



Family Matters

FBC Justin—Children's
Ministry Newsletter

November
& December
2011

Special points of interest:

- ☉ Importance of Traditions
- ☉ Holiday Greetings
- ☉ Look for the Church Calendar and All FBCJ Related matters at www.fbcjustin.org

Traditions: Why Have Them?

Why have family traditions at the holidays? Most have family traditions because it brings back fond memories of their own childhood. They also serve as a reminder of years past family members who have already



gone on to the Lord.

Some traditions at Thanksgiving time are traditions such as; gathering prayer requests of thankfulness that each family member is very appreciative of from the past year, or every year some favorite food dishes are served such as serving ham, or turkey or both. The point is we are making family traditions and we may not be aware we are making them.

The cravings for Mom's dressing or Aunt Colleen's cranberry salad rush in a sense of good feeling and joy that bring memories flooding back to our minds. We started a tradition without any pre-awareness we were forming a custom with our four daughters. This unknown

custom proved to be an expectation that my daughters couldn't wait for. This tradition was as simple as they received matching pajamas and house slippers on Christmas Eve. Even more amazing, they were usually still in the Wal-Mart bag when they opened them! This goes to show us it doesn't take much. In fact, my girls have stated the P. J. tradition is a staple tradition they want to practice with their children. Little do they know we could not afford regular pajamas the rest of the year, they slept in oversized t-shirts, which we had plenty of!

As you celebrate this holiday season with your children you are setting the tone for their future holiday traditions well after you and your spouse have departed this world. So, the point is not to have such a list of traditions



and decide to make our holiday activities count eternally. We had no idea the pajamas were thought of as a tradition.



Thanksgiving really is a holiday to reflect on our lives, our relationships with each other and with God. It's not for me to tell you what traditions to form with your family, I'm sure like mine, they just happen.

God had Israel form traditions so that they would remember how far they had come from slavery in Egypt, and not to forget the promise of the coming Messiah (Christ). **So we know we can reason that "remembering God" is very important to Him.**

Pagan tradition have actually merged with Christian traditions when we are remembering God such as Christmas, that God came in the flesh, and Easter the resurrection of Jesus. Both of these contain some tradition that are rooted in pagan beliefs, but Christians have incorporated them into focusing on Jesus.

Continued on Page 2

Inside this issue:

Traditions: Why Have Them?	1 & 2
Holiday Gratitude From the Smith Family	2
The 7 of Feasts of Israel	3
New CM's LOGO based on Matthew 16:13-19	4
CM Mission Statement	4
Holiday Dates	4

Traditions Continued



we pass down the second coming of Messiah.

Jesus is the reason for everything we do, not just the holiday season. Everything we do with our kids creates traditions, whether we take them to the motor speedway every year at race time or we cook grandma's yummy rolls. So, why not start a new tradition this year that focuses on the Lord at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, or every Sabbath day (Sunday). These are the things they will remember about us, our family and our friends; most importantly the Lord.

God, maker of heaven and earth and praise Him for all that He has done for us. On page 3 I have added the meaning of some of the Jewish Holidays and how they have been or will be fulfilled by our Lord Jesus Christ. In Him alone we take refuge and place our trust.

Now, how far you take those Christian and pagan festivities is between you and the Lord. However, we do need to pass down to our kids the history of God and His ultimate freedom from sin. There is a plethora of materials out there for this very purpose.

The most important job as parents is to see to it that our kids will remember the Lord their God. When you and I both are gone they will pass down the memories to their kids, and so on from generation to generation.

God commanded the feasts for Israel, not just to remind them of yesterday past, but to have them look forward to the promise of the future (freedom from sin forever, through the one sacrifice of Jesus our great High Priest. Hebrews 10). They passed down the coming of Messiah;



Every Sunday is a time for remembering and reflecting on the Lord

Definition of Traditions:

the handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, information, etc., from generation to generation, especially by word of mouth or by practice: a story that has come down to us by popular tradition.

Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas from the Smith Family



Stephen & Darla

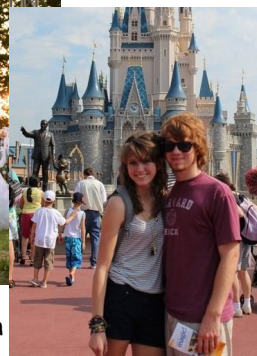
I am so glad to be celebrating the holidays with FBC Justin! Please join us at our holiday celebrations and of course any Sunday or Wednesday. See you at church. Love, Darla J. Smith



Nathan & Brianna



Mr. & Mrs. Austin Cooper



Chelsea & Hunter



Sarah & Chris

The Seven Feasts of Israel

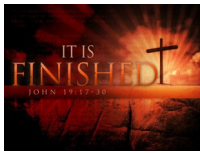
* See below for further credit to authorship. By Zola Levitt, Ph.D., Th.D. Zola Levitt Ministries, Inc., Dallas, Texas

The seven feasts of Israel, as found in Leviticus 23, provide a **prophetic preview of the vital future events** relating to Christ, the Church and the Jews. The seven feasts are important to comprehend so the believer can have a basic understanding of God's calendar.

- **Passover**, the Feast of Redemption, Leviticus 23.5. A lamb without spot or blemish was to be sacrificed and his blood shed for deliverance and salvation. It was by divine design from the beginning of time our Lord Jesus was to be sacrificed on Passover Day. Passover represents our salvation in that *The Lamb of God*, John 1.36, takes away the sin of the world.



