

God's
HOLY DAYS
JESUS IN THE FEASTS

STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered whether or not to read those chapters in the Book of Leviticus that describe all the ceremonies and rituals? What relevance do they have for us today as members of the new covenant living in the 21st century? Does not the cross of Christ mean that all of these symbols and shadows no longer have any meaning?

Today more and more believers are beginning to recognize that the earliest Church was almost entirely Jewish and that even when the Gospel began to spread into Gentile areas, many congregations were made up of born again Jews (completed or Messianic Jews as they are called today) and Gentile believers. This Jew/Gentile mix in the early congregations is reflected in the New Testament letters where Paul deals with issues that would naturally come up in such a setting such as eating food offered to idols (1 Corinthians 8; Romans 14) and Sabbath keeping (Romans 14:5-6).

Would it surprise you to learn that many of the early Christians kept the Jewish Sabbath and celebrated the Feasts of the Lord regularly? We know this because beginning in the 4th century, once the Church was backed by the power of the state, Church leaders began legislating that neither Jewish nor Gentile Christians could keep the Sabbath or Jewish festivals. It seems that for something like 200 plus years, many Gentile Christians saw nothing wrong with celebrating the Feasts of the Lord as a way of remembering what God had done for His people and how Christ had fulfilled several of them prophetically.

In this DVD series, Joe Amaral looks at the biblical legitimacy, purpose and practices of the seven festivals or holidays (from "holy days") that God commanded Israel to keep each year without fail. He draws some amazing parallels to the words and deeds of Jesus and the symbolism of the feasts. He also discusses the issue of whether or not we should consider keeping these powerful God-ordained appointed times of remembrance and rehearsal that look not only backwards at what He has done for His people, but also prophetically forwards to the second coming of Christ and the establishment of His reign upon the earth.

This Study Guide has been prepared for use by individuals or small groups who want to know more about the Feasts of the Lord and the blessings they can be to us today. It is designed to be used with the *God's Holy Days DVD* featuring Joe Amaral.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

This Study Guide will take you or your small group through the seven teaching segments of *God's Holy Days DVD* featuring Joe Amaral. It is designed to be used over the course of seven personal study sessions or small group gatherings.

Each week's lesson has six components:

Introduction

This section provides a brief overview of the DVD segment for that week.

Input

Here you will view the DVD teaching for the week in preparation for your discussions in the next section.

Interaction

This is where you can answer the questions by yourself for personal study or use them to guide your discussion in a small group. In a group setting you will also have an opportunity to share progress reports on your *Invest* goals from the previous week (see below).

Infuse

Psalm 119:11 says, "I have taken your words to heart so I would not sin against you." (*NCV*) This section suggests relevant verses you can memorize or place into your PDA to help you walk out what you learn each week.

Insight

This is a journaling place where you can record personal insights as you study on your own or with others.

Invest

In this section you can do some personal planning on how you are going to invest your life into following the Lord in the light of what you learn each week.

NOTE: The *Introduction*, *Input* and *Interaction* segments are for use during a small group meeting. The remaining sections are for your personal study.

WEEK 1 – INTRODUCTION TO THE FEASTS

Introduction

In the first session we look at the seven annual feasts of the Lord in terms of those which Christ fulfilled at His first coming and those He will fulfill at His second coming. We explore the questions:

- Who do the feasts belong to?
- Did the cross do away with them?
- As Christians, could we, should we, or must we celebrate them?
- Why don't we keep the feasts today?

Next we examine the teaching of the New Testament on celebrating the feasts as well as their natural, prophetic and church-related significance. Then we cover the practice of Jesus concerning the feasts and how Christians tend to respond to the issue of what will take place in the end times and how this relates to the feasts. The session concludes with a brief overview of the significance of each feast for we who are under the new covenant and the practice of the early church as regards these biblical vehicles for understanding God's purposes.

Input

Watch the DVD segment for Week 1, *Introduction*.

Now look at the chapter where the feasts are described: Leviticus 23:1.

(1) The LORD said to Moses, (2) "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.'"

Interaction

Use the following questions to explore the significance of the Feasts of the Lord.

1. Have you ever celebrated one of the Feasts of the Lord? What did the experience mean to you?

2. What are some of the reasons that a Christian might consider celebrating the Feasts of the Lord?

3. What is the spiritual significance for us as Christians of each of the seven feasts?

Passover: _____

Unleavened Bread: _____

First Fruits: _____

Pentecost: _____

Trumpets: _____

Day of Atonement: _____

Tabernacles: _____

4. Is it necessary for salvation for believers to celebrate the feasts (Colossians 2:16, 17)? Explain what Joe means by the terms, "could, should or must" with reference to the feasts.

