

Seven Nights of Sukkot Family Scripts

A Christ centered family study of the seven traditional guests

These seven readings use Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph, and David as a framework for remembering God's covenant faithfulness.

The guests come from later Jewish tradition, not from the biblical command for Sukkot. The scripts therefore say that we remember each person rather than inviting his spirit or presence.

Scripture quotations are from the King James Version

How to use the nightly scripts

Each reading takes about ten to fifteen minutes, depending on the length of the family discussion. The leader may shorten the Bible reading for young children or ask older children to read alternating verses. Assign the Family response to everyone, or let the younger children lead it.

- Place the suggested symbol on the table before beginning.
- Keep a Bible nearby and read the longer passage directly from it.
- Let children answer in their own words. The suggested answers are guides, not tests.
- Complete the closing action immediately or save it for the following school day.
- End with a hymn, a psalm, or a song your family already knows.

Opening words for every night

Leader The LORD appointed the Feast of Tabernacles so that His people would remember how He brought Israel out of Egypt and caused them to dwell in booths. We gather with thanksgiving because every good gift comes from Him.

Family "O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

Leader Tonight we remember one of the men whose life forms part of the biblical story of God's covenant faithfulness. We do not call upon him or seek his presence. We remember what Scripture teaches and worship God alone.

Family We will remember the works of the LORD and teach them to our children.

Night 1 Abraham

Theme	Faith covenant and hospitality
Bible passages	Genesis 12 Genesis 15 Genesis 18
Table symbol	A star or a small tent

Leader On this first night we remember Abraham, a man whom God called away from his country, his kindred, and his father's house. Abraham did not receive a map of the whole journey. He received a command and a promise.

Scripture reading *Genesis 12:1 through 3 and Genesis 18:1 through 8.* Ask one child to listen for God's promises and another to listen for Abraham's acts of hospitality

Leader God promised to make of Abraham a great nation, to bless him, and to bless all families of the earth through him. Abraham believed God, though he often had to wait and sometimes acted fearfully. His life teaches us that faith is not knowing every step. Faith rests on the character and word of God.

Child reader "And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."
Genesis 15:6

Leader Abraham also welcomed travelers near his tent. He offered water, shade, rest, and food. His hospitality was prompt and generous. That makes his story fitting for a feast celebrated in a temporary shelter and shared with guests.

Leader The promise did not end with Abraham. Matthew begins by calling Jesus Christ the son of David and the son of Abraham. Galatians teaches that the promised Seed is Christ. Through Him, the blessing reaches people of every nation who believe.

Family God keeps His promises from generation to generation.

Family discussion

- What did Abraham have to leave behind in order to obey God?
- Which actions in Genesis 18 made the strangers feel welcome?
- How can our family practice hospitality when it is inconvenient?
- How did God's promise to Abraham move the biblical story toward Christ?

Closing action

Place a star beside Abraham's name on the family timeline. Each person may name someone your family could welcome, encourage, or serve during the coming week.

Closing prayer

Father, thank You for keeping every promise You make. Teach us to trust You when we cannot see the whole path. Make our home a place of generous and cheerful hospitality. Thank You for fulfilling Your promise of blessing through Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

Family "O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

Night 2 Isaac

Theme	Promise provision and peaceful perseverance
Bible passages	Genesis 22 Genesis 26
Table symbol	A stone a ram figure or a cup of water

Leader On this second night we remember Isaac, the son God promised when Abraham and Sarah were old. Isaac's birth showed that God's purpose does not depend upon human strength.

Scripture reading *Genesis 22:1 through 14 and Genesis 26:17 through 25.* Younger children may listen for the words lamb, ram, well, and water

Leader On Mount Moriah, Abraham told Isaac that God would provide a lamb. God stopped Abraham and provided a ram caught in a thicket. The ram died in Isaac's place. This event teaches the pattern of substitution and points our attention forward to God's complete provision in Christ.

Child reader "And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen." Genesis 22:14

Leader Later, Isaac sowed crops and dug wells. When others fought over the water, he often moved and dug again. At Rehoboth he said that the LORD had made room for them. Isaac was not perfect or passive in every matter, but his story shows patient trust and a willingness to pursue peace.

Leader Isaac was the promised son, yet he could not carry the world's sin. Jesus is the sinless Son whom the Father gave. He is the Lamb of God and the final sacrifice to which every earlier substitute pointed.

Family The LORD provides, and His promises do not fail.

Family discussion

- What did God provide on Mount Moriah?
- Why were wells so important to a household with many animals?
- What can Isaac's wells teach us about peace and perseverance?
- How is Jesus greater than Isaac and greater than the ram?

Closing action

Place a small stone or cup of water beside Isaac's name. Thank God for one ordinary provision that is easy to overlook, such as clean water, food, shelter, or strength for today's work.

