

SUKKOT: THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

*An 8-Day Family Liturgy, Household Tracker,
and Feast Cookbook (KJV)*

*"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle
of God is with men, and he will dwell with them..."*

— Revelation 21:3

IMPORTANT SPECIAL NOTICE & GENERAL DISCLAIMER

Spiritual Perspective & Purpose:

This resource is designed purely as an educational and devotional guide to help Christian families study and observe the Fall Feasts of the Lord from a historical, prophetic, and scriptural perspective using the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible. It is intended for spiritual enrichment and family fellowship and does not impose legalistic obligations. We encourage you to do your own independent studies and consult with your religious leaders.

Health & Fasting Notice:

The fasting guidelines and alternatives outlined in the Yom Kippur section are for informational purposes only. A complete food and water fast can be physically demanding. Pregnant or nursing mothers, young children, the elderly, and individuals with underlying medical conditions, chronic illnesses, or specific nutritional needs should never attempt a strict fast without consulting a qualified healthcare professional first. Always prioritize medical safety and utilize the provided alternative fasting guide as appropriate.

Safety & Child Supervision:

This guide contains descriptions of outdoor structural construction (building a Sukkah), live candle lighting ceremonies, and children's crafts involving small pieces, scissors, or water.

- **Adult Supervision Required:** All building projects, knife handling during food preparation, and craft activities must be strictly supervised by an adult at all times.
- **Fire Safety:** Never leave burning festival candles or outdoor lanterns unattended. Ensure candles are placed in heavy glass shields on a stable, heat-resistant surface away from wind, flammable decorations, or children's reach.
- **Sukkah Safety:** Ensure any temporary canopy or wooden frame built outdoors is structurally secure, safely anchored against gusts of wind, and that overhead foliage is lightweight and securely attached.

NOTE ON PREPARATION & CURATION

This planning guide was developed in collaboration with artificial intelligence to organize historical context, structure daily timelines, and format household recipes. All content, scripture selections, and theological themes have been intentionally edited and reviewed by the author to ensure absolute alignment with the King James Version (KJV) Holy Bible and a Christ-centered perspective.

SUKKOT / THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Prophetic Theme: God Dwelling with Man, the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, and Great Joy.

KJV Scripture Focus

"Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine: And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter... because the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice." — Leviticus 16:13-15

"On the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein." — Leviticus 23:36

Sukkah Building, Decoration Ideas & Menu Plans

The Sukkah (Tabernacle): A temporary outdoor structure with a roof made of natural materials (palm fronds, pine branches, corn stalks) through which you can see the stars. It can be built using a simple PVC pipe frame, an easy-to-assemble pop-up canopy frame with the canvas top removed, or a wooden frame.

Decoration Ideas:

- Hanging string lights or solar-powered lanterns for evening meals.
- Paper chains, drawings of biblical scenes, and natural foliage.
- Printable or real fruit and vegetable hangings (corn, gourds, citrus, pomegranates).

Master Menu Concept: Celebrate with rich, abundant foods. Stuffed foods (like stuffed peppers or cabbage) are traditional to symbolize an overflowing, packed harvest. Serve hearty grilled meats, roasted root vegetables, warm apple cider, and fresh fruit cobblers.

Dinner Conversation Starters

1. 'Looking back at this past year, what is one specific way God provided for or protected you during a difficult moment?'
2. 'The sukkah is fragile and exposed to the elements. How does knowing our ultimate shelter is in Christ change how we handle daily stress?'
3. 'Jesus promised us "living water" during this very festival. In what areas of your life are you feeling spiritually thirsty right now?'

THE COHESIVE SUKKOT MASTER GUIDE & FEAST COOKBOOK

A reference guide for Christian families and friends celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles.

What is Sukkot? (*pronounced soo-KOAT*)

It is one of the three major biblical feasts established by God in Leviticus. It is a harvest festival also known as the Feast of Tabernacles. For Christians, it's a beautiful picture of Jesus coming to 'tabernacle' or dwell among us, and it reminds us to thank God for His daily provision and spiritual shelter.

