

**Week #2**

**5-10 FOUR JEWISH FEASTS**

**Video**



**Chapter 5: Sabbath**

**A. Sabbath**

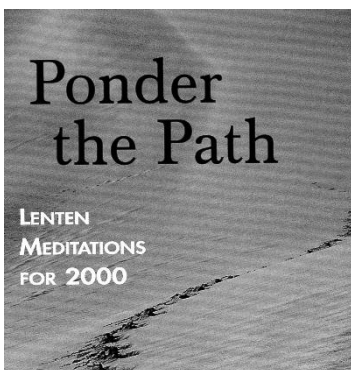
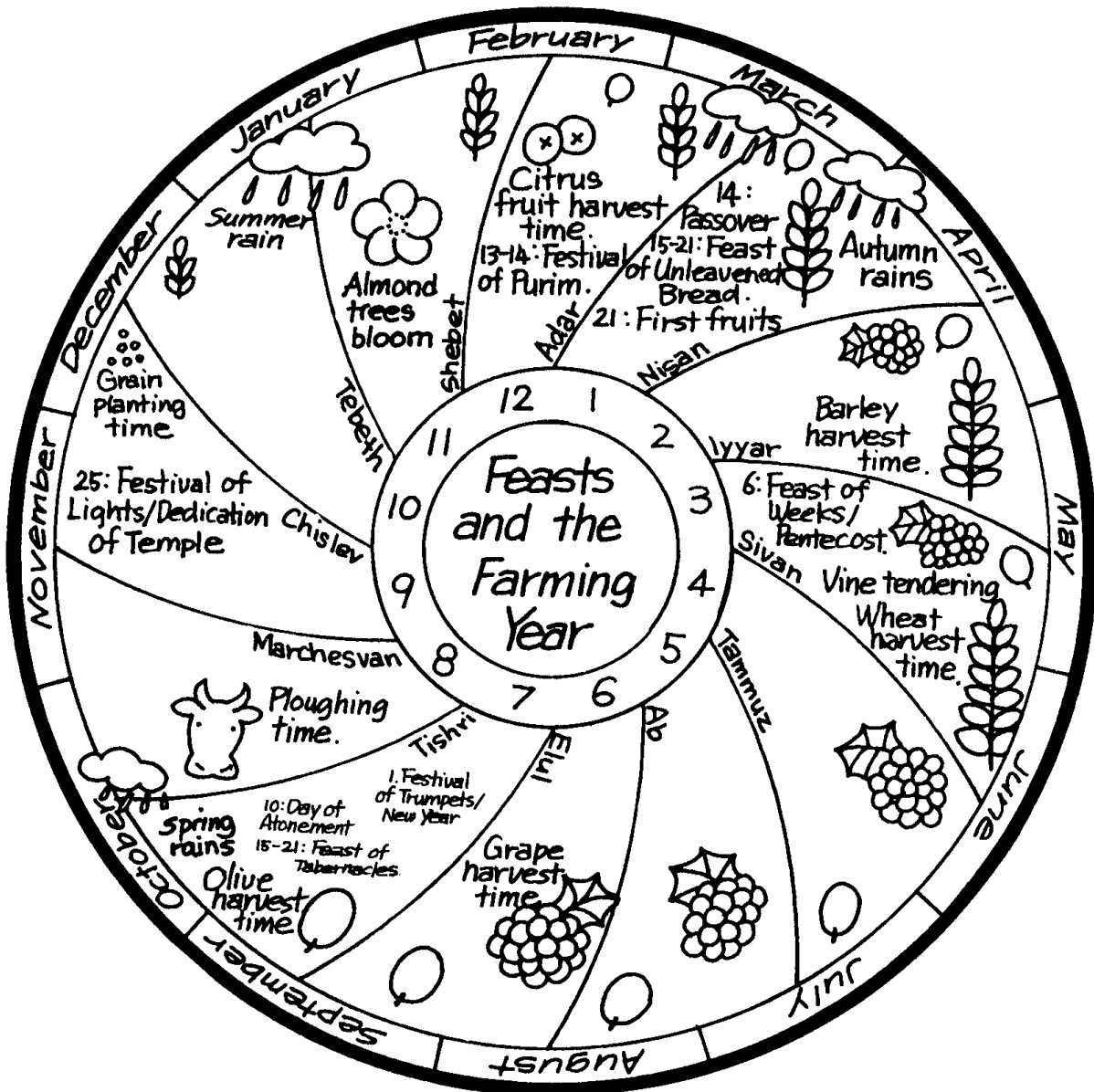
- i. What is the Sabbath?
- ii. Why was it established? What does it emphasize about God?

**B. Read John 5:1-18**

- i. In what ways do the Jews accuse the man and Jesus of breaking the Sabbath?
- ii. How is it that the answer Jesus gives leads the Jews to thinking He is claiming that He is equal with God the Father?

**C. How is Jesus our “Sabbath rest”? See John 5:19-24.**

*Why is this the role of the Creator?*



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## SUKKOT (Feast of Tabernacles)

**Date:** The 15th day of the Jewish month Tishri, September/October.

**Name:** Sukkot (soo KOT) means huts or booths, which are built for the celebration. It is also called the Feast of Tabernacles.

**Purpose:** Give thanks for the harvest and memorialize the journey from Egypt to Canaan.

**Old Testament:** *"On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the LORD's Feast of Tabernacles begins, and it lasts seven days. The first day is a sacred assembly; do no regular work. For seven days present offerings . . . on the eighth day hold a solemn assembly . . . "* (Leviticus 23:33-36). *"Celebrate the festival . . . live in booths for seven days . . . "* (Leviticus 23:39-43). Also Numbers 29:12-34; Deuteronomy 16:13-15.

**New Testament:** *"When the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near . . . On the last and great day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink'"* (John 7:2, 37).

**Observance:** A week of living in booths and offering sacrifices to celebrate the harvest and remember the journey to Canaan. The booths symbolize the huts the Jewish people lived in during their 40-year journey.

In the temple ritual, water was poured at the altar symbolizing prayers for winter rains and reminding them that God provided water when it was needed.

**Tradition:** On the seventh day of Sukkot, called Great Deliverance Day (*Hoshana Rabah*), willow branches are beaten so some leaves fall off, a symbol of the renewal of life. This is also the day on which God decides the fate of each person for the next year.

On the eighth day of Sukkot, the Solemn Deliverance Day (*Shemini Atzereth*), prayers are said for rain and good crops for the coming year.

The day after *Shemini Atzereth* is *Simchath Torah*, the day of Rejoicing with the Torah. The last chapters of the Torah are read and the first book begun again.

**Fulfillment:** Jesus is the Water of life and the Bread of life. John 4:13-14; 6:35-40. At the end of time the *"Tabernacle of God is with men"* and Jesus says, *"To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life"* (Revelation 21:6).



## Chapters 7-10: Sukkot (Tabernacles)

- A. How might these sections be connections to the Wanderings in the Desert?
  - 7:10-13
  - 7:14-24
- B. How does 7:37-39 connect with the water from the Rock at Meribah—Exodus 17:1-7?
- C. Nehemiah summarizes the remembrance of the Exodus / Wilderness in his prayer (Nehemiah 9:9-15). How does this summary help you see all the ways in which Jesus is the fulfillment of those acts of God?
- D. See John 8:31-38. How does our relationship with God require acknowledging our ignorance—whether back in the Exodus, in the days of Jesus, or now?  
*What makes this difficult for you...or people you know?*