

The Eighth Day

God Will Dwell With His People

A Christ-centered Sukkot family script and activity guide

created by Pollywog's Place Blog



No eighth guest - a concluding assembly centered upon Christ

"Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men."

Revelation 21:3, KJV

Purpose and Preparation

The eighth day is best used as a joyful conclusion rather than as a night for an eighth guest. Scripture calls it a holy convocation, a solemn assembly, and a day without ordinary servile work. The seven days in booths are complete; the family now gathers to review God's faithfulness and look toward His everlasting dwelling with His people.

Central theme

God Will Dwell With His People

Suggested table setting

- The basket containing all seven guest symbols
- A pitcher or clear glass of water
- An open Bible
- An optional white or gold card reading: Jesus Christ - God With Us

Important: There is no eighth guest symbol. Christ is not added as another traditional guest. He is the fulfillment and center toward whom the whole biblical story points.

Principal Scripture readings

- Leviticus 23:36 and 23:39 - the eighth-day assembly and rest
- John 7:37-39 - Jesus and the living water
- John 1:14 - the Word dwelling among us
- Revelation 21:1-4 - God dwelling with His redeemed people forever

This family observance is voluntary. It is a Christ-centered teaching practice, not an assertion that Christians must keep the feast under the Mosaic covenant.

Eighth-Day Family Script

Leader For seven days Israel remembered living in temporary booths. On the eighth day, God commanded His people to gather for a solemn assembly and to rest from their ordinary work.

Child reader “On the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you... it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.” Leviticus 23:36

Leader Tonight we do not remember another guest. Instead, we gather the lessons of all seven nights and remember the God who was faithful to every generation.

Family The LORD has been our dwelling place in all generations.

Leader Abraham received God's promise. Isaac saw God's provision. Jacob learned that God was present. Moses led Israel through the wilderness. Aaron served as high priest. Joseph saw God bring good through hardship. David received the promise of an everlasting King.

Family God kept His promise from generation to generation.

Review the basket

Remove the symbols one at a time. After each symbol is shown, ask: What does this symbol help us remember?

Person	Symbol	Remember
Abraham	Star or tent	Faith, promise and hospitality
Isaac	Ram or well	Provision, peace and perseverance
Jacob	Ladder	God's presence and transforming grace
Moses	Staff or bread	Deliverance and wilderness provision
Aaron	Breastplate	Priesthood, holiness and intercession
Joseph	Grain	Providence, stewardship and forgiveness
David	Harp or crown	Worship, repentance and the promised King

Leader These men were not perfect. Each one needed God's mercy. Their stories form part of the path by which God carried His promise forward to Jesus Christ.

Family Jesus is the promised Saviour, King and everlasting High Priest.

Living Water and an Everlasting Dwelling

The living water

Pour water from the pitcher into a cup.

Leader During the feast, Jesus announced that everyone who thirsts may come to Him and drink.

Child reader “If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.” John 7:37

Leader Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit, whom those who believe in Him would receive. Our deepest thirst cannot be satisfied by possessions, comfort, entertainment or human approval. Only Christ can give eternal life.

Pass a cup of water to each person.

Leader As we drink, let each person name one way God provided for our family during the past year.

Family Jesus Christ is the giver of living water.

From temporary booths to an everlasting dwelling

Leader The sukkah reminds us that our homes, possessions and earthly lives are temporary. Israel lived in booths, but God remained faithful. Later, God dwelt among Israel in the tabernacle. Then the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. God gives His Spirit to those who belong to Christ. One day, God will dwell with His redeemed people forever.

Older child or parent: Read Revelation 21:1-4.

Child reader “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them.”
Revelation 21:3

Leader The story that began with temporary tents ends with God dwelling permanently with His people. In that everlasting kingdom there will be no more death, sorrow, crying or pain.

Family Our earthly dwelling is temporary, but God's covenant faithfulness is everlasting.

Family Reflection and Final Action

Discussion questions

- What did the booths teach Israel about dependence upon God?
- Which of the seven guests taught you something you especially want to remember?
- How is Jesus greater than every person we studied?
- What does it mean for Jesus to give living water?
- How should knowing that this world is temporary change the way we live?
- What are you most looking forward to about God dwelling with His people forever?

Final family action

Place a white or gold card after David's symbol. Write:

Jesus Christ
God With Us
Our Saviour, High Priest, Shepherd and King

Have every family member write or draw one truth from the week on a paper leaf. Place the leaves in the guest basket or attach them to a poster titled God's Faithfulness From Generation to Generation.

Possible truths for younger children

- God keeps His promises.
- God provides and stays with His people.
- God delivers and forgives.
- Jesus is our Saviour, High Priest, Shepherd and King.
- God will dwell with His people forever.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Closing prayer

Father, thank You for Your faithfulness through every generation. Thank You for the promises given to Abraham, for Your provision in the lives of Isaac and Jacob, for delivering Israel through Moses, for teaching Your people about holiness and priesthood through Aaron, for preserving life through Joseph, and for promising an everlasting King through David.

Most of all, thank You for Jesus Christ. He is the promised Seed, the perfect sacrifice, the true meeting place between God and man, the greater Deliverer, our everlasting High Priest, our Saviour, and our Shepherd King.

Give us living water through Your Spirit. Teach us to hold earthly things loosely, to trust You in every wilderness and to look forward to the day when You will dwell with Your redeemed people forever. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Family “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.”
Romans 15:13**

Special eighth-day activities

- Joyful family meal: Use remaining feast foods and let each child describe a favorite lesson from the week.
- Living-water object lesson: Pour water into cups while discussing John 7:37-39.
- Final timeline: Arrange all seven symbols chronologically and add the Jesus card after David.
- Dwelling-place chain: Draw five cards - booths, tabernacle, Jesus dwelling among us, the Holy Spirit dwelling in believers, and God dwelling with His people forever.
- Family praise: Sing a favorite hymn or read Psalm 100, Psalm 118 or Psalm 136 responsively.
- Take down the sukkah: As each person removes one decoration, name something God provided or taught during the week.
- Rest and enjoy one another: Keep lessons and chores lighter, if practical, and let the day feel like a concluding family assembly.

Scripture quotations are from the King James Version. Suggested full readings: Leviticus 23:33-44; Numbers 29:35-38; John 7:37-39; John 1:14; Revelation 21:1-4.