

What is this TXT Fondue program about?

What is the Biblical support to still celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles? What connection did King Jesus have with this feast? Learn it through this program.

How is a TXT Fondue played?

Two teams take turns in asking each other questions. There usually are 12 questions for each team. The team that has question 1a begins with asking. After the question has been asked and in some cases a passage from the Scriptures has been read, the other team has one minute to discuss their answer. Then they give their final answer and the team that asked the question decides whether the answer is correct. Keep in mind that if your team demands strict answers, the other team will do the same.

Not the answer but the process

With a TXT Fondue, it's not about the answer, but all about the process. Questions will lead to new questions, which is good, but keep these thoughts until after the TXT Fondue, so that the program may continue fluently and dynamically. That is important, because a TXT Fondue is actually a sermon that is divided into chunks. It is apostles' teaching (Acts 2:42), so just like any sermon it has a structure that builds up to an application. Those who wish to go in-depth can do so afterwards.

Referee

Like the referee ensures that the rules of play are respected, the elder in a house feast supervises that all that is said remains Biblical (1 Timothy 4:16). There are just two rules: if someone says something unbiblical, the elder takes corrective action, like a referee in football issues a yellow card. In case of sin, he intervenes, comparable to a red card.

Feedback

Have you got a suggestion? Did you discover an error in a TXT Fondue program? Let us know through HuisfeestNetwerk.org! Questions regarding the contents can be discussed with the House Feast Network at facebook.com/HouseFeastNetwork.

Version: April 10, 2013.

This program is strongly based on the book "De feesten van Israël" [The Feasts of Israel] by Evert van der Poll, chapter 9: "Loofhuttenfeest: het feest van pelgrims" [The Feast of Tabernacles: The Feast of Pilgrims].

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What is the House Feast Network?

Those who are in the house feasts intend to reach all people in their own network who have not yet been reached with the gospel.

Networking

Of course you are curious to see how other house feasts do things. You wish to pay each other visits, help each other, and in any case you celebrate a large feast together, three times a year. To facilitate this, we have set up a House Feast Network group on Facebook: facebook.com/HouseFeastNetwork. Elders can exchange their experiences at facebook.com/groups/Oudsten.

Share impressions

House feasts support one another by continually sharing photos in "The House Feast Network". House feasts unite because of this. We prefer that the ambience pictures you share do not intrude people's privacy.

What is the Learnhouse?

A collection of 84 TXT Fondue programs together form a complete training to spiritual maturity. It is composed of 7 fundaments, with 12 programs per fundaments. The program you now hold is part of the sixth fundament: future.

We recommend you to read the books of Revelations and Ephesians while you take the 12 lessons in this fundament.

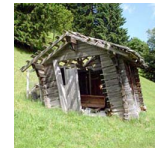
Previous program:
6.02 End time

This program:
6.03 Feast of Tabernacles

Next program:
6.04 Sukkot

For an overview of all programs, see the [Learnhouse](#).

	1. Conversion	2. Baptism	3. Holy Spirit	4. Evangelization and deacony	5. Sanctification	6. Future	7. Houses
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1a. Leviticus 23:39–43 says:

So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the Lord for seven days; the first day is a day of sabbath rest, and the eighth day also is a day of sabbath rest.

On the first day you are to take branches from luxuriant trees—from palms, willows and other leafy trees—and rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. Celebrate this as a festival to the Lord for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month.

Live in temporary shelters for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in such shelters so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in temporary shelters when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

The Feast of Trumpets is about proclaiming and the Day of Atonement is serious. Then what kind of feast is the Feast of Tabernacles?

(answer) The Feast of Tabernacles is a time to rejoice.

2a. A roof made of branches and leaves always have openings in them, so you can see through them. What is the meaning of this?

(answer) It tells us that we as believers need to keep a open world view; it gives you a wide look.

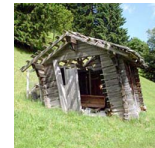
3a. The Bible book of Ecclesiastes is being quite laid back about how life is impermanent and that you should not think too highly of yourself. This book is always read at the Feast of Tabernacles. Why? What has this got to do with the Feast of Tabernacles?

(answer) This is a very joyous feast, where the Book of Ecclesiastes tells you that you should just take it easy.

4a. What if you're not happy, how can you then still celebrate a happy and joyous feast?

(answer) Celebrating the Biblical feasts does not depend on your circumstances, but it's commanded by God the Father. So it's an assignment.