- **Feast of Unleavened Bread** begins on the night after Passover, Leviticus 23.6. God commanded the Jews to eat unleavened bread during the week following Passover, symbolizing a holy walk with the Lord. The unleavened bread of the New Testament is the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is called *the Bread of Life*, John 6.35 and His body was buried during this feast.



- **Feast of Firstfruits**, Leviticus 23.10-11, is held on the Sunday following Unleavened

Bread. In it, Israel would acknowledge Him as the One Who gave them the fertility of the land. They were to bring the firstfruits of the early crops to the priest in the Temple to be waved before the Lord on their behalf. We not only celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on this feast day, but also the resurrection of the Church, see 1 Corinthians 15.23.



- **Pentecost**, connoting fifty days, was to occur fifty days after Firstfruits, see Leviticus 23.15-17 and involved taking *two wave loaves* baked with leaven and of equal weight. Since they are baked with leaven, which symbolizes sin, they represent sinful men. God was predicting the Church would be comprised of two equal parts, Jews and Gentiles. When the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost, there was a harvest of 3,000 souls, Acts 2.41, only a small token of the great harvest to come in the rapture of the Church.

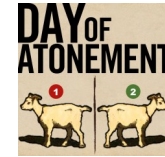


- **Feast of Trumpets**, Leviticus 23.23: Trumpets were to be blown at the commencement of the feast, which finds its exact parallel and fulfillment in the rapture of the Church, see 1 Corinthians 15.51-52 and 1 Thessalonians 4.16-17, when that great trumpet sounds, the graves will give up those who died in faith and be-



lievers who are alive will rise from the earth. All the believers will be mysteriously changed and outfitted for immortality.

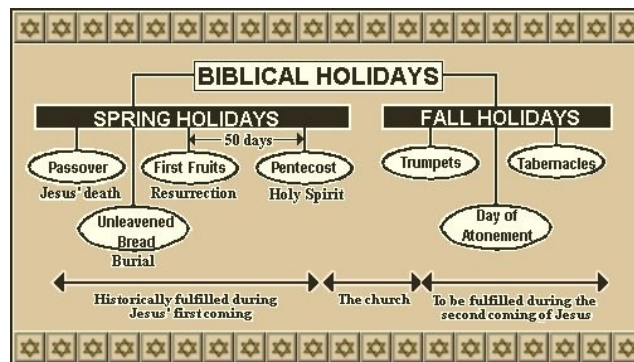
- **Day of Atonement** was a solemn holy day when the high priest of Israel entered into the Holy of Holies and made a sacrifice on his behalf as well as for all the sins of Israel, see Leviticus 23.27. Jesus is the final atonement for all sins once and forever, see Hebrews 9 and 10.



The Day of Atonement will be fulfilled in a wonderful way when the Lord returns at His Second Coming, at which time Israel will finally accept Jesus' atonement.



- **Feast of Tabernacles** celebrates that God wanted to provide shelter for the Israelites in the wilderness, see Leviticus 23.39-43. Each year, devout Jews build little shelters outside their houses in which to worship God. The Lord's great tabernacle will exist in Jerusalem during the Millennial Kingdom. The entire world will come every year to appear before the King and worship Him.



*Above Picture of the Biblical Holidays: <http://waitingforjesus.com/jewishfeastsprophecy.html>; other pictures take from free internet sources.

Above Article is located at: http://www.gnfi.org/prophcy_articles_feasts_of_israel.php

From Tim LaHaye Prophecy Study Bible - King James Version
Published by AMG Publishers, 2000.

I (Darla) added the pictures to the author's written piece.



The above logo represents the nucleolus of FBC Justin's Children Ministries and is based on Peter's confession about Jesus Christ "Jesus as the Son of the Living God"

Children Ministry Statement

We exist to lead, train and equip parents, children and families in spiritual transformation. We do this by leading them to Jesus Christ as the only way to obtain eternal life. We also seek to train them in learning to walk with God through His Word and thus living the Christian Life. We strive at the same time to train children, parents, & families to share their faith with the result of making an impact for Jesus Christ and His Kingdom in their neighborhoods, schools, work environments, life activities, and into the rest of the world.

(Ephesians 4:12, John 3:16, Deuteronomy 6, Matthew 28:18-20).

Our church staff strive to assist you with information through our website, which includes the **church calendar. So checkout: www.fbcjustin.org**

[Kudos to Trent and Charla!](#)

Below are Crucial Dates for the Holiday Season

November 2011

- November 11**, Upwards Evaluations in Children's Gym 6-8 pm
- November 12**, Upwards Evaluation at Justin Elementary Small Gym 9 – 11 am
- November 13**, Upwards Coaches MTG at Justin Elementary Gym 3 pm
- November 13**, Theme Night – Cowboy
- November 17**, Wee Kare Feast and last day for Thanksgiving break
- November 27**, Hanging of the Green
- November 29**, Wee Kare Resumes

December 2011

- December 7**, Children Christmas Caroling to our Shut-Ins
- December 4**, All Church Musical
- December 11**, caroling @ performances @ Longmeadow Nursing Home from our Sparks, NK, & LIT
- December 14**, All Church Caroling Hayride
- December 15**, Last Day for Christmas Break for Wee Kare
- December 18**, P. J. Night AWANA, NK, LIT – AWANA Store

January 2012

- Every Saturday**, Upward 8 am – 4 pm
- January 3**, Wee Kare resumes winter session
- January 18**, Wednesday Night Activities Resume
- January 15**, AWANA, NK, LIT Resume, Movie Night
- January 28**, Upward Pictures Day – in Children's Gym