

## Family Study Guide

### Deuteronomy 16:9-12 (KJV)

#### The Feast of Weeks and Pentecost

These study notes are designed to help families prepare for the sermon before coming to worship. The goal is to help parents, children, and teens begin thinking about the passage ahead of time so they can listen more carefully, understand the sermon more fully, and talk about it together afterward.

The Feast of Weeks was one of Israel's great yearly feasts. It was a time of worship, thanksgiving, rejoicing, generosity, and remembrance. It also pointed beyond itself to Christ and to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

#### Main Scripture

Deuteronomy 16:9-12 (KJV)

#### Suggested Additional Reading

Leviticus 23:15-22 (KJV)

Acts 2:1-4, 41 (KJV)

Jeremiah 31:31-33 (KJV)

Romans 8:1-4 (KJV)

Romans 12:1 (KJV)

#### Big Idea

The Feast of Weeks reminded Israel to thank God for His provision, remember His redemption, rejoice before Him, care for the needy, and live as His covenant people. In the New Testament, Pentecost shows the greater fulfillment of this feast through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the gathering of God's people, and God's law being written upon the heart.

#### Background and Context

In Deuteronomy 16, Moses is speaking to the second generation of Israel as they prepare to enter the Promised Land. He is not repeating every detail already given in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. Instead, he is emphasizing what this new generation must remember as they prepare to live in the land under God's rule.

The Feast of Weeks was the second of Israel's three great yearly festivals. It was connected to the wheat harvest and was counted from the time of Passover. It was a joyful day of worship and thanksgiving in which the people came before the Lord with offerings. It was

also a time to remember that all they had came from God, and that even in their rejoicing they were not to forget the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.

As Christians read this feast in light of the New Testament, we see that it also pointed forward to Pentecost. What was shadowed in the Old Testament finds its fulfillment in Christ and in the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### **Key Truths to Notice Before the Sermon**

As your family reads the passage, there are several truths worth noticing. The people were to count the weeks carefully. They were to bring a freewill offering according to the measure of Gods blessing. They were to rejoice before the Lord, not merely perform a ritual. They were to include the whole household and remember those in need. They were also to remember that they had once been bondmen in Egypt.

All of this shows that biblical worship is not cold or mechanical. It is marked by gratitude, joy, generosity, humility, and remembrance. Gods people were to celebrate His goodness without forgetting His mercy.

### **What This Feast Taught Israel**

The Feast of Weeks taught Israel that God is the giver of daily bread. The harvest did not come by human power alone. God gave the land, the rain, the increase, and the bread. The feast called the people to thankfulness.

The feast also taught Israel to remember redemption. They were not to enjoy the blessings of the land while forgetting that they had once been slaves in Egypt. Their joy was to be shaped by humility and memory.

It also taught them to care for others. The poor and vulnerable were not to be left out of the joy of worship. In Gods order, gratitude and generosity belong together.

### **How This Feast Points to Pentecost**

In the New Testament, the Feast of Weeks is called Pentecost. Acts 2 tells us that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost. This is not an accidental detail. God chose this day with purpose.

Just as Passover pointed to Christs sacrifice, Pentecost points to the outpouring of the Spirit and the gathering of a harvest for God. The sermon may also show the connection between Sinai and Pentecost. At Sinai, God revealed Himself with power and gave His law to His people. In the new covenant, God gives His Spirit and writes His law upon the heart.

This helps us see that redemption is not only about being forgiven. Redemption also leads to covenant life, obedience, service, and worship in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **A Simple Explanation for Children**

If parents want a simple way to explain this passage, they may say something like this:

The Feast of Weeks was a special day when God's people thanked Him for the harvest and remembered that He had taken care of them. They were to rejoice before the Lord and share with others, especially those in need. Later, on the day of Pentecost, God poured out the Holy Spirit on the church. This showed that Jesus had completed His saving work and that God was gathering a people for Himself.

### Family Discussion Questions

These questions can help your family prepare for the sermon. You do not need to answer them all. Even discussing two or three together can be very helpful.

1. Why do you think God gave Israel special feast days?
2. What does this feast teach us about thanking God for daily bread?
3. Why do you think rejoicing was such an important part of this feast?
4. Why does God mention the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow?
5. Why was Israel told to remember that they had been bondmen in Egypt?
6. What does this feast teach us about worship and generosity?
7. Why is it significant that the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost?
8. What does it mean for God's law to be written on the heart?
9. How should Christians respond to God's mercy today?

As you discuss these questions, try to connect the Old Testament feast to the Christian life. The same God who provided for Israel is the God who provides for us. The same God who called His people to rejoice and obey still calls His people to live with thankful, surrendered hearts.

### Questions for Younger Children

Younger children may benefit from simpler questions like these:

10. Who gives us food and daily bread?
11. Why should we thank God for what we have?
12. Who should we remember when we are blessed?
13. What happened on the day of Pentecost?
14. Who did Jesus send to His people?
15. What does God want to do in our hearts?

These simpler questions help children begin to see that God is our provider, that His blessings should lead to gratitude, and that the Holy Spirit helps God's people love and obey Him.

### What to Listen for in the Sermon

As your family listens to the sermon, pay attention to how these themes are explained:

16. The meaning of the Feast of Weeks in Israel's life
17. The connection between harvest and thanksgiving
18. The connection between redemption and covenant

19. 4. The care for the poor in this feast
20. 5. The significance of Pentecost in Acts 2
21. 6. The relationship between Sinai and Pentecost
22. 7. The gift of the Holy Spirit in the new covenant
23. 8. The call to offer ourselves to God as a living sacrifice

Listening for these themes will help the whole family follow the message with greater understanding and continue the conversation after church.

### **Prayer Focus for Families**

Before the sermon, families may want to pray together in a simple way like this:

Lord, thank You for Your provision, Your salvation, and the gift of Your Spirit. Teach us to rejoice before You with thankful hearts. Help us remember Your goodness, care for others, and offer ourselves to You in obedience. Open our minds to understand Your Word and give us hearts ready to receive it. In Jesus name, amen.

### **After-Sermon Follow-Up**

After the sermon, a helpful question to bring back to the table may be this:

Because God has redeemed us and given us His Spirit, how should we now live?

That question brings the family back to one of the main applications of the passage. Gods people do not only remember His works. They respond to His mercy with worship, obedience, gratitude, and willing service.