"You shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days."
— *Leviticus 23:4*

Key Traditions Explained

- **The Sukkah (The Booth):** A fragile, temporary outdoor structure with a roof made of natural materials (like branches or palm fronds) through which you can see the stars. Eating and fellowship inside it reminds us that our earthly lives are temporary, and our true security is in God.
- **The Four Species (Lulav & Etrog):** Based on Leviticus 23:40, four plants—palm, myrtle, willow branches, and a citron fruit—are gathered and waved in all directions, symbolizing God's omnipresence and the unity of different types of people.

Core Biblical Themes

Connecting the Heroes of Faith to the Tabernacle of Christ

- **God's Provision & Shelter:** Commemorates the 40 years the Israelites lived in temporary shelters in the wilderness, entirely dependent on God for food, water, and guidance.
- **Harvest Gratitude:** A season of intense joy and thanksgiving for God's physical blessings and agricultural bounty over the past year.
- **Hospitality & Unity:** A commanded time of celebration meant to be shared generously with family, friends, and the community.

The Christian Connection (Christ in the Feast)

- **The Incarnation:** The word 'tabernacle' means to dwell. John 1:14 states that Jesus became flesh and 'tabernacled' (dwelt) among us.
- **The Living Water:** On the last great day of Sukkot, during the traditional water-drawing ceremony, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink... Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water' (John 7:37-38).
- **The Light of the World:** During the festival, massive golden candelabras lit up the entire temple courtyard. In this immediate context, Jesus declared, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness' (John 8:12).

Physical Guests (Radical Hospitality)

"Use hospitality one to another without grudging."

— 1 Peter 4:9

Beyond the symbolic biblical figures, families traditionally try to host physical guests—such as church friends, extended family, or neighbors—for as many nights of the festival as possible.

Because the traditional Sukkah has an open door and a see-through roof, it is a visual reminder to practice biblical hospitality.

Night 1: Abraham — The father of faith who "*sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles...*" (Hebrews 11:9).

Night 2: Isaac — The son of promise who sowed in the land during a famine and received a hundredfold harvest because the Lord blessed him (Genesis 26:12).

Night 3: Jacob — He fled his home with nothing but a staff, slept on a stone pillow, and experienced God's ladder connecting heaven and earth (Genesis 28:12).

Night 4: Joseph — Stripped of his coat, sold into exile, and imprisoned, yet God turned his suffering into a harvest of salvation for many (Genesis 50:20).

Night 5: Moses — He chose to suffer affliction with the people of God, led Israel into the wilderness, and oversaw the building of the original Tabernacle (Hebrews 11:25).

Night 6: Aaron — The First High Priest who wore the holy garments and interceded for the people, pointing directly to Christ, our Great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14).

Night 7: David — The shepherd king who danced before the Ark of God's presence and wrote, "*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want*" (Psalm 23:1).

The Eighth Day (Shemini Atzeret): The Ultimate Host — On the eighth day, the focus shifts entirely away from earthly patriarchs to Jesus Christ, who hosts us forever in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:3)

SECTION 2: THE INITIAL NIGHTLY OPENING RITUALS

Perform these three actions every single night of the festival to set the atmosphere before transitioning into that night's specific biblical guest focus.

STEP 1: THE CANDLE LIGHTING SCRIPT

The mother or hostess strikes a match and kindles two white candles inside glass hurricane shields on the table, then gestures with her hands to bring the light inward.

The Proclamation: "As we light these candles tonight, we remember the Great Illumination of Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles. In days of old, massive golden lamps lit up the entire city to remind the people of the pillar of fire in the dark desert. We rejoice because that Light is no longer a shadow—it is a Person."

The Scripture Recitation:

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

— **John 8:12**

The Blessing Prayer: "Blessed art You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who hast given us life, sustained us, and brought us to this joyful season. We thank You for sending Your Son Jesus, the Light of the World, to tabernacle among us. Let His light chase away all darkness from our home. In Jesus' name, Amen."

STEP 2: THE FOUR SPECIES WAVE TRADITION

The leader holds the branch bundle in the right hand and the Citron fruit close to it in the left hand, facing East toward Jerusalem.