5. How do the Hebrew terms *miqra* (*rehearsal*) and *mo'ed* (*an appointed time*) and Joe's example of the wedding anniversary help us to understand the purpose and value of the feasts?

6. How does Joe explain the following three levels of understanding the feasts?

Natural: _____

Prophetic: _____

Church Significance: _____

7. Why did the early Christians stop celebrating the feasts in the 3rd century? As a result, what influence replaced the Jewish roots of Christianity? How has this affected the Christian faith in your view?

8. Do you think you would like to celebrate one of the Feasts of the Lord? How has this week's teaching affected your thinking on this issue?

Infuse

Read Colossians 2:16-17. As you memorize these two verses, remember that although the feasts of the Lord have value and can be a great blessing to celebrate, Paul makes it clear that they are not mandatory. Our salvation depends upon Jesus Christ and nothing else!

(16) Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. (17) These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

Insight

Spend some time journaling on what you learned in this week's study. Reflect upon how you have understood the Old Testament and its applicability to your life as a Christian. Think about what celebrating the Feasts of the Lord might mean to you.

Invest

What would you like to do to understand this important but much neglected subject better? You could do an online search under "Feasts of the Lord" or order one of the books in the recommended reading list at the end of this Study Guide. Or perhaps you would like to discuss this idea of celebrating the feasts of the Lord with a Christian friend. Use this space to formulate some concrete steps you want to take.

Notes

WEEK 2 – PASSOVER - PART I

Introduction

The second session begins with a look at the Passover, the most important of the Festivals. Here we discover a number of amazing parallels between the details of the Passover feast in first century Judaism and the death of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God slain for the sins of the world.

Joe examines the detailed requirements that were necessary in the way the Jews celebrated the Passover. He begins with the so called “letter of blood” that was traced when the blood of the Passover lamb was applied to the doorposts of the home.

The rest of the session looks at the way in which the High Priest of Israel selected a lamb that would be suitable as a sacrifice for the sins of the entire nation.

Input

Watch the DVD segment for Week 2, *Passover Part I*.

Now look at the commandment to celebrate the Passover in Exodus 12:1-3, 6-8.

(1) The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, (2) “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. (3) Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household...

...(6) Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. (7) Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. (8) That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast.”

Interaction

Begin by sharing some of your steps or commitments from last week’s *Invest* section. What new things did you learn about the Feasts?

Here are some questions to help you uncover some great insights into the Passover.

1. What do we learn from the fact that the Bible was written by Jews to a largely Jewish audience? How does this help us to understand the text?

2. What does the Hebrew word, *Pesach* mean literally? How is this idea related to the Exodus story (Ex. 11:4-7; 12:7-13)?

3. What does the name, "Bethlehem" mean in Hebrew? How does even the name of His birthplace point to the true identity of Jesus Christ (John 6:32-35)?

4. What was the significance of the "swaddling cloths" that were used to wrap the infant Jesus?

5. How was John the Baptist legally qualified to point out to Israel the One who is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world? How do we know this?

6. According to the New Testament, how has Christ become what Paul calls "our Passover" (1 Corinthians 5:7) (see Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:17-19)?

Infuse

Look at Exodus 12:13 this week. In calling Jesus the Lamb of God, the Bible tells us that His blood, which means His death, is the thing that gives us life. If we have embraced Christ as Saviour and Lord, then we have applied the blood, the sign of life, to our lives. You might find it useful to commit this verse to memory or enter it into your PDA or cell phone so you can meditate on the wonderful truth it represents during the week.

(13) The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

Insight

In your journal this week, think about what it means to feed on Jesus as the Bread of Life? What sorts of actions and attitudes flow from this truth? How does it affect your emotions, your thoughts, your decisions and your actions?

WEEK 3 — PASSOVER - PART II

Introduction

This week we look at the remaining parallels between the first century celebration of the Passover and the death of Jesus. In the light of this information, we gain a much better understanding of what happened on the first Palm Sunday and the importance of several of the details. The session also looks at some of the events surrounding the trial and crucifixion of Jesus in the light of very recent archeological discoveries.

This Hebraic background information helps us to appreciate the ways God has fulfilled His plan of salvation progressively over the ages beginning with the lamb for each family at the first Passover to the Lamb of God slain for the sins of the world on Calvary.