(comment) He finds it is important for you to celebrate each feast, because every one of them represents a fundamental lesson that together bring you spiritually in top condition. He wants to see you grow spiritually. This is why He has set up a calendar for you to follow, because then you will flourish spiritually and you'll be able to handle any circumstances.



5a. During the Feast of Tabernacles, water was drawn from the Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem, below the old city of David. This water was then carried up to the top of the Temple Mount. A big ceremony! At every day of the feast, jugs of water were carried around the temple in a big procession. On the seventh day, they would even do it seven times. After that, the water was poured out over the altar and the crowd would begin cheering joyfully. They sang and danced.

King Jesus was already present in disguise, because He is the Pool of living water, the Source of joy. As a result, it is logical that King Jesus revealed this foreshadow of Himself during the Feast of Tabernacles, and so He did in John 7:37–38: "On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.'" What did King Jesus say here about Himself?

(answer) The one thing you are singing and cheering about, that's Me. I am the Source of living water. Whoever believes in Me and drinks from that water, will never be thirsty again.

6a. The prophet Zechariah announced that the Lord Jesus would one day be King over all the earth. This will become a reality in the Kingdom of God on Earth, that will last for a thousand years. In Zechariah 14:16–17, he says: "Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles. If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain."

There is a very clear warning in this passage. What does it say?

(answer) Whoever refuses to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in reality says he or she does not accept the Word that has become flesh.

(comment) *This is not a harsh judgment, but rather an additional encouragement to go and to celebrate this feast. King Jesus is the hidden reality of this feast. Who does not accept the Word that has become flesh, cannot receive the living water of the Holy Spirit, because the Spirit cannot be without King Jesus. See also the comment with question 5b.*

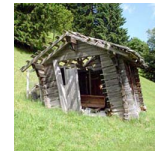
7a. King Jesus died and rose from the grave. We remember it with Pesach Seder and Pesach. He has poured out the Holy Spirit with Pentecost. During which feast is it likely He was born? Certainly not with Christmas, because that feast has a different background. In the Bible, that feast is not mentioned and in the first three centuries of church history it did not exist either. Originally it is a pagan midwinter feast. When Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire, it received the meaning of the feast celebrating Christ's birth.

So at which feast do we celebrate God the Father wants to give us a hopeful Future? Logically, at which feast will the Savior for this hopeful future be born?

(answer) The Feast of Tabernacles.

8a. The final Bible book shows us the end of days, when the great harvest is gathered. Revelations 14 tells how God the Father sends out His angels to use the scythe in the harvest that has become ripe. At the end of the harvest, a banquet is prepared; the wedding banquet of the Lamb. The Feast of Tabernacles points forward to the end of the harvest. The multitude that no one can count appears before the throne of the Lamb, to celebrate the eternal feast of harvest. The concept of "thanking for the harvest" is known around the world in different feasts and festivals. Name one.

(answer) Possible examples are for example: harvest festival (U.K.), Thanksgiving (U.S.A.)



9a. (Please read the bold text of this question aloud.)

If you want to celebrate this feast, you can build your own sukkah (booth) by setting up a frame tent or another structure in your back yard, your garage or a gym. You can also use your living room as sukkah. You decorate your sukkah with branches, fruits and whatever other pretty decorations you have.

While celebrating this feast the entire week or for one or more days, you consider the various themes that are associated with this feast. You can see the sukkah as a practical lesson and relate it with King Jesus. He has become a fragile human and in this way, he has taken all our human limitedness on Him.

Someone from the team asking the question will now draw something. The other team will try and guess what it is.

(answer) A sukkah.

10a. What will other people think of me if I go out camping for several days in autumn, for a time of reflection.

(answer) On one hand, they will think you take the Bible very literally; on the other hand they will think it's wise of you to spend several days preparing and planning the coming year.

(comment) *According to Hosea 14:10 (in some translations 14:9), someone who clearly sets his goals is very wise:*

Who is wise? Let them realize these things.

Who is discerning? Let them understand.

The ways of the Lord are right;

the righteous walk in them,

but the rebellious stumble in them.

11a. The apostle Paul was judged because he stayed true to the Law of God the Father. Where in the Bible does it say that we should no longer celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles?

(answer) Nowhere, it is not being revoked in the New Testament. The believers in Acts have continued celebrating the Biblical feasts.