The Biblical History & Meaning: In Leviticus 23:40, God commands His people to take branches of specific beautiful trees and rejoice before Him during Sukkot. In Jewish tradition, these four species represent different types of people or different parts of the human body (the straight palm represents the spine, the myrtle represents eyes, the willow represents lips, and the fragrant fruit represents a fruitful heart) unified in worship. From a Christian KJV perspective, shaking these branches in every direction serves as a physical declaration of praise, honoring Jesus Christ's total sovereignty and dominion over every corner of creation.

The Scripture Recitation:

"O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth." — **Psalms**

47:1-2

The Action: Wave the bundle gently three times in each direction to declare Christ's total dominion: *Forward, Right, Backward, Left, Upward, and Downward.*

The Family Shout: The whole family shouts together:

"Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!"

STEP 3: THE CEREMONY OF LIVING WATER (*Nisuch HaMayim*)

Place a glass pitcher of water and an empty bowl in the center of the table. Give each child a small cup of water.

The Biblical History & Meaning: In ancient Jerusalem, priests marched down to the Pool of Siloam every morning of Sukkot to draw living water in a golden flask. They processed through the Water Gate back to the Temple altar, pouring the water out as a visual prayer asking God to bless the winter agricultural rain. On the seventh day of the feast, as the water was poured, Jesus stood up and revealed Himself as the ultimate fulfillment of this shadow (John 7:37-38). *We re-enact this pouring to celebrate that our spiritual thirst is quenched forever by the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.*

The Proclamation: "During this feast, the priests poured out water on the Temple altar as a physical prayer for rain. On the very last day of this exact festival, Jesus stood up in the Temple court and revealed what that water truly meant!"

The Scripture Recitation:

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." — **John 7:37-38**

The Action: The leader pours the pitcher steadily into the bowl from a high angle so everyone hears the splashing water. The children then pour their smaller cups into the central bowl together.

The Prayer: "O Lord God, our souls thirst for You in a dry and weary land. We thank You for pouring out Your Holy Spirit upon us like floods upon dry ground. Let Your living water flow out from our lives to a world that is dying of thirst. Amen."

SECTION 3: THE CUSTOM OF THE NIGHTLY GUESTS (*THE USHPIZIN*)

The Meaning for the Christian Home: Historically, families observing Sukkot symbolically "invite" seven great patriarchs of the scriptures into the Sukkah—one leading guest for each night. Every single one of these biblical figures was a wanderer, exile, or refugee who lived in temporary shelters and relied entirely on God's protection. By incorporating this custom into our Christian walk, we use these nightly guests as visual, historical links to teach our children the "Hall of Faith" found in Hebrews 11. Each patriarch points to a unique dynamic of faith, a distinct season of trials, and ultimately highlights how Jesus Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of every covenant promise.

Complete these steps before this step each night:

STEP 1: THE CANDLE LIGHTING SCRIPT (*NOTE the change under Day 8*)

STEP 2: THE FOUR SPECIES WAVE TRADITION

STEP 3: THE CEREMONY OF LIVING WATER (*Nisuch HaMayim*)

NIGHT 1: ABRAHAM

Theme: The Shield of Faith & Faithful Sojourning

Evening Itinerary

- **5:30 PM – Finalize table setting; light the outdoor lanterns.**
- **6:00 PM – Gather the family inside the Sukkah; read the Host Opening Script.**
- **6:15 PM – Sound the Shofar; pray the Nightly Prayer.**
- **6:30 PM – Serve the Abrahamic Harvest Meal.**
- **7:15 PM – Kids' Craft Activity: *The Stars of Promise Banner*.**
- **7:45 PM – Sing *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*; clean up together**

KJV Scripture Focus

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. - **Hebrews 11:8-10**

The Guest Script: "Tonight, we honor our first guest, Abraham—the father of our faith. Abraham left his comfortable home in Ur to live in temporary tents, trusting completely in God's voice. He didn't look at his earthly surroundings as permanent because he was looking forward to a heavenly city built by God. Let us learn to walk by faith, not by sight, this week."

The Nightly Prayer: "Heavenly Father, God of Abraham, give us the absolute faith to follow Your voice, even when we cannot see the path ahead. Thank You for being our shield and our exceeding great reward. Protect this tabernacle tonight, and help us to live as pilgrims looking toward our eternal home with You. Amen."

