

Rivers of Living Water

OBJECTIVE: To impart an awareness of the Feast of Tabernacles (also known as the Feast of Booths) and its historical and spiritual significance for the New Testament Christian. Jesus is our continual provision, our Living Water. This is a great fall program in the midst of the harvest season.

SCRIPTURAL EMPHASIS: John 7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.

DECORATIONS: These can be as simple or as elaborate as you want to be. Traditionally, the Feast of Booths is held outside in shelters made by the people. The shelter is called a "Sukka" and can be made using 2x4s, 2x6s, and 4x4s. Directions for building this simple structure can be found in the following section "Building the Sukka." The Sukka is placed on the stage area to the right or left of the main focus area. It can be decorated with greenery on top (i.e. the branches of an artificial Christmas tree!). Drape long pieces of earth-toned material along the sides. Inside the Sukka place a table with fruit. In the meeting area, use lots of water pitchers, a fountain, if possible (to provide the sound of running water) and plenty of fruits and vegetables, bread, etc. to give that harvest feeling. Decorate with fall garlands and leaves, too. If possible, provide palm leaves (just like the ones used on Palm Sunday) for the ladies to wave during praise and the program. Palm leaves can be purchased through a local flower shop. Just ask the chaplain assistants where they obtain them for Palm Sunday.

Incorporate the favor into the decorations. Drape a table with material that suggests a stream, (blue, white, surrounded by green, tan, etc.) Using boxes, books, or stepstools draped with the same material for support, arrange the bottled water to look like a stream of water flowing down the table. Intermingle the bottled water with floating candles and greenery such as ivy. A hidden cd player with a nature sounds cd really adds to the effect!

If you plan to eat afterwards, decorate the tables with strewn cinnamon-apple potpourri and fall leaves. You can also use floating candles as small centerpieces. This is a great time to eat outdoors under a tarp if you'd like.

FAVOR: Use extra small bottled water. Print out the scriptures and glue them to tag board. Cut the tag board with decorative scissors. Punch a hole in the top, add curling ribbon, and attach these to the bottles.

MIXER: Make several signs with the names of different rivers on them. Ask a greeter to randomly choose ladies as they are coming in to hold a sign. Make small slips of paper with these same river names on them, and hand them out to each woman as she comes in. During the mixer time, have the ladies with the signs stand up in separate places in your meeting area. Ask the ladies to go to the sign which matches the name of the river on their slip of paper. While there, their task is to tell about a time in their lives when they were extremely thirsty, i.e. where they were, what they were doing, how long they had to wait, what it took to quench the thirst.

MUSIC: Here are some suggestions: "Blessed Be the Name of the Lord," "From the Rising of the Sun," "Times of Refreshing," "Praise Him in the Morning," "Come Bless the Lord," "I Will Call Upon the Lord," "We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise," "Hosanna In the Highest."

SPECIAL MUSIC: Ask a group of women to perform a dance to "The River is Here" by Andy Park.



SCHEDULE: 10 min. Sing 'em in songs and welcome
10 min. Mixer
10 min. Special presentation in song and sacred dance to "The River Is Here"
20 min. Praise and Worship
45 min. Special Speaker—The Feast of Tabernacles
10 min. Personal Prayer and Closing remarks