Input

Watch the DVD segment for Week 3, *Passover Part 2*.

In Luke 19:37-40 we read about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey:

(37) When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: (38) "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (39) Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" (40) "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

Interaction

Start your discussion with a look at your commitments from last week's *Invest* segment. Feel free to pray for each other over the things that are shared.

The following questions will help you to explore more insights on the Passover.

1. How did the people know to assemble at the eastern gate on the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem? What else was going on there on that day?

2. How do the events of Palm Sunday come to life in a new way once we understand the context of what else was going on at the eastern gate that day?

3. Why was a Muslim cemetery placed just outside the eastern gate in the centuries following the Muslim conquest of Palestine? What is the significance of this in the light of Ezekiel 44:1, 2? How does this demonstrate God's sovereign ability to overcome all human attempts to thwart His plan?

4. How is the crucifixion connected to Abraham's sacrifice on Mount Moriah described in Genesis 22:1-14?

5. What does Joe mean by the phrase "the progression of the blood?" How does this truth bring the ritual of the Passover and its spiritual meaning off the pages of history and right into our own lives? What does this idea mean for you personally?

6. Can you share with the group how you came to accept the blood of the Lamb to cover your sins if, in fact, you have done this?

Infuse

The moment Jesus died an amazing event took place in the Temple. Imagine how shocked the priests were to discover the Holy of Holies exposed. Carry this Scripture with you this week (Mark 15:37-38) and spend a few moments reflecting upon its significance. Jesus died so that we could have full and complete access to God. The Father grieved over the death of His Son. Do we grieve over our sins that made His death necessary?

(37) With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. (38) The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

Insight

In this session we learned that some individuals thought they could stop the Messiah of Israel from re-entering the Temple one day by building a wall and placing some graves in front of it. For your journal entry this week, describe an example in your life from the past or the present where the circumstances looked impossible, where it looked like God could never open the door for you, or meet the huge need you were facing. How did God find a way?

Invest

How could you use something you learned this week to help you share God's truth with a friend? Make some concrete plans as to whom you will speak to and how you might approach the conversation if the opportunity arises.

Notes

WEEK 4 – THE PASSOVER SEDER AND THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

Introduction

This week we look at some of the highlights of the Seder Meal the Jewish family has when it celebrates the Passover and compare them with the Last Supper Jesus had with His disciples just before He went to the cross. The four cups that are consumed during the meal are particularly pertinent to the sacrifice of Christ as the Lamb of God slain for the sins of the world. The same is true of the unleavened matzah bread used in the ceremony, even to the very way it is baked.

The second part of the session looks at the Feast of Unleavened Bread that lasts for seven days beginning on the day after Passover. The focus here is on removing sin from our lives. We examine how the meaning of this feast points to Jesus' burial when He was taken away, just as the leaven is removed from a Jewish home before this feast begins.

Input

Watch the DVD segment for Week 4, *The Passover Seder and The Feast of Unleavened Bread*.

Here is Paul's description of the Passover meal Jesus had with His disciples before He went to the cross from 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.

(23) For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, (24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." (25) In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Interaction

Spend a few minutes discussing your *Invest* commitments from last week. Share progress reports, encourage each other and pray for one another.

Now let's explore some of the wonderful truths depicted in the Passover Seder meal and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

1. What is the first cup of the Seder called and of what historical realities does it serve to remind the Jewish people?

2. What is the "Unity Bag" and how does it provide a symbolic picture of the role of Jesus in the plan of salvation as a member of the Trinity?

3. Explain how the "Cup of Instruction" provides a beautiful way to impress the story of the Exodus upon the hearts and minds of the children. How could this part of the Seder be used to tell the story of the cross and how it delivered us from bondage? What do you think about using the Seder as a way every year to help your children understand salvation?

4. What did Jesus do and say when He and His disciples came to the third cup, the "Cup of Redemption," which always follows the full meal during the Seder (Matthew 26:26-28; Luke 22:14-20)?

5. Explain how the actual physical structure of the unleavened matzah bread and what is done with it during the Seder all point to Christ.

6. What does leaven or yeast stand for in Feast of Unleavened Bread? How does its affect upon bread compare with sin's effect upon us? How does Hebrews 7:26-28 and 10:10-14 help us to understand how Jesus fulfills its meaning?

7. What does Psalm 16:10 tell us about the burial of Jesus? What was the significance of Jesus rising on the third day in the eyes of Jewish superstition?