Kids' Craft: The Stars of Promise: Children cut out yellow paper stars. On each star, help them write one of God's promises (e.g., "I am with thee," "I will never leave thee"). Glue the stars onto a long blue ribbon or banner to hang across the Sukkah ceiling, remembering how God told Abraham his seed would outnumber the stars (Genesis 15:5).

NIGHT 2: ISAAC

Theme: The Sacrifice, Joy, and Hundredfold Blessing

Evening Itinerary

- **5:45 PM – Warm up the harvest stew; prepare the kids' coloring supplies.**
- **6:10 PM – Gather in the Sukkah; read the Host Opening Script.**
- **6:25 PM – Read the KJV Genesis passage together; pray the Nightly Prayer.**
- **6:40 PM – Serve the Isaac-themed meal.**
- **7:20 PM – Kids' Activity: *The "God Will Provide" Object Lesson*.**
- **7:45 PM – Sing *O Come, All Ye Faithful*; twilight star-gazing.**

KJV Scripture Focus

"And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together." — **Genesis 22:6-8**

Guest Script

"Tonight, on our second night of Sukkot, our guest is Isaac, the son of the promise. Isaac's name means 'laughter' or 'joy.' He represents absolute obedience, willingly laying his life down on the altar at Mount Moriah. Just as Isaac asked, 'Where is the lamb?', we rejoice tonight knowing that God has provided Himself a perfect Lamb in Jesus Christ!"

Nightly Prayer

"O Lord God, we praise You tonight because You are Jehovah-Jireh—the Lord who provides! Thank You for the perfect sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus, who was led like a lamb to the slaughter for our transgressions. We thank You for the joy of our salvation. Bless the labor of our hands this season, and let us reap a hundredfold harvest of righteousness for Your glory. Amen."

Children's Activity & Craft

The Ram in the Thicket Cotton Craft: Draw a simple silhouette of a ram on cardstock. Have the children glue fluffy cotton balls inside the outline to give the ram its wool, then glue small real twigs or brown paper scraps around it to represent the thicket where God provided the substitute sacrifice.

NIGHT 3: JACOB

Theme: The Ladder of Heaven & The Dwelling of Peace

Evening Itinerary

- **5:30 PM – Setup string lights; prep stuffed peppers.**
- **6:00 PM – Enter the Sukkah; Host Opening Script.**
- **6:15 PM – Read Scripture; pray the Nightly Prayer.**
- **6:30 PM – Serve dinner.**
- **7:15 PM – Kids' Craft: *The Popsicle Stick Ladder*.**
- **7:45 PM – Family Discussion: "How is Jesus our ladder to heaven?"**

KJV Scripture Focus

"And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac... and, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest..." — **Genesis 28:12-13, 15**

The Guest Script:

"Tonight, we welcome Jacob. Jacob spent much of his life fleeing from trouble, sleeping on the hard ground with a stone for a pillow. Yet, in that lonely place, God gave him a vision of a ladder connecting heaven and earth. Jesus told us in John 1:51 that He is that ladder! Through Him, we have peace and open access to the Father."

The Nightly Prayer:

"Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that we are never alone or forsaken. As we look up through the branches of this Sukkah, we thank You for Jesus, who bridged the great gulf between earth and heaven. Keep us in all places whither we go, and give us Your sweet peace tonight. Amen."

Children's Activity & Craft

Popsicle Stick Heaven-Ladder: Give children craft sticks and washable school glue. Have them glue two long sticks parallel, then glue smaller broken stick fragments horizontally to make the rungs of a ladder. They can paint it gold or add glitter to represent the glorious heavenly ladder.

NIGHT 4: JOSEPH

Theme: From the Pit to the Harvest Palace

Evening Itinerary

- **5:45 PM – Plate the colorful fruits; assemble the main dishes.**
- **6:10 PM – Gather in the Sukkah; read the Host Opening Script.**
- **6:25 PM – Read the KJV Genesis passage; pray the Nightly Prayer.**
- **6:40 PM – Serve the Joseph Harvest Feast.**
- **7:15 PM – Kids' Activity: *The Coat of Many Colors Placemat*.**
- **7:45 PM – Sing *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*.**

KJV Scripture Focus

"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. Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them."

