

Feasts of the Lord: Lesson Plan 1

Measuring Time

Materials and Equipment:

- Bright light bulb and light fixture to represent the sun, set up in the center of the room
- Extension cord if needed
- Globe
- Small ball to represent the moon
- Gregorian calendar for upcoming year, spread out on the wall
- Markers to mark calendar
- Poster of 3D image hidden in squiggly lines, if available
- List or poster of Feasts of the Lord on the wall
- Timeline, preferably from about 4000 B.C. to the present
- Set up the room so you can walk around the outside perimeter if possible

Objective: Today we'll learn how time is measured differently in the Bible than what we're used to. We will talk a little about our holidays and the holidays God gave the Israelites in the Bible. This is the first lesson in a 15-week series during which we'll learn about all the Feasts of the Lord and use what we learn to make a calendar for the coming year (show sample).

Purpose: Why learn this? God gave the feasts to the Israelites for a purpose, and one of those purposes is so that we can know His plan for the future. Have you ever seen one of those squiggly line posters that has 3D images hidden behind it? The Bible is like that. God hid His plan for the world in the feasts, as well as in lots of other ways that prove the Bible is from God and cannot be from man. Knowing that makes it a lot easier to have faith in hard times when we might doubt God or the Bible, or have to make decisions based on what the Bible says. (Challenge kids to look at poster after class.)

Measuring time: Ask: What are some units of time? (Day, month, year, week, hour, minute)

What happens in nature that defines a day? A month, a year?

Note that a week is based solely on the Bible, not nature.

No need to worry about hours and minutes for the time being.

Turn off the light and illustrate with the globe and light:

Day: The earth spins on its axis, causing the daily cycle of light and dark.

Month: The moon (demonstrate with small ball) goes around the earth. It is a new moon when it is between us and the sun, so the far side of the moon is lit. It is a full moon when we can see all the side of the

moon that is lit. A month is about 29 1/2 days. (Our months are longer than that for a reason I'll talk about a little later.)

Year: The earth goes around the sun. Demonstrate by walking around the perimeter of the room, keeping the axis always tilting the same direction to show the seasons.

Lunar v. solar calendars.

The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar. That means it is based on the months, not the seasons. Islamic holidays drift from season to season backwards. We use a solar calendar, divided into 12 months that have no relationship to the actual lunar months. The Hebrew calendar is based on the lunar month, but so that their holidays don't drift backwards through the seasons, they add a leap month every 3 years or so to roughly get their calendar back in sync with the solar calendar.

A lunar calendar will drift back into sync with a solar calendar every 19 years.

Just for fun: Speeds. How fast are we moving in space?

Spinning of the earth (if you're on the equator): 17 miles a minute

Traveling around the sun: 18.5 miles per second

Traveling around the galaxy with the sun: 156 miles per second

Chart on the board:

	Our time	Hebrew time
Day	Midnight to midnight	Sundown to sundown
Month	Year divided by 12 30 or 31 days	New moon to new moon 29 or 30 days
Year	365 days Leap year day every 4 years	354 days Leap month every 3-4 years
Year 1	Birth of Christ 2004 years ago	Creation of man 5764 years ago

History of our calendar (Gregorian calendar)

Julius Caesar changed New Years from March to January

That's why September (*sept* means seven) is the 9th month.

Names of months and why.

January named for Janus, the two-faced Roman god of gates and doors.

February is from *februare*, a Latin word meaning "to purify."

March was named after Mars, the Roman god of war.

April is from *Aprilis*, which comes from a word meaning "to open.

May is named after Maia, the Roman goddess of spring and growth.

June is named after Juno, the goddess of marriage.

July is named after Julius Caesar, who was born during that month.

Before then it was *Quintilis*, or "fifth."

August was named after Augustus Caesar. It was originally *Sextilis*, or “sixth.”

September is from *septum*, meaning “seven.”

October is from *octo*, meaning “eight.”

November is from *novem*, meaning “nine.”

December is from *decem*, meaning “ten.”

Our holidays

Brainstorm on board as many as they can think of.

Put stickers on the calendar

How and when our holidays originated, point to timeline

Halloween from Samhain (Celtic lord of death)

November 1 was Celtic New Year. Halloween like New Years Eve.

People put out their hearth fires. Druids built a huge bonfire. Burned sacrifices, including crops, animals, sometimes people.

People relit their hearth fires from the bonfire.

The dead supposedly returned on that day.

God's holidays

God gave Moses the Feasts of the Lord on Mt. Sinai

Review the history. Sequencing activity.

Point to timeline 1446 B.C. when God gave the festivals.

Sequencing activity:

1. God chose Abraham
2. Isaac was miraculously born
3. Jacob and his 12 sons moved to Egypt because of famine.
4. The Egyptians made the Israelites slaves.
5. God chose Moses to free the Israelites.
6. God sent 10 plagues when Pharaoh refused to let the people go.
7. After the last plague, Pharaoh let the people go.
8. The Israelites crossed the Red Sea.
9. The Israelites came to Mt. Sinai.
10. God gave Moses the ten commandments, the feasts, the tabernacle design and more.