

A photograph of two purple flowers in the foreground, with a bright sunset in the background. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The background is blurred, showing a field of smaller flowers and trees. A dark purple semi-transparent banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image, containing the text.

ARMOR OF GOD

THE HOLY DAYS AND THE ARMOR OF GOD

Family Study Guides

The Holy Days and the Armor of God

Family Study Guide

Objectives:

- List the Festivals of God and describe how the Holy Days show God's plan for mankind.
- Identify Jesus Christ's involvement in each Festival of God.
- List all pieces of the Armor of God and relate the Holy Days to these pieces of Armor.

Materials:

- [Beyond Today infographic](#)
- Two coloring sheets on pages 10-11.
- Summary Table of the Holy Days and the Armor of God on page 9.

Memory Verses:

Leviticus 23:2 (NKJV) ...The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.

Ephesians 6:11 (NLT) Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

God's purpose for humans is for us to be co-heirs in His Eternal Kingdom along with our Elder Brother, Jesus Christ. God's annual Holy Days reveal His plan of salvation for all mankind. But while the Father and the Son are working to bring us into their great family, another power is working against us to keep us from inheriting God's Kingdom and becoming a part of the God family.

At some point long ago, Lucifer and one third of the angels rebelled and fought against God and His plan. This rebellion caused a great supernatural battle in heaven. This great battle is, in principle, described in what appears to be a parallel situation found in this prophetic scene in *Revelation 12:7-9*:

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

It is important to understand the Devil's plan! Notice these words of warning:

Revelation 12:9 (NKJV) ...the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world... 10 ...the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night... 12 ...the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.

This series of UCG Youth Instruction Family Study Guides will study into the Bible to see how God's spiritual armor protects us against Satan's attacks and enables us to win this spiritual war to inherit the Kingdom!

In this Family Study Guide, let's examine how the lessons of God's Holy Days also relate to the Armor of God and how God uses each piece in this armor set to protect us against Satan's attacks.

The meaning of the Holy Days helps to understand the Armor of God—and the Armor of God helps to understand the Holy Days!

First, let's list the festivals of God.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

Discuss the role Jesus Christ plays in each of God's Holy Festivals, listed below.

- **The Passover** (*Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God and our Passover*)
- **The Feast of Unleavened Bread** (*Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life*)
- **Pentecost** (*Jesus Christ is building His Church through the Holy Spirit*)
- **The Feast of Trumpets** (*Jesus Christ will return to Earth as King of Kings*)
- **The Day of Atonement** (*Jesus Christ is High Priest for all*)
- **The Feast of Tabernacles** (*Jesus Christ reigns over Earth*)
- **The Eighth Day** (*Jesus Christ extends salvation to all humanity*)

Now let's list the pieces of the Armor of God found in Ephesians 6, listed below.

- The Belt of Truth
- The Breastplate of Righteousness
- The Shoes of the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace
- The Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation
- The Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God

How Do Lessons from the Holy Days Relate to God's Armor?

Here is a look at the New Testament meaning of each of God's Festivals and how they relate to the Armor of God. A summary table that condenses this information can be found on page 10.

Christ Our Passover and Sacrifice for Sins

The Passover ceremony of the Old Testament points to the New Testament Passover, Jesus Christ.

Leviticus 23:4-5 (NKJV) These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord's Passover.

This scripture makes clear that Jesus died so that we can receive salvation. On those who accept that sacrifice and give themselves to Him God places a **helmet of salvation!**

1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

Revelation 7:10 (NKJV) Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!

Revelation 12:10-11 (NLT) It has come at last—salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth—the one who accuses them before our God day and night. And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony.

The **shield of faith** is another major part of the Armor!

FAMILY DISCUSSION

Discuss what salvation is and why it is important to each person.

Ask: What does the helmet protect? (*Our mind—our thoughts.*)

Ask: What good thoughts can we have about God's plan for us because of Jesus Christ?

1 John 5:4-6 (NLT) For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God. And Jesus Christ was revealed as God's Son by his baptism in water and by shedding his blood on the cross...

Unleavened Bread: Christ in Us

The Days of Unleavened Bread come immediately after and in connection with Passover.

Leviticus 23:6-8 (NKJV) (keep)...the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.

The New Testament meaning of unleavened bread focuses on putting sin out of our lives, so that we can have a deeper relationship with God. Leaven here represents sin.