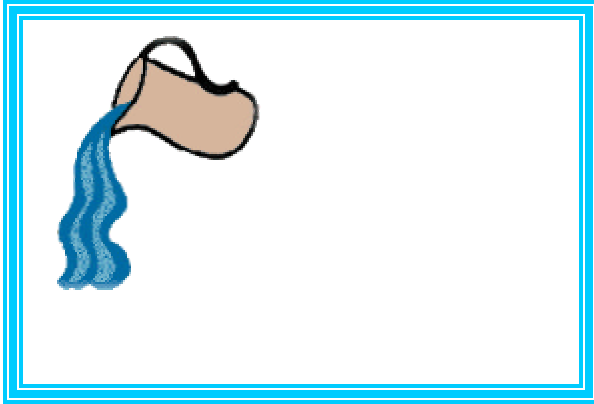
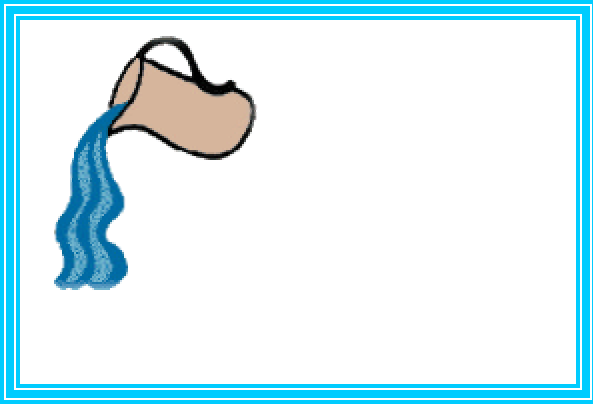
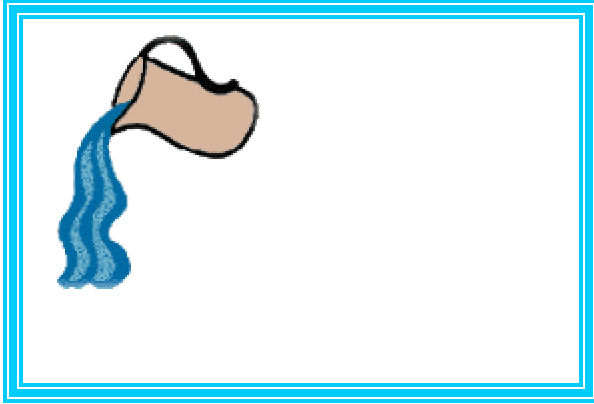
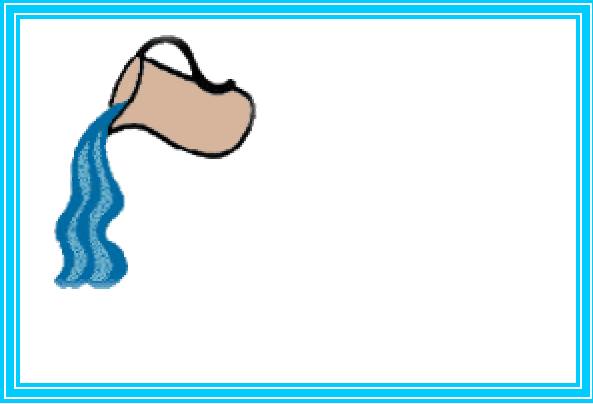
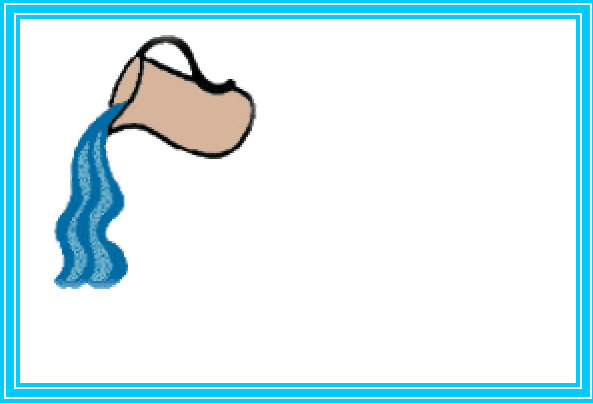
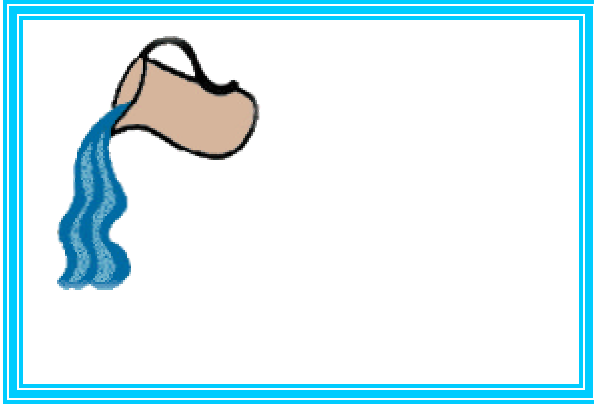
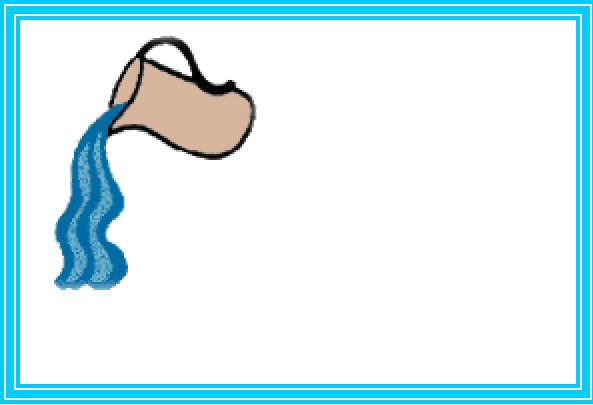
BUILDING THE SUKKA: You will need the following:
4—4x4s (6 ft. long)
4—2x4s (8ft.)
2—2x6s (8ft)
(If you ask for "cull" lumber, these are really cheap!)
4—6inch bolts with nuts and washers
Wood screws

Cut 3 2x4s into 4ft. sections, creating 6 pieces. Cut 1 2x4 into 2ft. pieces, creating 4 pieces. Attach a 4x4 to each end of each 2x6. Use the 4ft. 2x4s to make the open roof of the sukka by attaching them perpendicularly to the 2x6s, spacing them evenly across the top. The sukka is an open shelter. The 4x4s are the main posts, the 2x6s are the top front and back, the 2x4s are the top sides and open roof. Use the remaining sections of 2x4s and attach them from the posts to the 2x6s at an angle to create a more supported structure and to keep it from wobbling back and forth.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: Arrange for a special speaker to come and explain the history of the Feast of Tabernacles and the incredible significance of Jesus' words spoken during that feast in John chapter 7.

DEVOTIONAL EMPHASIS: The Feast of Tabernacles is one of the three feasts in which everyone was required to gather together in Jerusalem to celebrate. It is the most joyful and festive of all the feasts and it is mentioned more often in scripture than any other feast. It was a time for Israel to thank God for His past provision and harvests and to beseech Him for His continued provision of rain for a plentiful harvest in the coming year. Each day of the feast included a procession of the priests and people to get "living water" from the Pool of Siloam, a spring fed pool of water. After returning to the temple, the priests, amidst great ceremony, poured the living water upon the altar. The people would then sing the Hallel (Psalms 113-118), wave their palm branches and cry out for salvation. (Psalm 118:25) On the last day of the feast, the services reached a climax- anticipation was high, and praise was intense. As the people were waving their palm branches, crying for water and salvation, Jesus stood and cried out in a loud voice, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." In essence He was saying, "I am your source of provision and salvation."

For more information regarding this feast and its significance, see [The Feasts of the Lord](#) by Kevin Howard and Marvin Rosenthal. (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997) Additional Resource: Handout #1, Lesson Eighteen from the Bible study and video series [That the World May Know](#) by Focus on the Family. It provides an excellent overview of the "The Joy of Living Water: Jesus and the Feast of Sukkot."





Protestant Women of the Chapel
Presents as their Monthly Program

Rivers of Living Water

Learn about the significance
of the
Feast of Tabernacles

Date & Time:

Place:



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