(comment) *The judgment of the apostle Paul is described in Acts 21:15 and further.*

12a. King Jesus left the comforts of heaven to live here on Earth, first as a refugee and then as Savior. He has lived among us without having many possessions. He camped among us. Like him, will you live here on Earth and follow His example?

In Matthew 19:21, King Jesus asked of all His disciples: "follow me."



1b. At the Feast of Tabernacles, you build a booth (sukkah) or a tent. What is it covered with for the most part?

(answer) The foliage of trees, or in other words: branches and leaves.

(comment) *In Hebrew, the material it is covered with is indicated with the word "shkakh", that means plant materials such as that of broad-leaved trees and palm trees.*

2b. On one hand, the sukkah (booth) needs to be built somewhat loosely, so that it can be taken apart again. On the other hand, it must be built sturdy enough that it doesn't topple at a breeze. It is a temporary residence. Where must we store up our permanent treasures and ensure our eternal home?

(answer) We store up treasures in heaven. On earth, we keep in mind that everything is merely temporary, like the sukkah (booth).

(comment) *Matthew 6:19-20 says: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."*

3b. The sukkah (booth) is a temporary shelter. This tells us that life is a passing journey. The Bible speaks of the exodus (escape), the journey (passage) and the arrival (entrance). We are underway, we are pilgrims. We wear shoes and are in motion. When you step out of your permanent home and spend time in a tent, what conclusion will you draw?

(answer) We are traveling to our heavenly promised land with the Father's house, our eternal home.

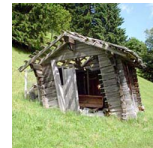
4b. Psalm 27:3-5 says:

**Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.
One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.
For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.**

During the Feast of Tabernacles, this Psalm is often read. I'm not safe in my solid house, with all the material facilities I have, with my life insurance, my social insurances and what not, but in that fragile, almost shabby booth. When does God the Father hide us in it?

(answer) In the days of evil.

(comment) *By that are meant miserable times like wars, disease, disaster and grief.*



5b. The Jewish people went up and down to the Pool of Siloam and repeated the same ritual. After that, they needed to wait another year. Do the followers of King Jesus also have to wait another year? Please explain.

(answer) No, because King Jesus explains that rivers of water will (continually) flow from within anyone who believes in Him, until the eternal life.

(comment) He explains this in John 7:38-39: "Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."

6b. What does it mean to "go up to Jerusalem"? Is that purely literally or can it also be seen as something figuratively?

(answer) You can go to Jerusalem by boat, airplane or on foot, but you can also metaphorically go up to Jerusalem in by connecting with Jerusalem, where the Messiah is enthroned; by speaking out your solidarity with His people.

(comment) The reconciliation between Israel and the nations is part of it. But if you do not want that solidarity, then the Bible says no rain will fall on you.



7b. (Please read the bold text of this question aloud.)

Someone from the team asking the question will lip read what you can say to King Jesus with the Feast of Tabernacles. The other team will try and guess it.

(answer) "Happy birthday!" or "Congratulation!"



8b. The New Jerusalem that will descend from heaven, has the shape of a giant sukkah (booth). In the New Jerusalem, what will the Messiah live in? Choose from:

- a. A palace;**
- b. A tent;**
- c. A temple;**
- d. A house.**

(answer) The correct answer is "b. A tent."

(comment) It says so in Revelations 21:3: "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."



9b. (Please read the bold text of this question aloud.)

You can compare the Feast of Tabernacles with an activity that many people do. Someone from the team asking the question will describe this activity without being allowed to name the word itself. The other team will try and guess this "forbidden word".

(answer) Going camping.



10b. Why do most followers of King Jesus no longer celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles?

(answer) The other team needs to name only one of these possible answers:

- a. Because the pagan Christmas celebration has already wrongly become the birth feast of King Jesus instead of the Feast of Tabernacles, which is described in both the Old and the New Testament.
- b. Because this feast, along with the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement, have not been included in the Christian religion. For these three feasts, there has not yet been a prophetic fulfillment; it points to the future. (This is exactly why we really should celebrate it!)

11b. Why do so many followers of King Jesus have fear for the future, and why do they understand so little of it?

(answer) Because they do not celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, that explains the future every year. The future is the foundation of this feast.

12b. Will you reserve several days in your agenda of the coming year to join in celebrating this very important Feast of Tabernacles, through which you will grow in your spiritual life?