1 Corinthians 5:8 (NKJV) Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Many sins come from believing false teachings (remember Satan lying to Adam and Eve!).

Matthew 16:11-12 (ESV) Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees... the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

For example, God says to keep the Sabbath holy. False teachers try to say that the Sabbath is not necessary. Other wrong ideas of worship of Christ include Christmas and Easter.

When we follow God, He protects us from lies and sin by providing us with “the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” —or, the **belt of truth!**

Psalm 119:160 (NKJV) The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

A key event that occurred during Unleavened Bread time was the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! It is through His perfect life, His death and His resurrection that we have forgiveness of sins and are made righteous. It is not through our own power, but God's righteousness and the love He gives us.

The breastplate of righteousness helps us defeat Satan.

Romans 3:24-25 (NLT) Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.

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The Days of Unleavened Bread are a celebration of the resurrected Christ who saves us from our sins.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

Discuss the differences between the "righteousness" of the Scribes and Pharisees and the righteousness of Jesus Christ—why it is important. (see Matthew 5:20)

Say: A Roman soldier could tuck his tunic into his belt to keep him from tripping in battle.

Ask: How does the belt of truth keep us from tripping (making wrong choices)? How does that help us to follow Jesus Christ?

Pentecost: Christ Empowers His Church

God's third Holy Day is Pentecost (Leviticus 23:9-21). In Israel it was celebrated because it signified the completion of the early firstfruits harvest from the fields. Israelites could be assured of food for their families when God's blessing was on them.

In the New Testament, we see a deeper parallel to this. The "firstfruits harvest" here is not talking about plants, but about people.

James 1:17 ...Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father... 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

Ask: What special gift did God give His people on Pentecost? (*The promise of His power—the Holy Spirit—would be given to repentant Christians.*)

John 14:16-17 ...the Father...will give you another Helper, that He ["It"—the Holy Spirit] may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth...

The Armor of God is spiritual armor, given by God through His spirit. His spirit enables us to see and understand the Word of God. It also gives the ability to obey.

John 14:23-24 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words...

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom [which] the Father will send in My name, He [it] will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

God gives us the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God to help us know what to obey, how to obey and how to move forward towards His Kingdom.

Matthew 13:11 (NCV) Jesus answered, “You have been chosen to know the secrets about the kingdom of heaven, but others cannot know these secrets

Matthew 13:16-17 But you are blessed, because you see with your eyes and hear with your ears. I tell you the truth, many prophets and good people wanted to see the things that you now see, but they did not see them. And they wanted to hear the things that you now hear, but they did not hear them.



Pentecost shows that God has, at this time, only given His Holy Spirit to a few—the firstfruits.

This shows why it is important not to condemn non-member parents or grandparents, or others, because God has not yet called them or given His spirit so they can “see” and understand His word. That understanding will come in another part of God’s plan as revealed in another Holy Day.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

Discuss how and when God started working with you and what lead to having a relationship with Him. How did reading and knowing the Word of God lead to that unique relationship?

Discuss: What are some words from the Bible that have been helpful to you this week? How did they help you? **Fun Fact: S + word = Sword!**

Trumpets: Announcing Christ’s Return

Leviticus 23:24-25 (NKJV) ...you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.

The Feast of Trumpets was initially observed with blowing of trumpets which announced a gathering of people together for assembly, or as a call to war. There were several other reasons for blowing trumpets [time of gladness, for annual festivals, for the coronation of a king].

All of these purposes find their ultimate fulfillment in the New Testament teaching that Jesus Christ will return to the earth as King and assemble His people together at the sound of the seventh trumpet.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the

voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NKJV) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Revelation 11:15 (NKJV) Then the seventh angel sounded [his trumpet]: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!

Our job is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, His return, and the Kingdom of God. Having this purpose and hope keeps us moving forward. Don’t let anything stand in the way!

Romans 10:15 How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!

FAMILY DISCUSSION

When God gives us this goal, hope, purpose and direction, He is adding the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace to our armor.

Discuss why the knowledge of God’s Plan to build His family is important to each family member.

Ask: Why does Jesus Christ need to return to this earth?

Ask: What kinds of roads would you not want to walk on barefooted? (*Answer: rocky, not smooth.*)

Say: Knowing about God’s plan is like wearing good shoes that help our feet. How does knowing that Jesus will return help us when our life is like a rocky road?