— Genesis 50:20-21

The Guest Script:

"Tonight, our fourth guest is Joseph. Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, stripped of his beautiful coat, thrown into a pit, and sold into Egyptian slavery. But God was with him! He was raised up to the highest palace to store up grain for a world-wide famine. Joseph reminds us that God turns our deepest trials into a harvest of salvation."

The Nightly Prayer:

"O Sovereign Lord, Thou art the master weaver of our lives. We thank Thee that no weapon formed against us shall prosper, and that all things work together for good to them that love Thee. When we face pits of trial, give us the patience of Joseph. Keep us kind and forgiving toward one another. Amen."

Children's Activity & Craft

The Coat of Many Colors Placemat: Give children a blank piece of paper or cardboard. Let them glue strips of multi-colored construction paper, tissue paper, or ribbons across it in a beautiful striped pattern. Cover it with clear contact paper to use as a themed placemat for the rest of Sukkot.

NIGHT 5: MOSES

Theme: The Wilderness Tabernacle & Divine Guidance

Evening Itinerary

- **5:30 PM – Fire up the outdoor grill or slow cooker.**
- **6:00 PM – Gather the family; read the Host Opening Script.**
- **6:15 PM – Read Scripture; pray the Nightly Prayer.**
- **6:30 PM – Serve the Moses Wilderness Meal.**
- **7:15 PM – Kids' Activity: *The Pillar of Cloud & Fire Lantern*.**
- **7:45 PM – Sing *This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made*.**

KJV Scripture Focus

"And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people."

— Exodus 13:21-22

The Guest Script:

"Tonight, our guest is Moses. Moses lived in a tent in the desert for forty years, leading millions of people through a barren wilderness. God gave Moses the exact pattern to build the Tabernacle so that the holy presence of God could live right in the center of the camp. Let us remember that God wants to be at the center of our lives today."

The Nightly Prayer:

"Almighty God, we praise You for Your constant guidance. Be our pillar of cloud by day to protect us from the heat of this world, and our pillar of fire by night to illuminate our path. Guide our family by Your Holy Word, and feed us daily with Your heavenly manna. Amen."

Children's Activity & Craft

- Pillar of Cloud and Fire Lantern: Take an empty, clean plastic water bottle or clear plastic cup. Have children glue white cotton balls around the top half (the cloud) and strips of red, orange, and yellow tissue paper around the bottom half (the fire). Place a safe battery-operated LED tealight inside to make it glow.

NIGHT 6: AARON

Theme: The Intercession of the Great High Priest

Evening Itinerary

- **5:45 PM – Set out the fresh water pitchers and citrus slices.**
- **6:10 PM – Enter the Sukkah; read the Host Opening Script.**
- **6:25 PM – The Father pronounces Aaron's Blessing over the children; pray the Nightly Prayer.**
- **6:40 PM – Serve the Aaron-themed harvest meal.**
- **7:15 PM – Kids' Activity: *The "Living Water" Jar Assembly*.**
- **7:45 PM – Sing *Shall We Gather at the River?*.**

KJV Scripture Focus

"The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them."

— Numbers 6:24-27

The Guest Script:

"Tonight, our guest is Aaron, the first High Priest of Israel. Aaron's job was to stand before God's holy presence, burn sweet incense, and intercede for the people's sins. Aaron points directly to Jesus Christ, our ultimate Great High Priest, who lives forever to make intercession for us!"

The Nightly Prayer:

"Lord Jesus, our Great High Priest, we praise Thee that Thou hast entered into the true Heavenly Holy Place by Thine own blood! Let our family's prayers rise before Thy throne like sweet incense. Let Thy face shine upon our household tonight, and give us Thy deep, lasting peace. Amen."

Children's Activity & Craft

"Living Water" Jar Filling: Give children a clean glass mason jar. Let them fill it with water and a few drops of blue food coloring (or clear water beads). Have them decorate the outside with stickers of fish or river stones, and tie a string tag around the rim featuring John 7:37 written out, reminding them of the living water Jesus promises.