Closing prayer

Father, You see our needs before we speak them. Thank You for daily water, food, shelter, and protection. Teach us to work faithfully, to pursue peace, and to trust Your provision. Above all, thank You for providing Jesus Christ, the perfect Lamb. Amen.

Family "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Night 3 Jacob

Theme	Transformation and the presence of God
Bible passages	Genesis 28 Genesis 32
Table symbol	A small ladder drawing

Leader On this third night we remember Jacob. His story includes deception, fear, family conflict, hard work, and painful consequences. Yet it also shows God's patient correction and faithful presence.

Scripture reading *Genesis 28:10 through 17 and Genesis 32:24 through 30.* Ask the children to identify what changed in Jacob's understanding of God and of himself

Leader When Jacob left home, he slept outdoors with a stone for a pillow. In a dream he saw a ladder reaching from earth to heaven. God repeated the covenant promises and said that He would be with Jacob and bring him back.

Child reader "And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest." Genesis 28:15

Leader Years later, Jacob wrestled through the night and received a new name, Israel. A new name did not mean that every weakness vanished immediately. It marked God's claim upon him and a changed direction. From Jacob's sons came the tribes of Israel.

Leader Jesus later spoke of angels ascending and descending upon the Son of man. Jacob saw a ladder joining heaven and earth. Jesus is the true meeting place between God and man, the only mediator who brings us to the Father.

Family God is with His people and patiently changes them.

Family discussion

- What weaknesses do we see in Jacob's early life?
- How did God remain faithful while correcting Jacob?
- Why is honest repentance different from pretending to be good?
- What did Jesus reveal about the meaning of Jacob's ladder?

Closing action

Place a small ladder drawing beside Jacob's name. Invite each person to name one character quality he or she wants God to strengthen, without requiring anyone to share a private struggle.

Closing prayer

Father, thank You for remaining faithful while You correct and teach us. Help us confess our sins honestly and receive Your discipline humbly. Change our hearts and make our conduct match our profession of faith. Thank You that Jesus is the one mediator between God and man. Amen.

Family "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts."

Night 4 Moses

Theme	Deliverance wilderness provision and dwelling
Bible passages	Exodus 13 Exodus 16 Exodus 33 Leviticus 23
Table symbol	A walking staff or a small piece of bread

Leader On this fourth night we remember Moses. His life brings us directly to the reason Israel dwelt in booths. God delivered His people from Egypt, led them through the wilderness, fed them with manna, gave them water, and covered them with His presence.

Scripture reading *Exodus 13:20 through 22, Exodus 16:11 through 18, and Leviticus 23:42 through 43.* Divide the verses among several readers

Leader Israel's shelters were temporary, but God's care was constant. The pillar of cloud guided them by day, and the pillar of fire gave light by night. The manna taught them to gather what God provided. The wilderness exposed complaining and unbelief, yet God continued to fulfill His covenant purpose.

Child reader "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." Exodus 33:14

Leader Through Moses, God also commanded the building of the tabernacle, saying, 'Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.' Sukkot teaches us to remember both human frailty and God's nearness.

Leader Moses told Israel that God would raise up a prophet like him. Jesus is greater than Moses. He delivers from slavery to sin, gives the true bread from heaven, and brings His people into lasting rest.

Family The LORD leads, feeds, and dwells with His people.

Family discussion

- What did the booths remind Israel to remember?
- What daily lessons did manna teach?
- How can comfort make us forget our dependence upon God?
- In what ways is Jesus a greater deliverer than Moses?

Closing action

Place a walking staff or a small piece of bread beside Moses' name. Let each person name one way God sustained the family during a difficult season.

Closing prayer

Father, thank You for guiding Your people through every wilderness. Forgive our complaining and our forgetfulness. Give us daily bread and hearts that recognize Your provision. Thank You for sending Jesus to deliver us from sin and for giving Your Spirit to dwell in those who belong to Him. Amen.

Family "The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation."

Night 5 Aaron

Theme	Priesthood holiness and intercession
Bible passages	Exodus 28 Numbers 6 Hebrews 4 and 7
Table symbol	A paper breastplate or twelve small stones

Leader On this fifth night we remember Aaron, Israel's first high priest. His garments, sacrifices, and service taught the people that God is holy and that sinful people cannot approach Him carelessly.

Scripture reading *Exodus 28:1 through 12 and Numbers 6:22 through 27.* An older child may read the blessing slowly while the family listens

Leader Aaron carried the names of Israel before the LORD. He offered sacrifices, tended holy things, and blessed the people. Yet Aaron himself sinned. He helped make the golden calf, and he needed sacrifice and forgiveness just as the people did.

Child reader "The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee." Numbers 6:24 through 25

Leader Aaron's weakness teaches us not to place perfect confidence in any human spiritual leader. His priesthood continued through many mortal and sinful men. Jesus, however, is holy, harmless, undefiled, and alive forever. He offered Himself once and now intercedes for His people.