Atonement: Christ Sends Satan Away

The Day of Atonement is the most unusual of the Holy Days, because it is a day on which God’s people fast.

Leviticus 23:27 (AMP) ...[on] the Day of Atonement; it shall be a holy... assembly, and you shall afflict yourselves by fasting...

On Atonement the Israelites sacrificed two goats. One goat as a sin offering (Leviticus 16:9) a second goat released as the scapegoat (Hebrew is Azazel). The scapegoat represents Satan, the one who departed from God and who is responsible for the temptations of humanity. Satan is the one Jesus called a “liar” and a “murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44).

After Christ returns to the earth, Satan will be taken away (Revelation 20:1-3) and will not be allowed to deceive the nations for a thousand years. This world will not know true peace until Satan, the ultimate deceiver, is put away.

Revelation 20:1-3 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven... He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.

The Day of Atonement shows that—through Jesus Christ—we win the battle against Satan, and those who have properly used the whole armor of God will rejoice in having won the war.

Ephesians 6:10-13 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Only after Satan is fully removed from the world scene, will *all* people be able to truly be “at one” with God! *Discuss how the world will be a different place then.*

Tabernacles: Christ’s Millennial Rule

In Old Testament at the time of the great harvest, the Israelites would gather at the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem and dwell in small huts or booths and rejoice in the worship of the Lord.

Leviticus 23:39 (NLT) “Remember that this seven-day festival to the Lord—the Festival of Shelters—begins on the fifteenth day of the appointed month, after you have harvested all the produce of the land.

This large later harvest typifies the great number of people being able to know and follow God’s plan and His Truth. The living in temporary dwellings at the Feast of Tabernacles actually points us toward the 1,000 year period of peace and prosperity after Jesus returns (Revelation 20:1-6). The earth will be changed, not through the achievement of mankind, but through the power of God.

This will it be a time of introducing peace and prosperity to the world that had previously been dominated by Satan’s way. But more importantly, the Millennium will be highlighted by God opening the minds of the people to be able to see His way of life.

At this time everyone will have their eyes and ears opened spiritually by having access to the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

Isaiah 29:18 (NKJV) In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.

Isaiah 35:4-7 (NKJV) Behold, your God will... come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. 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.

Even though Satan will be taken away, people will still have to fight their own human nature

and will continue to need each piece of the Armor of God to fully follow God's way of life.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

Ask: Why is the Feast of Tabernacles such a special time?

Ask: What does it mean to “see” and “hear” the truth of the Word of God?

Discuss why other people in your school or on the job aren't at the Feast?

Ask: What kind of changes are you excited to see during the Millennium?

Eighth Day (or Last Great Day): Jesus Offers Salvation to All

Following the Feast of Tabernacles is a final, Eighth Day of the Feast (Leviticus 23:36) which is tied with the great later harvest.

Understanding the greater meaning of this day answers the questions people have about loved ones and the many billions of people who have died without receiving salvation through Jesus Christ.

This Feast day is referred to as the Eighth Day of the Feast, or the Last Great Day, or the Great

The time represented by this Holy Day reveals that the **helmet of salvation will be placed on all who have never had a chance to know, understand, and “wear” the **belt of truth**.**

White Throne Judgment.

Revelation 20:11-12 (NKJV) Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it... And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened.

Ezekiel 37:11-14 (NKJV) Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house

It is a time when all who died never having known the Truth of God, will be resurrected, given the knowledge of the Bible—the **sword of the Spirit, the Word of God—and given chance to live God's way.**

of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’ Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves.... Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people.... I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it,” says the Lord.’

FAMILY DISCUSSION

As a family talk about some people who have died that you are looking forward to seeing after they are resurrected to physical life again. How will having the Armor of God make life different for these people after they are resurrected?

God makes His plan of salvation available to the rest of the world by giving the whole armor of God to them!

Let's Summarize!

God's Holy Days give an overview of His great plan of salvation and how He is going to bring it all about by giving us the Whole Armor of God through His great power!