NIGHT 7: DAVID

Theme: The Shepherd King & The Tabernacle of Praise

Evening Itinerary

- **5:30 PM** – Prepare the Davidic celebration feast.
- **6:00 PM** – Gather in the Sukkah; read the Host Opening Script.
- **6:15 PM** – Read Psalm 23 responsively as a family; pray the Nightly Prayer.
- **6:30 PM** – Serve the King's Banquet.
- **7:15 PM** – Kids' Activity: *The Golden Diadem Crown Craft*.
- **7:45 PM** – Sing *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* with joyful clapping.

KJV Scripture Focus

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." —

Psalm 23:1-4

The Guest Script:

"Tonight is Hoshana Rabbah—the Great Salvation! Our guest is King David. David started as a simple shepherd boy living out in the open fields protecting his sheep. He grew up to be a king who danced before God's presence with absolute joy. David reminds us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and the coming King who will rule the earth!"

The Nightly Prayer:

"O Lord God, King of Kings, we praise Thee with joyful lips tonight! Thank Thee for being our Good Shepherd who leads us beside still waters and restores our souls. We rejoice in the promise of Thy coming Kingdom, when righteousness shall cover the earth. Fill our mouths with praise this night. Amen."

Children's Activity & Craft

The King's Diadem Crown: Cut strips of gold cardstock to fit around the children's heads. Let them decorate their crowns with markers, metallic stickers, or colorful faux rhinestones. Staple the ends together so they can wear their royal crowns during the dinner feast.

DAY & NIGHT 8: JESUS (THE ULTIMATE HOST)

Theme: Shemini Atzeret – The New Jerusalem & Eternal Dwelling

The Eighth Day is structurally separate from the seven days of Sukkot. The temporary Sukkah walls are no longer the primary focus; instead, we look forward to the permanent, perfect New Jerusalem where God houses us forever.

Day & Evening Itinerary

- **11:00 AM (Day) – Gather for a special holy convocation Bible reading of Revelation 21-22.**
- **12:30 PM – Enjoy a light family lunch of leftovers and fresh fruit.**
- **5:30 PM – Light all Sukkah lanterns to maximum brightness for the final night.**
- **6:00 PM – Read the Final Host Script.**
- **6:15 PM – Pray the Eternal Closing Prayer.**
- **6:30 PM – Serve the Ultimate New Jerusalem Celebration Feast.**
- **7:30 PM – Kids' Activity: *The Glow-in-the-Dark Scripture Lantern Walk.***
- **8:15 PM – Sing *Jerusalem the Golden* together under the stars.**

THE EIGHTH DAY CEREMONY & LITURGY

1. The Light of the Lamb Proclamation

Instead of lighting two separate table candles, turn off every single overhead and ambient light in the Sukkah or dining area except for one single, blindingly bright white LED lantern or candle in the center of the table.

KJV Scripture Focus

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." — **Revelation 21:3-4**

The Script:

"Today is the Eighth Day—Shemini Atzeret! The number eight in the Scriptures always signifies a brand-new beginning. Tonight, we do not look back to historical tents or past wilderness journeys. Tonight, Jesus Christ Himself is our Host. The temporary seven days of this present earth are passed away. This city we look toward needs no sun, neither moon, to shine in it; for the glory of God lightens it, and the Lamb is the light thereof!"

The Eternal Closing Prayer:

"Almighty and Everlasting God, You are the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End! We praise You for bringing our family safely through this holy season. We thank You for the glorious promise of the New Jerusalem. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for going ahead to prepare a permanent mansion for us in Your Father's house. Keep our hearts fixed on eternity, wipe away every tear from our eyes, and let Your light shine through us until You return in glory. In Your precious and holy name, Amen."

Children's Activity & Craft

Glow-in-the-Dark Lantern Walk: Give each child an LED camping lantern or a flashlight. Turn off all the house and yard lights so the Sukkah is the only thing glowing. Walk around the perimeter of your yard or Sukkah together, reading out loud how the New City needs no sun or moon because Jesus is the light thereof (Revelation 21:23).

Alternate themes for SUKKOT / THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Prophetic Theme: God Dwelling with Man, the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, and Great Joy.

