

**Ice Breaker:**

**Who is the most reliable person you know and why?**

**Groups Discussion Questions:**

**Amos 3:7**

*Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing  
without revealing his plan  
to his servants the prophets.*

**Is the book of Amos in the Old or New Testament?**

**How did God reveal His plans in the Old Testament?**

**Moses, one of God's prophets, laid out directions for the people from God.  
Read Leviticus 23 together:**

**Exodus 23:1-8**

**The Appointed Festivals**

*23 The Lord said to Moses, 2 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.*

**The Sabbath**

*3 "There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the Lord.*

**The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread**

*4 "These are the Lord's appointed festivals, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times: 5 The Lord's Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. 6 On the fifteenth day of that month the Lord's Festival of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. 7 On the first day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. 8 For seven days present a food offering to the Lord. And on the seventh day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work."*

What connections do you see between Jesus' crucifixion and the Passover?

In what ways did Jesus compare Himself to bread through the gospels?

In scripture what is *leavening* commonly a reference to?  
(examples Matthew 16:6-12, Luke 12:1, Falsehood)

How is Jesus unleavened bread?

**Exodus 23:9-14**

## **Offering the Firstfruits**

*9 The Lord said to Moses, 10 “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest. 11 He is to wave the sheaf before the Lord so it will be accepted on your behalf; the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath. 12 On the day you wave the sheaf, you must sacrifice as a burnt offering to the Lord a lamb a year old without defect, 13 together with its grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with olive oil—a food offering presented to the Lord, a pleasing aroma—and its drink offering of a quarter of a hin of wine. 14 You must not eat any bread, or roasted or new grain, until the very day you bring this offering to your God. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live.*

How do you plant a seed?

Jesus died and was buried like all those before Him. But unlike those before him, what did Jesus do for the first time?

## **1 Corinthians 15:20-22**

*“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive”*

Jesus is the First Fruit of the resurrection. Who or what is the rest of the harvest?

## **Exodus 23:15-22**

### **The Festival of Weeks (Pentecost)**

*<sup>15</sup> “From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. <sup>16</sup> Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the Lord. <sup>17</sup> From wherever you live, bring two loaves made of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering of firstfruits to the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Present with this bread seven male lambs, each a year old and without defect, one young bull and two rams. They will be a burnt offering to the Lord, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings—a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Then sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering and two lambs, each a year old, for a fellowship offering. <sup>20</sup> The priest is to wave the two lambs before the Lord as a wave offering, together with the bread of the firstfruits. They are a sacred offering to the Lord for the priest. <sup>21</sup> On that same day you are to proclaim a sacred assembly and do no regular work. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live.*

*<sup>22</sup> “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God.”*

## **Now Read Acts 2:1-21**

### *The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost*

*2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

*5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"*

*13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."*

### *Peter Addresses the Crowd*

*14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

*17*

*"In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.*

*Your sons and daughters will prophesy,*

*your young men will see visions,*

*your old men will dream dreams.*

*18*

*Even on my servants, both men and women,*

*I will pour out my Spirit in those days,*

*and they will prophesy.*

19

*I will show wonders in the heavens above*

*and signs on the earth below,*

*blood and fire and billows of smoke.*

20

*The sun will be turned to darkness*

*and the moon to blood*

*before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.*

21

*And everyone who calls*

*on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

*22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.*

How does the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, resemble a harvest?

Read Exodus 23:22 again. How does God's care for the foreigner foreshadow what happened on Pentecost in Acts 2.

Before Jesus ascended, recorded in Acts 1, he said:

*8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

How could the connection to the festival of Pentecost help the disciples understand who the gospel was for?

If you believe in Jesus, you have received the Holy Spirit. What is the difference between “receiving” the Holy Spirit and being a “Spirit filled Christian”?

## Prayer Requests

## Digging Deeper:

In the Message Eric mentioned the other three autumn festivals that God commanded the Jewish believers to observe. These were the Festival of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Festival of Tabernacles (or Booths).

Here is a brief explanation of each:

**The Feast of Trumpets** celebrated the end of the agricultural season. It was on the 10th day of the seventh month. A trumpet was blown on the first day of the month to begin the time of preparation called Days of Repentance or Days of Awe. This time of preparation was for the Day of Atonement.

**The Day of Atonement**<sup>1</sup> It is “also known as Yom Kippur, was the most solemn holy day of all the Israelite feasts and festivals, occurring once a year on the tenth day of Tishri, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. On that day, the high priest was to perform elaborate rituals to atone for the sins of the people. Described in Leviticus 16:1-34, the atonement ritual began with Aaron, or subsequent high priests of Israel, coming into the holy of holies. The solemnity of the day was underscored by God telling Moses to warn Aaron not to come into the Most Holy Place whenever he felt like it; he could only come on this special day once a year, lest he die (v.2). This was not a ceremony to be taken lightly, and the people were to understand that atonement for sin was to be done God’s way.”

Before entering the tabernacle, Aaron was to bathe and put on special garments (v. 4), then sacrifice a bull for a sin offering for himself and his family (v. 6, 11). The blood of the bull was to be sprinkled on the ark of the covenant. Then Aaron was to bring two goats, one to be sacrificed “because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been” (v. 16), and its blood was sprinkled on the ark of the covenant. The other goat was used as a scapegoat. Aaron placed his hands on its head, confessed over it the rebellion and wickedness of the Israelites, and sent the goat out with an appointed man who released it into the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/Day-Atonement-Yom-Kippur.html>

wilderness (v. 21). The goat carried on itself all the sins of the people, which were forgiven for another year (v. 30).

### **Feast of Tabernacles**

After God had delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He commanded the Feast of Tabernacles. This was to be celebrated on the 15th day of the 7th month, and last for seven days. It began and ended on a Sabbath. These days were to have no work, only worship of God. Each day between the first and last day, there was an offering made by fire to the Lord and feasting. During the eight days the Israelites had to dwell in tents, or tabernacles.

It is important to note that the word tabernacle means “to dwell”. During this time the people were to dwell in tents or “booths” with one another. When John wrote his gospel, he used the word dwell in describing Jesus’ with us.

John 1:14

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:52

What connections do you see between these passages and the Feast of Trumpets?

Read Zechariah 12:10 and Romans 11:1-6 and 25-36

What connections do you see to the Day of Atonement?

Read Revelation 21:1-4

What connections do you see to the Feast of Tabernacles?