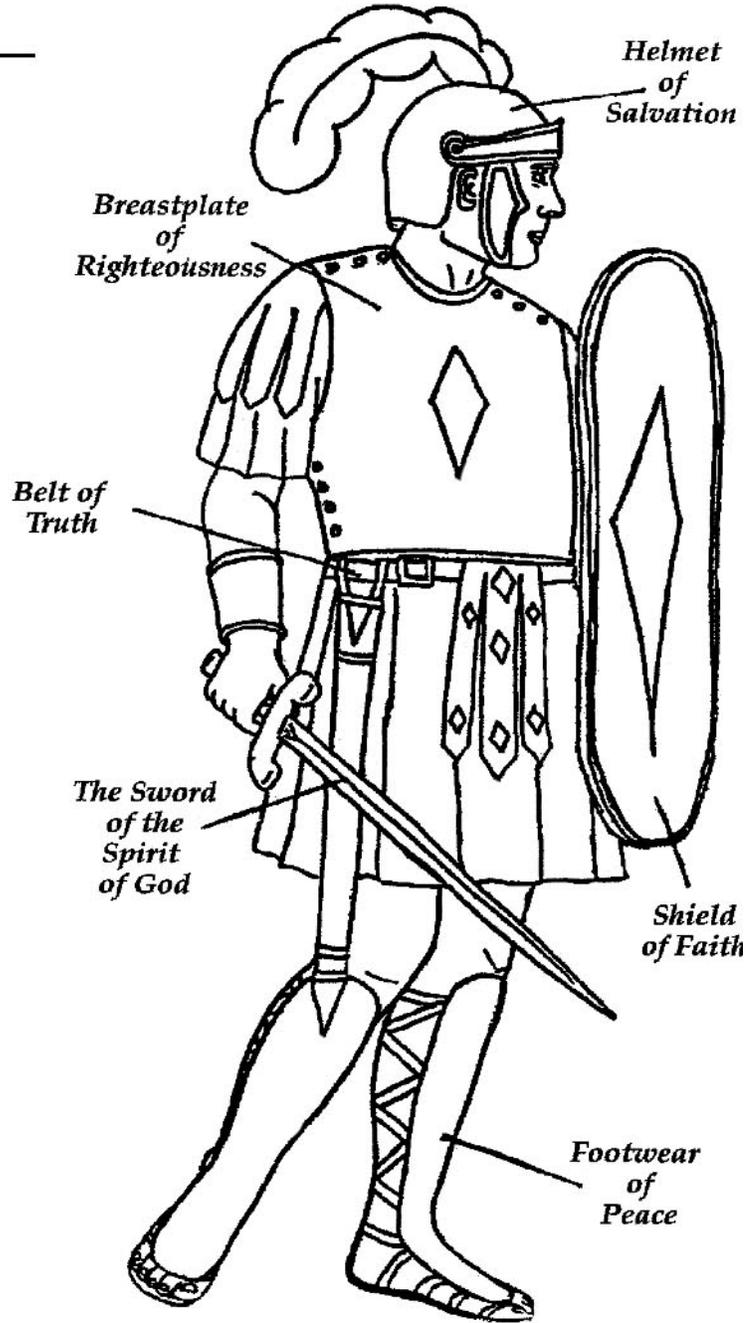
Festival Name	What part of God's plan does this Festival represent?	Armor of God Connection
Passover	Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb, was sacrificed for us so we can have salvation. <i>1 Corinthians 5:7</i>	Helmet of Salvation <i>Revelation 7:10</i> Shield of Faith <i>1 John 5:4</i>
Feast of Unleavened Bread	Following Christ, the Bread of Life, helps us to remove sin and live in sincerity and truth. <i>1 Corinthians 5:7</i>	Belt of Truth <i>Psalms 119:160</i> Breastplate of Righteousness <i>Romans 3:24</i>
Pentecost	Jesus Christ is building His Church, His first harvest, through the Holy Spirit. <i>James 1:17-18</i>	Sword of the Spirit <i>John 14:26</i>
Feast of Trumpets	Jesus Christ will return to Earth as King of Kings. <i>Revelation 11:15</i>	Shoes of the Gospel of Peace <i>Romans 10:15</i>
Day of Atonement	Satan will be removed for 1,000 years. All can become one with God through Jesus Christ. <i>Revelation 20:1-3</i>	Whole Armor of God <i>Ephesians 6:10</i>
Feast of Tabernacles	Jesus Christ rules the Earth. The Earth will be changed and there will be a great harvest of people who know and follow God. <i>Revelation 20:1-6</i>	Sword of the Spirit <i>Isaiah 29:18</i> <i>Isaiah 34:4-7</i>
The Eighth Day	The rest of the world will be resurrected to life and have the opportunity to know and follow God. <i>Revelation 20:11</i>	Helmet of Salvation <i>Belt of Truth</i> Sword of the Spirit <i>Ezekiel 37:11-14</i>