Infuse

The Feast of Unleavened Bread impressed upon Israel the need to remove leaven from their homes and sin from their lives. Jesus used the same image to warn his disciples about hypocrisy: Putting yourself forward as a

WEEK 5 – FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS AND PENTECOST

Introduction

This week we look at the Feast of Firstfruits, which follows immediately after Passover and the start of Unleavened Bread, and how it points to the resurrection of Christ. This feast is related to giving to God and the obligation of the Israelites to give God the first and best part of their harvest before they could take any of it for themselves. The Feasts of Firstfruits began the countdown of seven weeks (49 days) leading up to Pentecost on the fiftieth day.

The Feast of Pentecost in Jewish tradition represents the anniversary of the giving of the Law to the Israelites at Mount Sinai. This event signified the birth of the nation of Israel. We learn of the interesting Jewish tradition surrounding the coming of the Law and the parallels with the Day of Pentecost in the Book of Acts. We also discover the sorts of ideas in the minds of the crowd who witnessed the Day of Pentecost in Acts Chapter 2, based upon the celebration of the feast in which they were taking part.

Input

Watch the DVD segment for Week 5, *Feast of Firstfruits and Pentecost*.

Read Leviticus 23:9-11 which describes the Feast of Firstfruits:

(9) The LORD said to Moses, (10) "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest. (11) He is to wave the sheaf before the LORD so it will be accepted on your behalf; the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath.'"

Now read Leviticus 23:15, 16 concerning the Feast of Pentecost:

(15) From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. (16) Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD.

Interaction

Begin by reviewing your notes from last week's *Invest* section. Share any progress you have made toward your goals.

The following questions examine the Feasts of Firstfruits and Pentecost.

1. When did this Feasts of Firstfruits fall? Why is it no longer celebrated in Judaism?

2. When the Jewish farmers marked off a portion of their fields as dedicated to God to be given to the Lord at the Feast of Firstfruits, how did they select it (Exodus 23:19)? What can we learn from this?

3. How does Paul use this concept of Firstfruits in relation of the resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)? Why is Christ's resurrection important to us?

4. What are some of the similarities the DVD mentions between the giving of the Law to Israel at Mount Sinai according to both Scripture and Jewish tradition and the New Testament Day of Pentecost (Exodus 32, Acts 2)?

5. Given the use of Jeremiah 31:31-33 in the Temple service during the Feast of Pentecost in the first century, how does this knowledge enrich our understanding of Pentecost for us today? What does this event mean beyond the coming of the Spirit's power upon the Church to enable us to fulfill the Great Commission? See also Ezekiel 36:24-27.

6. What has been your personal experience of the Holy Spirit? How do you understand His role in your life? Here are some Scriptures to consider in answering this question: John 15:26-16:15; Acts 1:8, 10:38; Romans 8:1-17; Galatians 5:1-25.

Infuse

The Israelites were told in Exodus 23:19 to bring only the best of their crops as an offering to the Lord before they harvested any of it for themselves. In other words, they were to put God first. This week meditate on this verse and ask yourself the question: Do I always give God my best? Do I really put Him first?

(19) Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God.

Insight

Give some thought to the issue of giving your best to God. Is it a new concept to you? If so, what do you think about it? If not, what has this looked like in your life up to this point?

WEEK 6 — TRUMPETS AND AN ANCIENT WEDDING FEAST

Introduction

With this week we begin to look at the fall feasts. Unlike the spring feasts that have all been fulfilled by Christ, the fall celebrations provide a prophetic picture of things yet to come. The Feasts of Trumpets began with the first appearance of the New Moon hence its precise beginning was not known and therefore, it had to be observed by two witnesses. The DVD explains the various types of Jewish trumpets and the many occasions for which they were used. Even God Himself blew a trumpet or spoke with the sound of a trumpet on two occasions.

Trumpets occurs on Rosh Hashanah, which is the first day of the civil year. It is a time of repentance and making amends for failures and offenses. According to Jewish tradition, God created humankind on this day.

The strong connection between this feast and the coming of the Lord leads into a consideration of the series of amazing parallels between the Jewish wedding practices and the words of Jesus concerning His return for His bride, the Church. The Feast of Trumpets points clearly to this reality.

Input

Watch the DVD segment for Week 6, *Trumpets and An Ancient Wedding Feast*.

