

# Welcome to a Year of Celebration!

**Week 41: October 9-15, 2022**

## **Celebrate Sukkot**

This year, we are focusing on who God is and how we can celebrate him and the life that he offers to us. We will draw deeper into a relationship with the Lord through examining his nature and desire for personal intimacy with us as his people, and we are going to do so in such a fun way! We are going to journey in 2022 through practical ways to celebrate various holidays! We will look at many of your favorite celebrations: Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day and much more. We will explore the historic, liturgical holidays of the year, learn about the Jewish festivals of the Bible days, and even consider some of the celebrations of other religious faiths. I'm so glad you will be on this journey with us.

In this packet, you will find some ideas for you to grow closer to God, your family, and others. Nothing is required. It is all for fun and your personal enjoyment and growth. There are enough activities that you could do one or two per day during the week if you want. If you don't want to do something, skip it. If another idea comes to mind, do it. Watch for God's abundant goodness and celebrate it.

Come Join Us as We  
**CELEBRATE GOD!**



**“They celebrate your abundant goodness  
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.”**

*Dr. Patrick Wilson*

**(Psalm 145:7)**

*2022*

# Video Devotional

Go to Patrick Wilson's YouTube page and watch the video devotional for this week: Celebrate Sukkot. Then, consider and discuss with your family/friends the following questions:

- Describe what you think it was like to live in temporary dwellings in the wilderness for forty years?
- In what ways do you recognize God's provision of your basic needs (i.e., food, shelter, clothing)?
- How can you let Jesus take the lead in what you are going through right now?
- How will you trust Jesus to be your guide into eternity?
- How does it make you feel to know that God put a deposit on you by giving you the Spirit of Jesus?

## Craft: Model Sukkot

Sukkot is a time of remembering the small huts or "tabernacles" that the Jews lived in during their time in the wilderness. Make a play scene or model of a family celebrating Sukkot. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Cut a Kleenex box in half and expand the opening to make it look like a hut.
2. Use glue to affix grass and/or leaves to the room (and sides) of the hut.
3. Use figurines, Lego figures, or other "people." Arrange the figures with household objects or in a celebratory fashion.
4. Add additional doll furniture, Lego pieces, or small objects to finish out your display.

After you've created your model, spend time retelling the story of Sukkot and sharing with each other.

### Needed Supplies:

- Empty Kleenex Box
- Grass/Leaves
- Glue
- Figurines
- Doll/Lego Furniture
- Additional Small Objects for Display



# Food to Prepare

In addition to celebrating the wilderness wanderings of the Hebrews before entering Canaan, Sukkot is the celebration of the harvest. In some ways, it is like Thanksgiving in that Sukkot centers on foods related to the autumn harvest (apples, pears, sweet potatoes, carrots, and other root vegetables). In addition, here are some ideas to bring the holiday to the table:

**STUFFED FOODS:** One traditional way to celebrate Sukkot is to take cabbage, grape leaves, zucchini, squash, or peppers and stuff them with rice, meat and herbs. Another stuffed food that is common is strudel, which is dough stuffed with sweet or savory filling.

**ROAST CHICKEN AND VEGETABLES:** This dish works great because it uses a lot of the traditional fall vegetables available during the season.

**SWEET POTATO KUGEL:** This kugel combines sweet potatoes with gold potatoes, apples, carrots, lemon and cinnamon.

**FRUIT COMPOTE:** Stew apricots, plums, raisins, etc. Combine with sugar, lemon rind, cloves and allspice. Cook until the syrup thickens.

**GRAHAM CRACKER SUKKOT:** Another fun thing to try is to make a simplified version of a ginger bread house by using graham crackers to make a sukkot or hut. Use icing and other decorative treats to build your temporary structure and then enjoy eating them together.

## The Four Species

During Sukkot, families gather four species of plants. Various meanings are associated with each:

- Frond of Date Palm—represent the spine
- Citron Fruit—represent the heart
- Myrtle Bough—represent the eyes
- Willow Branch—represent the lips

So, the waving of these four things before God is an expression of giving our whole selves to the Lord.

