



KS2 Children's Service Guide

Festival: Succot Day 1

Festival Info

Hebrew date: 15th Tishrei, 5785

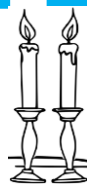
Gregorian date: 16th – 17th (Day 1)
Oct, 2024

London Chag times: 17:51 – 18:50
(Day 1)

Special events: Succah. Lulav and Etrog.

Upcoming events in the week:
Second Day Succot, Shabbat Chol HaMoed.

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Summary

A newborn calf, lamb, or kid must be left with its mother for a full week and in addition to this, an animal and its child may not be slaughtered on the same day.

The Jewish calendar is full of holy events - Shabbat; the Pesach (Passover) sacrifice, Pesach, the Omer offering, Shavuot (Pentacost), Rosh HaShannah, Yom Kippur, Succot and Shemini Atzeret.

Hashem (G-d) says that on Succot we should dwell in huts and as it's a holy time, no work should be done. During Succot, sacrifices were offered to Hashem in the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) in Yerushalayim (Jerusalem).

Discovery

Did you know that according to the commentaries, Hashem is asking us to make a calendar so that it's well-known when the festivals would be and in Biblical times, when people needed to walk to the Beit HaMikdash, they had time to prepare and to travel there?

Did you know that a festival has the same laws as Shabbat with some minor exceptions? On a chag (festival), you may carry what you need, cook from an existing flame and kindle (light a candle etc from an existing flame).

Did you know that the Omer offering was similar to the mitzvah of Lulav and Etrog because it was waved in all directions (forward, right, backwards, left, up and down)?

Succot Thinking



- 1) Do you think that the people who lived in the desert would be proud to know we remember them each year, by living in a succah?
- 2) How many of the Jewish festivals can you name?
- 3) How does the word, cloud, link to the chag?

Succot Information

Succot lasts for 8 days and helps us to remember the way that Hashem protected the Jewish people when they left Egypt and were travelling through the desert, living in huts. We celebrate Succot by living in a hut called a succah, which is covered in evergreen plants. We also take four plants lulav (date plam), Etrog (citron), Hadas (myrtle) and Aravah (willow), hold them together and wave them in all directions.

Chag HaAsif (Festival of Gathering (the harvest)) and Chag HaSuccot (Festival of Huts) are two of the festival's names. In Israel, some crops are only ready to be harvested in the autumn and so we have Chag HaAsif so we can show appreciation for the crops that are ripe. In the desert, not only did the Jewish people live in tents but the medrash says they were surrounded by a protective cloud from Hashem. This cloud was all around them, like the walls of a succah. The name, Chag HaSuccot, refers to both the huts and the protective cloud.

During Succot, we eat all our meals in the sukkah and sleep there, too. In England, though, not everyone actually sleeps in the Succah. The Succah needs to have at least two and a half walls and its roof is covered with plants but with enough gaps to be able to see the stars.

Who has done something special for you this week and what did they do? (If they are present, go up to them and say thank you!)

Games

1) Quiz Time



Divide the children into three groups and give each group a different sound (buzz, bing and bloop). Ask questions about the Torah reading for Succot (purple box pg 1) or about Succot itself (yellow box pg 1). The team has to make the sound to indicate they know the answer.

2) Make a Succah

Divide children into groups. They have to use items around the room, to make a succah to scale. Bonus points for creativity and accuracy.

3) To My Succah, I Invited ...

Each child has to think of a name and something that can rhyme with it e.g. Ben and pen. Then they use it in the following way.

- To my Succah, I invited Ben

He brought me a gift, a brand new pen.

- To my Succah, I invited Anna

She helped me to build it, and brought along a spanner.

- To my Succah, I invited Harry

When he came, he brought Barry & Larry.

Story (One of the children can read this out loud – encourage them to use expression.)

“I like Succot the best.” Smiled Mia as she shared her favourite festival with her friends.

“Go on!” Encouraged Rosie, “Why do you like Succot the best?”

Mia looked around to make sure that everyone was listening. She started to explain. “Well, for a long time, we didn’t have a Succah. I think my mum and dad always kind-of wanted one but you know, life got in the way and years went by and they just didn’t manage. They looked into it two years ago and they just didn’t have enough money. I’m not saying they’re poor, I’m just saying they didn’t have **enough** to buy a succah. A year and a half ago, they got a call from their friends, who they had helped out a lot. These friends had been adjusting to a lot of changes and my mum and dad had assisted, with taking and collecting their kids from school, making them suppers a few nights a week and also getting shopping and things for them. I think they also listened to them when they were struggling to adapt to all the changes and sometimes offered advice. So these friends called my parents and they actually said, “Ruth and John, you will never know how much we have gained and appreciated your unwavering support. You stood by us through thick and thin, and now that we’re settled and secure, we want to thank you.” My Mum and Dad both told them that there was absolutely no need to thank them. They did it because they wanted to support their friends and that’s what friends are for, however, these friends insisted that they wanted to do something because they were so very grateful and couldn’t have managed without my mum and dad. They said, “We know you’ve been wanting to get a Succah for a long time and we’re going to buy one for you!” My mum and dad gasped, looked at each other and were speechless – they were, of course, going to protest – it’s way too much money. “In fact,” the friends continued, “We knew you’d say no, so we’ve actually already ordered it for you and it should arrive two weeks before Succot.” My parents were flabbergasted but very grateful. With tears in their eyes, they thanked their dear friends and they didn’t stop thanking them.”

“Wow,” said Rosie in amazement, “What a thoughtful and meaningful gift!”

Mia smiled, “true, but it doesn’t end there. Last Succot we were so excited. It was exactly two weeks before Succot and we were bouncing with joy, thinking about our first Succah ... and then it didn’t arrive that day. Dad told us that we should wait until the next day because sometimes the estimated delivery didn’t work out exactly. It didn’t arrive the next day, or the next and with a week to go, we still had no succah. Mum was still hopeful and she went to the shops and bought the most beautiful decorations. Time passed quickly and the day before Succot began, the Succah still hadn’t arrived. We were so disappointed. Eventually, three months after Succot finished there was a knock at the door and it was our Succah. THREE MONTHS LATE but it had finally arrived. So this year, we have been so excited to get going and finally use our beautiful Succah. Since I was a very little child, I’ve heard my mum and dad talk about wanting a Succah and it made me feel the same way. This year, I will actually be able to know what it’s like to live it the Succah.”

1) Why do you think Mia was longing to have a Succah?

2) If someone bought you a Succah, how would you show them that you’re grateful?

3) Have you ever been to a succah that has been decorated beautifully? Can you describe it?