KJV Scripture Focus

"Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine: And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter... because the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice." — **Leviticus 16:13-15**

"On the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein." — **Leviticus 23:36**

Sukkah Building, Decoration Ideas & Menu Plans

The Sukkah (Tabernacle): A temporary outdoor structure with a roof made of natural materials (palm fronds, pine branches, corn stalks) through which you can see the stars. It can be built using a simple PVC pipe frame, an easy-to-assemble pop-up canopy frame with the canvas top removed, or a wooden frame.

Decoration Ideas:

- Hanging string lights or solar-powered lanterns for evening meals.
- Paper chains, drawings of biblical scenes, and natural foliage.
- Printable or real fruit and vegetable hangings (corn, gourds, citrus, pomegranates).

Master Menu Concept: Celebrate with rich, abundant foods. Stuffed foods (like stuffed peppers or cabbage) are traditional to symbolize an overflowing, packed harvest. Serve hearty grilled meats, roasted root vegetables, warm apple cider, and fresh fruit cobblers.

THE 8-DAY FAMILY DEVOTIONAL & THEMED NIGHT GUIDE

Gather in the Sukkah each evening around the dinner table. Light lanterns, read the KJV scriptures, pray the family prayer, and discuss the nightly theme.

NIGHT 1: The Wilderness Tabernacle (God's Presence Shelters Us)

Scripture: "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them." — **Exodus 25:8**

The Theme: We remember how God physically dwelt in the midst of Israel in the wilderness, providing cloud by day and fire by night.

Family Prayer: "Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy protective shelter. Just as Thou didst guide Israel through the barren desert, we thank Thee for guiding our family through this world. Be Thou our pillar of cloud and fire. Amen."

Discussion Prompt: In what ways has God provided shelter and protection for our family this past year?

NIGHT 2: The Word Made Flesh (The First Coming)

Scripture: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt [tabernacled] among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." — **John 1:14**

The Theme: We celebrate Jesus leaving His heavenly throne to take on a temporary human body of flesh to dwell among men and save us.

Family Prayer: "Lord Jesus, we praise Thee for Thy humility. Thou didst leave the riches of heaven to tabernacle in a fragile human body for our sakes. Thank Thee for coming to earth to save us. Amen."

Discussion Prompt: Why is it important to remember that Jesus experienced the struggles of a temporary human life just like we do?

NIGHT 3: The Temple of the Holy Ghost (The Indwelling Presence)

Scripture: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

— 1 Corinthians 6:19

The Theme: We reflect on the marvel that God no longer dwells in buildings made of stone, but inside the hearts of those who trust in Christ.

Family Prayer: "O Lord, clean our hearts and make them a holy habitation for Thy Spirit. Teach us to honor Thee with our bodies and minds, knowing that Thou art always dwelling within us. Amen."

Discussion Prompt: How should our daily behavior change if we constantly remember that the Holy Spirit lives inside us?

NIGHT 4: Fellowship and Hospitality (Sharing the Harvest)

Scripture: "Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

— **1 Peter 4:9-10**

The Theme: Sukkot is a time of sharing our blessings. We focus on extending hospitality to brethren, neighbors, and the needy.

Family Prayer: "Generous Father, Thou hast blessed us with an abundant harvest of grace. Open our hearts and our home to comfort others. Let our Sukkah be a place of refreshment for weary souls. Amen."

Discussion Prompt: Who is someone we can bless or invite into our lives to show them the love and hospitality of Christ?

NIGHT 5: Joy in the Midst of Imperfection (The Temporary Life)

Scripture: "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." — **2 Corinthians 5:1**

The Theme: The Sukkah is fragile and temporary, reminding us that our earthly lives, trials, and material wealth are passing away. Our true joy is anchored in things eternal.

Family Prayer: "Lord, help us not to love this world or the things in it. When our temporary earthly bodies grow weak, remind us of the glorious, eternal home Thou hast prepared for us in heaven. Amen."

Discussion Prompt: How can we focus more on storing up treasures in heaven rather than spending our energy on temporary earthly things?

NIGHT 6: The Living Water (The Feast of Joy)

Scripture: "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." — **John 7:37-38**

The Theme: We remember Jesus crying out these words at the Temple during Sukkot. He is the ultimate fulfillment of our spiritual thirst.