# Movies to Watch

If you are movie fan, pick out a favorite movie to watch alone or with family/friends. These movies are just some of the ones that focus on going on a journey. If you'd rather, just pick another great movie to watch together. Pop some popcorn, curl up on the couch, and enjoy the show!

## Play a Travel Game

Pull out a game that has a travel theme. Play the game and then talk about your ideas for family travels: vacation, visit family, etc. Afterwards, talk about what it was like for the Israelites to travel through the wilderness. What would have been scary for them? What would have been fun for them?

Here are some fun travel-themed games to try:

- Destination Anywhere
- Trekking the National Parks
- Itchy Feet
- Backpacker
- Lost Cities
- Ticket to Ride
- Passport to Culture
- Monopoly
- Carcassonne
- Bruise Cruise
- Mapominoes
- 100 Pics of World Flags

### Travel Movies:

- The Lost City
- The Wizard of Oz
- The Hobbit
- Wild
- The Secret Life of Walter Mitty
- The Emoji Movie
- The Peanut Butter Falcon
- Aquaman
- Into the Wild
- Tracks
- Lion
- On the Road
- Captain Fantastic
- Before Sunrise
- Patagonia
- The Way
- Under the Tuscan Sun
- A Walk in the Woods
- The Bucket List
- In Bruges
- A Good Year



# Bible Study

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you” (Psalm 32:8).

Because we are all works in progress with limited understanding and knowledge, we need an instructor. In this verse, the tense suddenly changes from third person (v. 6) to second person (v. 7) and then to first person (v. 8). The ambiguity makes it difficult to say for sure who the subject of these two sentences is referencing.

While the author (David or someone on the king’s behalf) could be the identified instructor, it seems more probable that he is quoting God to proclaim himself as our instructor. God will show us the way that we should go. This is a necessary truth for David’s success and for our own. We need God to teach us every day. We need for him to counsel us in the way that we should go and how we should live our lives.

Most importantly, we need to remember that God has his loving eyes on us. God is not seeking to jump on us when we step out of line. Rather, he seeks to walk with us through life (both the valleys and the mountaintops). While you may not know the best route to go, God does and he will guide your steps.

## Prayer Time

Spend time this week prayer walking through your home. Ask God to be Lord over whatever happens in each room. Thank God for your shelter.

Marquette University offers this Sukkot prayer:

*O Lord our God and God of our fathers,  
to cause Your Divine spirit to dwell in our midst.  
O spread over us your shelter of peace,  
and encircle us with Your majestic glory, holy and pure.  
As for those who are hungry and thirsty,  
grant them sufficient bread and water.  
O grant us long life in the holy land  
that we may serve You with reverence.  
Praised be the Lord forever. Amen, Amen.*



