decorate or write words of encouragement in your Festival card.

Older children may choose to add a Bible verse as well.