Leader Because Christ is our great High Priest, believers may come boldly unto the throne of grace, not because we are worthy, but because He is.

Family Jesus Christ is our perfect and everlasting High Priest.

Family discussion

- What did Aaron carry before the LORD on his priestly garments?
- What does Aaron's failure teach us about human leaders?
- Why did the old sacrifices have to be repeated?
- Why is the priesthood of Jesus complete and sufficient?

Closing action

Place a paper breastplate or twelve small stones beside Aaron's name. Pray by name for your church leaders, asking God to give them faithfulness, humility, courage, and accountability.

Closing prayer

Holy Father, teach us to approach You with reverence and confidence through Jesus Christ. Guard our leaders from pride, error, and hidden sin. Help us pray for them without treating any person as perfect. Thank You that Christ's sacrifice is sufficient and that He ever lives to make intercession. Amen.

Family "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace."

Night 6 Joseph

Theme	Providence forgiveness and stewardship
Bible passages	Genesis 39 Genesis 41 Genesis 50
Table symbol	A small jar of grain

Leader On this sixth night we remember Joseph. He was hated by his brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused, and forgotten in prison. Again and again Scripture says that the LORD was with Joseph.

Scripture reading *Genesis 39:1 through 6, Genesis 41:46 through 49, and Genesis 50:15 through 21.* Ask children to listen for evidence of faithfulness, wise planning, and forgiveness

Leader Joseph served faithfully when his circumstances were unfair. God later raised him to authority in Egypt and gave him wisdom to store grain during seven abundant years. That preparation preserved many lives during famine, including the family through whom the covenant promises would continue.

Child reader "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." Genesis 50:20

Leader Joseph did not say that his brothers' evil was good. He said that God was powerful enough to accomplish good even through what they intended for harm. Biblical providence gives us hope without excusing sin.

Leader Joseph was rejected and later exalted so that others might live. His life provides a pattern that helps us understand part of the gospel story, but Jesus is far greater. Jesus willingly gave His life, bore sin, rose again, and offers eternal life.

Family God is faithful in hardship and wise in all His works.

Family discussion

- How did Joseph remain faithful when no reward was visible?
- Why was storing grain an act of wise stewardship rather than fear?
- What is the difference between forgiving evil and calling evil good?
- How does Joseph's rejection and exaltation help us think about Christ?

Closing action

Place a small jar of grain beside Joseph's name. Choose one pantry item to inventory, rotate, or set aside for sharing with another household.

Closing prayer

Father, thank You that no hardship places us beyond Your care. Give us integrity when no one seems to notice, wisdom to prepare without fear, and grace to forgive without denying the truth. Use what we possess to preserve life and serve others. Thank You for the greater salvation given through Jesus. Amen.

Family "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Night 7 David

Theme	Worship repentance and the promised King
Bible passages	2 Samuel 7 Psalm 23 Psalm 51
Table symbol	A crown harp or shepherd staff

Leader On this seventh night we remember David, the shepherd, psalmist, warrior, and king. David's life contains courage and worship, but also grave sin and painful consequences. His hope was not in his own goodness. His hope was in the mercy of God.

Scripture reading *2 Samuel 7:8 through 16, Psalm 23, and Psalm 51:1 through 12.* Let younger children join in on any words of Psalm 23 they know

Leader God brought David from following sheep to shepherding Israel. God promised that David's house, kingdom, and throne would be established. Human kings in David's line failed, and the earthly kingdom was divided and conquered. Still, God's promise did not fail.

Child reader "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10

Leader When Nathan confronted David, David confessed his sin. Repentance did not erase every earthly consequence, but David cast himself upon God's mercy. We learn both from his worship and from the warning of his failure.

Leader Jesus was born in David's royal line and was called the Son of David. He is the righteous Shepherd King David could never be. His kingdom has no end. He leads His flock, defeats the final enemies of sin and death, and will dwell with His redeemed people forever.

Family Jesus is the promised King and the good Shepherd.

Family discussion

- How did David's years as a shepherd prepare him to lead?
- What does Psalm 51 teach us about true repentance?
- Why could no ordinary descendant of David fulfill the whole promise?
- What have the seven nights taught us about God's faithfulness?

Final timeline

Place a small crown, harp, or shepherd's staff beside David's name. Then add Jesus after David on the timeline. Review the path from Abraham's promised Seed, through Isaac and Jacob, through Israel's deliverance and priesthood, through Joseph's preservation, and through David's royal line to Christ.

Closing prayer

Father, thank You for Jesus Christ, the Son of David and our good Shepherd. Give us clean hearts, teach us to repent honestly, and make our worship sincere. Thank You for carrying Your promise through every generation. Keep our eyes upon the everlasting kingdom of Christ and the day when You will dwell with Your people forever. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Family "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Final blessing

Leader "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." Romans 15:13

Family Amen.