## Serve: The Shelterless

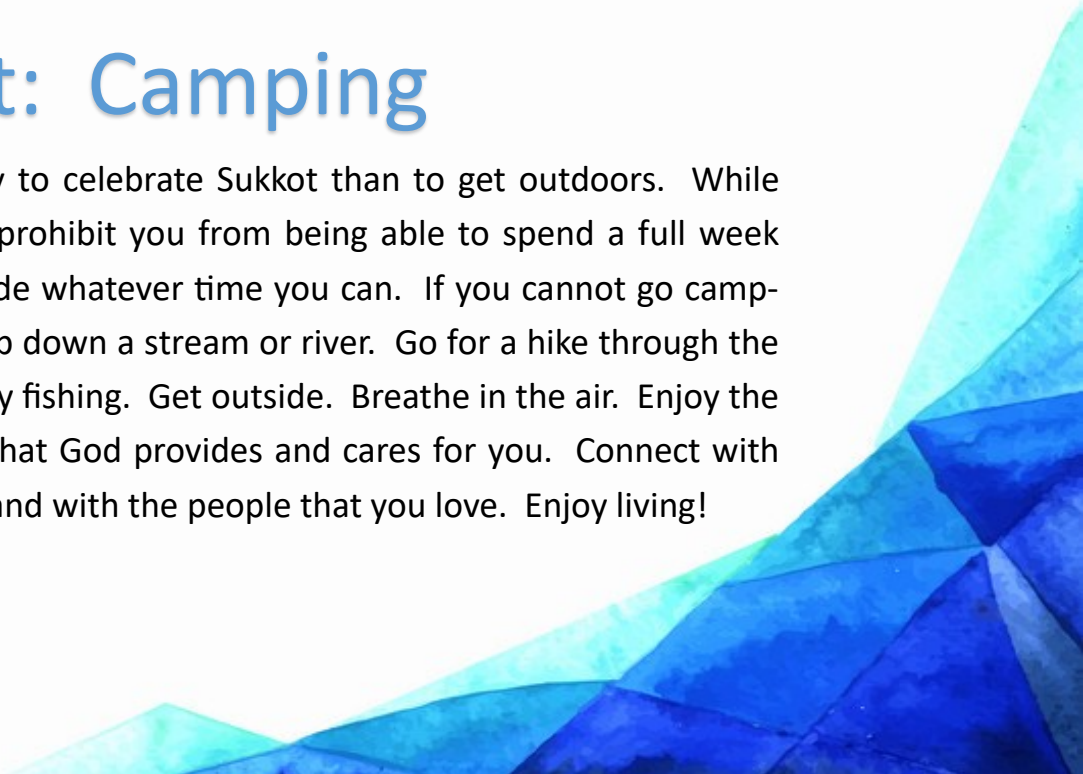
We normally describe those who live out on the streets or do not have a home as “homeless,” but the real danger is that many of them have no shelter. During the extreme heat, cold, and rains, our bodies need shelter. In 2020, there were 580,466 people recorded as experiencing homelessness in America.

According to the HUD AHAR 2020 statistics, 70% of those without shelter are male. While the highest number of homeless are white, minority groups have a higher percentage of their population living on the streets. Thankfully, there are temporary shelter accommodations that are reaching about 354,000 of those who are homeless, some still sleep on sidewalks, subway trains, parks, or in their vehicles.

Take time this week to research those who do not have a sukkah or shelter to protect them from the elements. If you have a shelter for those who are displaced in your community, explore ways that you could volunteer, make a financial contribution, or donate supplies. The best gift you can give is your time. Spend time with those who are shelterless, listen to their stories, encourage them, and your life will be enriched.

## Connect: Camping

There is no better way to celebrate Sukkot than to get outdoors. While work and school may prohibit you from being able to spend a full week camping, try to set aside whatever time you can. If you cannot go camping, consider a float trip down a stream or river. Go for a hike through the woods or spend the day fishing. Get outside. Breathe in the air. Enjoy the creation. Remember that God provides and cares for you. Connect with the world around you and with the people that you love. Enjoy living!



# Worship

Carve out some time to listen to worship music, hum or sing along. Here are some great songs to get you started. These songs are about God's guidance. Look them up on YouTube if you don't have them in your music repertoire.

Pick your own songs and spend time worshipping and celebrating who God is to you and all the ways that he has blessed your life.

## God's Guidance Worship Songs:

- Follow You Anywhere
- All the Way My Savior Leads Me
- Shoulders
- Way Maker
- I Have Decided
- Overcomer
- Live Like Your Loved
- Raise a Hallelujah
- I Will Follow
- Lead Me to the Cross
- For God is With Us
- Build a Boat
- I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

## Challenge: Dependence

Try to spend some time this week evaluating your level of self-reliance and dependence. To what degree are you depending on others? Are you too independent or are you co-dependent? To what degree are you depending on God?

Then, schedule time with a friend to ask for his/her feedback, share your personal conclusions, and brainstorm any alterations that you need to make to find proper dependence levels on God and others.

"We need God's guidance whether we are at a certain crossroad, making life changing, path altering decisions, or as we go throughout the day."

—Shannon Scott