

## God wants his people to rest, remember and rely on him



*And the Lord said to Moses, “Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. Begin celebrating the Festival of Shelters on the fifteenth day of the appointed month—five days after the Day of Atonement. This festival to the Lord will last for seven days. On the first day of the festival you must proclaim an official day for holy assembly, when you do no ordinary work. For seven days you must present special gifts to the Lord. The eighth day is another holy day on which you present your special gifts to the Lord. This will be a solemn occasion, and no ordinary work may be done that day.*

*(“These are the Lord’s appointed festivals. Celebrate them each year as official days for holy assembly by presenting special gifts to the Lord—burnt offerings, grain offerings, sacrifices, and liquid offerings—each on its proper day. These festivals must be observed in addition to the Lord’s regular Sabbath days, and the offerings are in addition to your personal gifts, the offerings you give to fulfill your vows, and the voluntary offerings you present to the Lord.)*

*“Remember that this seven-day festival to the Lord—the Festival of Shelters—begins on the fifteenth day of the appointed month, after you have harvested all the produce of the land. The first day and the eighth day of the festival will be days of complete rest. On the first day gather branches from magnificent trees—palm fronds, boughs from leafy trees, and willows that grow by the streams. Then celebrate with joy before the Lord your God for seven days. You must observe this festival to the Lord for seven days every year. This is a permanent law for you, and it must be observed in the appointed month from generation to generation. For seven days you must live outside in little shelters.*

*All native-born Israelites must live in shelters. This will remind each new generation of Israelites that I made their ancestors live in shelters when I rescued them from the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”*

*So Moses gave the Israelites these instructions regarding the annual festivals of the Lord*

*~ Leviticus 23:33-44 (NLT) ~*

Weekly Family Devotion: Leviticus 7: Leviticus 23 – God wants his people to rest, remember and rely on him.

We all like holidays and days off, don't we?

Well, when God gave his Old Testament people at Mt Sinai instructions on how to live his way, he also gave them instructions about days off and festivals they were to have every year. The reason God gave these instructions to his people was because he wanted to make sure that his people were resting, remembering what God had done for them, and relying on God.

The festivals that God gave his Old Testament people, like the Festival of Shelters allowed God's people to stop work and rest. It is important that we remember to rest, because we cannot do everything and our bodies need rest!

In the Festival of Shelters God's Old Testament people had to live in shelters made of branches for a week! This was to remind them of how God had saved them from Egypt and the way God provided for them. God knows we need to keep remembering what he has done for us or we will forget!

God gave his Old Testament people these festivals to help them rely on God. By resting, it helped his Old Testament people to remember God is the one who looks after everything, and by remembering the things God had done before, his Old Testament people could tell themselves that God will still look after them.

We might not have the same festivals and holidays as God's Old Testament people, but if we trust Jesus we too should make sure we regularly rest, remember what God has done for us, and rely on God. How might you be able to do that each week?

**Some questions to think about:**

1. For what three reasons, starting with R, did God give his Old Testament people festivals?
2. Why is it important to Rest?
3. Why is it important to Remember what God has done for his people?
4. Why is it important to Rely on God?

**Prayer**

Dear God,

Thank you show us the best way to live. Please help us to rest regularly, to often remember what you have done for you people and to always rely on you.

Amen.