

WHAT'S FOR SUPPER

A STUDY OF THE HOLY DAY FEASTS



SHAVUOT :: LEVITICUS 23:15-18

1. Which do you like better, Thanksgiving or Christmas? Why?
2. Pastor Mark talks about research that demonstrates a link between being grateful and being happy. It's not that happy people are more grateful, it's that grateful people are more happy. Why do you think that is true?
3. Why do you think it is important to have holidays that focus on gratitude?
4. Pastor Mark explains the Festival of Weeks (Shavuot) and describes how people brought baskets of grain, honey, grapes, olives and pomegranites to the Holy Temple, where they would be offered as a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God. Why do you think this act of worship was important?
5. Pastor Mark describes the "wave offering" that involved two loaves of bread. The two loaves represent the two aspects of farming: God doing his part and the farmer doing his part. What is God's part? What is the farmer's part?
6. Why is it important to give thanks for both God's provision and the opportunity to work?

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7. Sometime around the year AD 33, just seven weeks after Jesus had been crucified and risen, the Holy Spirit filled the Disciples during the Festival of Weeks, and the Church was born. This is known by the Greek name, "Pentecost" (50th Day). Now we give thanks for a spiritual harvest, where God does His part as we (the Church) do our part. In reaching people for Jesus, what is God's part? What is our part?

8. Pastor Mark encourages us to ask two questions: "Am I grateful for what Jesus has done for my salvation?" And "Am I committed to doing my part as a member of the Church?" How would you answer those two questions?

9. Why do you think fewer people are involved and connected to the Church in America today than they were 70 years ago?

10. In what way does faith in God require both trust and effort?