Family Prayer: "Lord Jesus, our souls thirst for Thee in a dry and weary land. Fill us overflowing with Thy living water so that Thy joy and truth may pour out of us to everyone we meet. Amen."

Discussion Prompt: What does it mean to be spiritually thirsty, and how does Jesus completely satisfy that need?

NIGHT 7: Hoshana Rabbah (The Great Salvation & The Kingdom)

Scripture: "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one... And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations... shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles."

— Zechariah 14:9, 16

The Theme: The final night of the core seven days points to the Millennial Reign of Christ, where all nations will gather to worship the King in Jerusalem.

Family Prayer: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus! We look forward to Thy glorious kingdom, when righteousness shall fill the earth, and all nations shall bow before Thee. Thank Thee for making us part of Thy eternal kingdom. Amen."

Discussion Prompt: What will the world look like when Jesus is physically reigning as King over the whole earth?

DAY & NIGHT 8: Shemini Atzeret (The Eighth Day - The New Beginnings)

Scripture: "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying..." — **Revelation 21:3-4**

The Theme: The number eight signifies new beginnings. The Eighth Day is a distinct, separate holy convocation representing the New Jerusalem, the passing away of the old earth, and the eternal state where we dwell with God forever in absolute perfection.

Family Prayer: "Almighty God, Thou art the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End! We praise Thee for the promise of the New Jerusalem, where death, sorrow, and pain shall be no more. Thank Thee for wiping away every tear. We commit our lives into Thy hands for all eternity. In the precious and holy name of Jesus Christ, Amen."

Discussion Prompt: What are you most looking forward to about living in the New Jerusalem with God forever?

Children's Activities

- **Craft: 8-Link Paper Chain of Promise**
 - **Activity:** Children cut out eight strips of colored construction paper. On each strip, help them write the theme of the night (e.g., Night 1: Wilderness, Night 2: Jesus, ..., Day 8: New Jerusalem). Loop them together to form a chain and hang it across the Sukkah ceiling.
 - *They can also make a similar chain with each link having something they are thankful for.*
- **Activity: Flashlight Scripture Walk**
 - **Activity:** On the Eighth Day, turn off all the lights in the Sukkah except for one single bright lantern or flashlight representing the New City where "the Lamb is the light thereof" (Revelation 21:23). Read the final chapters of Revelation together in the glowing light.

HYMN LYRICS & SCRIPTURE ALIGNMENT SHEET

Print this out to sing together as a family each evening in your Sukkah.

Night 1: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

KJV Connection: "*And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud...*" — **Exodus 13:21**

Verse to Sing:

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;

I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;

Feed me till I want no more.

Night 2: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

KJV Connection: "*Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh...*" — **1 Timothy 3:16**

Verse to Sing:

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Night 3: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

KJV Connection: *"For ye are the temple of the living God..."* — **2 Corinthians 6:16**

Verse to Sing:

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Night 4: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

KJV Connection: *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"* — **Psalms 133:1**

Verse to Sing:

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent
prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts
and our cares.

Night 5: *This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made*

KJV Connection: "*Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.*" — **Philippians 4:4**

Verse to Sing:

This is the day the Lord hath made; He calls the hours
His own;

Let heaven rejoice, let earth be glad, and praise
surround the throne.

To-day He rose and left the dead, and Satan's empire
fell;

To-day the saints His triumphs spread, and all His
wonders tell.

Night 6: *Shall We Gather at the River?*

KJV Connection: "*Whosoever drinketh of the water
that I shall give him shall never thirst...*" — **John 4:14**

Verse to Sing:

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet
have trod,

With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of
God?

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the
beautiful river;

Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the
throne of God.

Night 7: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

KJV Connection: *"And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."* — **Revelation 19:16**

Verse to Sing:

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

Day/Night 8: Jerusalem the Golden

KJV Connection: *"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven..."* — **Revelation 21:2**

Verse to Sing:

Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest,
Beneath thy contemplation sink heart and voice
oppressed.

I know not, O I know not, what joys await us there,
What radiancy of glory, what bliss beyond compare.

