

Feb 14, 2016



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks  
Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon  
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester  
Outreach: Joyce Kirkland  
Secretary: Mary Clark  
Deacon: C M Hester

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Without the Holy Spirit there would be no harvest

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**

There's surely somewhere a lowly place  
In earth's harvest fields so wide,  
Where I may labor through life's short day  
For Jesus, the crucified. —Gabriel

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the Lord*

(Lev 23:17 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", May 22, 1994)

**Series: SACRED GIFTS AND HOLY GATHERINGS**

UNIT: Holy Days

NEXT WEEK

**Day of Atonement**  
(Lev 16:11-19)

## Feast of Weeks

Lev 23:15-22

### Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews how God structured the life of His people to honor Him by celebrating the **Feast of Weeks**. The **study's aim** is to show that a God-honoring life will result in God's blessing and the application of His plans to our experience. The **study's application** is to order our lives as His people to ensure that we put Him first in our finances, materials possessions and daily living.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### Lesson Introduction and Background

The first Passover in Egypt demonstrated to the Israelites that God was on their side. This made it easier to leave all that was familiar when it was time to make the exodus from Egypt (Exodus 12). The Israelites did not know what the future held, but they had confidence—at least temporarily—in the one who held the future. The GPS (God's Positioning System) used by Moses led the Israelites in an unusual direction—not by the way of the Mediterranean seacoast to the land of Canaan, but into the wilderness of the Red Sea area (Exodus 13:17, 18). The Lord used a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to guide, protect, and assure the people that they were going where he wanted them to be (13:21, 22). The Israelites experienced at the Red Sea yet another mighty deliverance after Pharaoh changed his mind about the departure of his labor force. He sent hundreds of chariots to bring them back (Exodus 14:5-9), but God had different plans. The dividing of sea waters so as to have a wall of water on each side is an impossibility for humans, but not for God (14:21, 22). The God who created the universe can easily divide a small sea on this tiny planet! As the journey continued, God met the needs of his people. These needs included provisions of water (Exodus 15:22-27; 17:1-7), food (chap. 16), and a victory over the Amalekites (17:8-16). The interim destination was Sinai, and this new nation arrived in the third month (19:1). The Israelites knew that the Lord was God, but what did he expect from them? God was ready to tell them, and that was the purpose of their stay at Mount Sinai, which lasted almost a year (Numbers 10:11, 12). When God gave the people manna on the way to Sinai, they learned that God expected them to rest on the seventh day (Exodus 16:23-30), and that expectation was reinforced as part of the Ten Commandments (chap. 20). This was followed by his giving laws (chaps. 21-23) that collectively are called "the Book of the Covenant" (24:7). It contained upwards of 70 rules that the people needed immediately for the governing of social relationships. It could be called their bill of rights, but perhaps bill of responsibilities for producing a just society is better.

The Day of Pentecost—the later designation for the Festival of Weeks—is the birthday of the church (Acts 2). The Bible does not say why God chose this occasion for the church to begin. But the way that it was celebrated made it the perfect tool to fulfill God's plan to spread the gospel from Jerusalem into Judea, Samaria, and "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Pentecost drew many Jews from distant parts of the Roman Empire (compare Acts 2:5-11). The rainy season was over, and the weather was warm and delightful for travel. Some who made a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Jerusalem for Passover perhaps remained "on vacation" through Pentecost. In any case, it is fascinating that the death and resurrection of Jesus occurred during the time of Passover and Unleavened Bread and that seven weeks later the church began on Pentecost. The people who were in Jerusalem at these times had the privilege of being among the first to be introduced to the gospel, which they could take with them on their return home. About 3,000 people were convinced, and they responded to Peter's instructions to repent and to be baptized for the remission of sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38, 41). As they returned to all parts of the Roman Empire and elsewhere, they became the vanguard for the spreading message of redemption.

*(Adapted from the Bible Knowledge Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### TIME OF THE FEAST (LEV 23:15-16)

#### *Plan the time (15)*

Plan time so that we may use it wisely (Eph 5:15-16)

Plan time because the end is near (1 Cor 7:29-31)

Plan time to number our days (Ps 90:12)

Plan time to remember the Creator (Eccl 12:1)

Plan time to count the cost (Luke 14:28-29)

#### *Time to Count (16)*

Beware of Satan's influence to count (1 Chron 21:1-7)

Don't worry about counting forgiveness (Matt 18:21-22)

Counting the cost (Luke 14:31-33)

### NATURE OF THE FEAST (LEV 23:17-21)

#### *Firstfruit offerings (17)*

Giving of firstfruits that honors God (Prov 3:9)

Giving of firstfruits that are offered to God (Lev 2:12)

Giving of firstfruits that come from what God has given (Deut 26:1-2)

Giving of firstfruits as tithes to the Church (Mal 3:10)

Giving of firstfruits that come from abundance to supply the lacking of others (2 Cor 8:14)

#### *Sacrificial offerings (18-19)*

An offering beyond ability (2 Cor 8:3)

An offering that is all one has (Mark 12:43-44)

An offering that is given, even though it is the last (1 Kings 17:8-13)

An offering of a life of service that is almost to death (Phil 2:29-30)

#### *Holy offerings (20-21)*

A holy offering that is considered pleasing to God (Heb 13:16)

A holy offering because it is done willingly (2 Cor 8:12)

A holy offering because it offered right (Gen 4:2-7)

A holy offering because of giving out of love (Eph 5:1-2)

A holy offering because it is sacrificial (Phil 4:16-18)

### ATTITUDE FOR THE FEAST (LEV 23:22)

#### *Don't be greedy (22)*

Don't be greedy because it arouses God's anger (Num 11:32-34)

Don't be greedy by trying to devour the needy (Prov 30:13-14)

Don't be greedy through illegal possessions (1 Kings 21:16-19)

Don't be greedy through trying to get rich the wrong way (1 Tim 6:9)

#### *Sharing with the needy (22)*

By sharing possessions (Acts 4:32-35)

By sharing through contributions to the poor (Rom 15:25-27)

By sharing to supply their needs (2 Cor 9:12-13)

By sharing continually and being consistent in help (Heb 6:10)

By sharing with them (Heb 13:16)