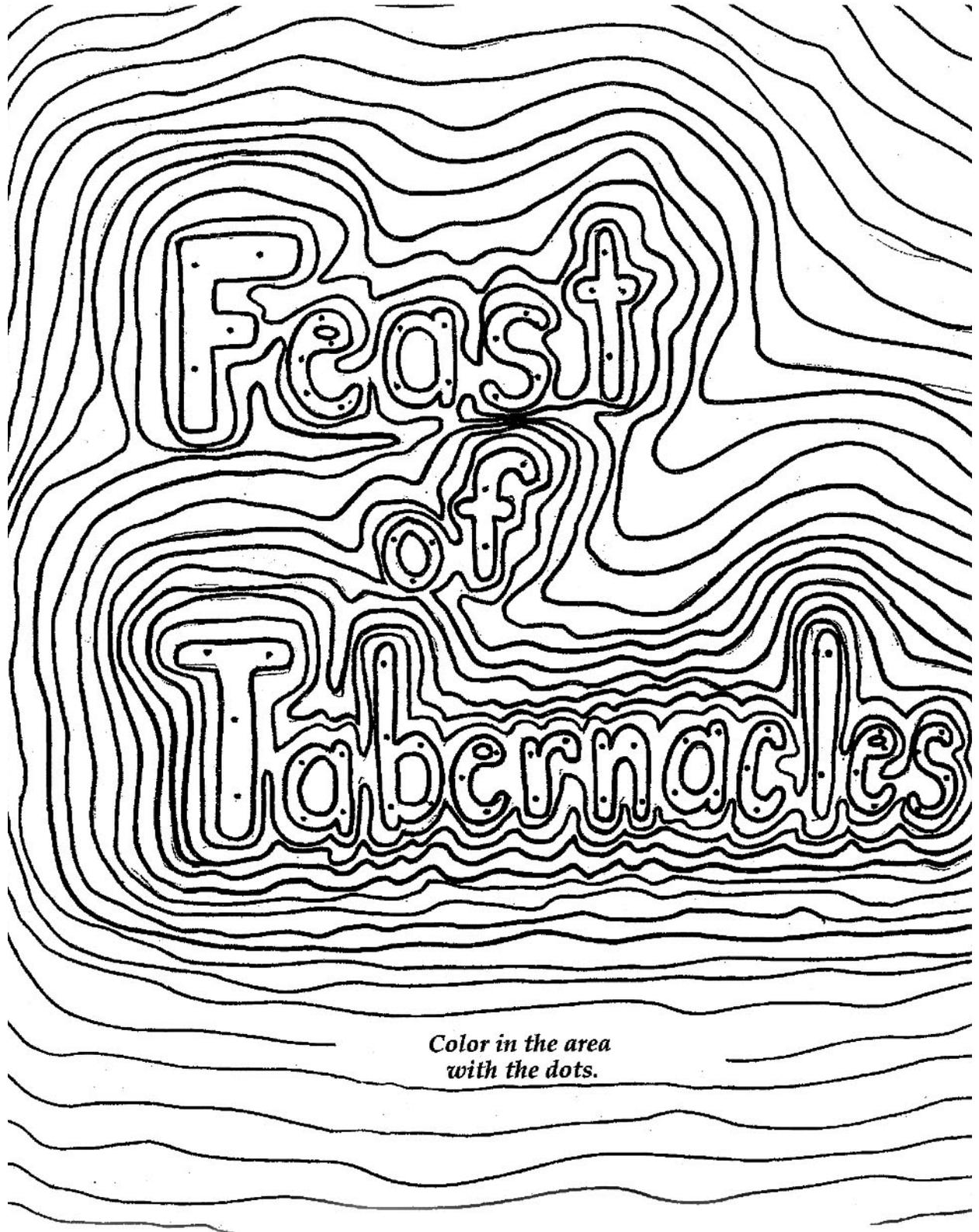
The Feast of Tabernacles

Name _____

***Dress
For
Battle

Put
on the
Whole
Armor
of God***





*Color in the area
with the dots.*