Read Leviticus 23:23-25, which describes the institution of the Feast of Trumpets:

(23) The LORD said to Moses, (24) "Say to the Israelites: 'On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a day of rest, a sacred assembly commemorated with trumpet blasts. (25) Do no regular work, but present an offering made to the LORD by fire.'"

Interaction

Begin your group discussion by reviewing the *Invest* goals you created last week. Share progress reports, encourage one another and pray for each other.

Let's explore the Feast of Trumpets and its prophetic connections.

1. What do these scriptures have to say about the connections between the sounding of trumpets and the end time events (Joel 2:1; Matthew 24:31, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Rev. 1:10, 4:1)?

2. In Bible times, why was the precise day of this feast held a mystery? What is the prophetic significance of this fact?

3. What were some of the reasons that trumpets were sounded in ancient Israel?

4. Why is the number 7 significant in relation to this feast (see Leviticus 23:23-25; 16:14; Deuteronomy 15:1; Joshua 6:4-6; Revelation 8:2, 16:1)?

5. What was the responsibility of the Jewish groom in the first century in regards to the marriage contract? How did Jesus fulfill this responsibility (John 15:13; 1 Peter 1:17-19)?

6. At what precise moment were the first century Jewish bride and groom legally married? How does this connect with the words of Jesus at the Last Supper (Luke 22:17-22)?

7. How does the Parable of the Ten Virgins relate to the Jewish wedding practices (Matthew 25:1-13)? What does this have to say to us about our responsibility as the Bride of Christ awaiting His return (see also Matthew 24:32-47)?

Infuse

How often have we heard Revelation 3:20 spoken only in terms of someone coming to Christ for the first time? When we understand this verse in the light of the Jewish wedding customs, it takes on a deeper, ongoing significance for our relationship with the Lord today. Have you ever felt like Jesus was distant or unreachable? Do you realize that He often is waiting patiently for an invitation from us? Reflect on this as you review this verse during the week and commit it to memory.

(20) Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

WEEK 7 – DAY OF ATONEMENT AND THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Introduction

The Day of Atonement or day of judgment is the most important holy day in the Jewish calendar. It is a fast rather than a feast. On this day alone the High Priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the nation. In Jewish tradition once the Temple was gone, this day became associated with the need for good works to make atonement for one's sins.

The Feasts of Tabernacles is a sharp contrast to the other two fall feasts. It is to be a time of rejoicing in expectation of the return of God's glory to the Temple one day, just as it did when Solomon initially dedicated the Temple. On the last day of this feast in John Chapter 7, just at the moment of the water libation ceremony, Jesus, the living glory of God, entered the Temple and cried out that all who come to Him will have "living water," a title for the Messiah.

In all of the feasts that have already been fulfilled, we can see clearly that Jesus accomplished every detail at precisely the right time. This strengthens our hope as we look forward to His return which will complete the rest.

Input

Watch the DVD segment for Week 7, *Day of Atonement and The Feast of Tabernacles*.

Read Leviticus 23:26-29 on the Day of Atonement:

Day of Atonement

(26) The LORD said to Moses, (27) "The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves, and present an offering made to the LORD by fire. (28) Do no work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the LORD your God. (29) Anyone who does not deny himself on that day must be cut off from his people."

Also read Leviticus 23:34-36; 42-43 on the Feast of Tabernacles:

Feast of Tabernacles

(34) Say to the Israelites: "On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the LORD's Feast of Tabernacles begins, and it lasts for seven days. (35) The first day is a sacred assembly; do no regular work. (36) For seven days present offerings made to the LORD by fire, and on the eighth day hold a sacred assembly and present an offering made to the LORD by fire. It is the closing assembly; do no regular work."

(42) "Live in booths for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in booths (43) so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God."

Interaction

Before you begin your discussion, share some of your goals from the *Invest* segment from last week and pray for each other.

Now let's look at the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles to see what we can learn from them.

1. How do modern Jews understand the purpose of the Day of Atonement? Why do they spend it in fasting?

2. How does the Book of Hebrews compare the actions of the High Priest on the Day of Atonement with the sacrifice of Christ (Hebrews 9:6-14, 23-28)? What does this mean for us?

3. Explain the ceremony of the two goats and the Jewish tradition surrounding the colour of the red string attached to the scapegoat. How does this relate to the death of Christ?

4. Describe how the words of Jesus in John 7:37-38 fit so perfectly into the events of the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles in the Temple.

5. How are the need for "living water" to provide cleansing for those entering the Temple and Jesus' words and actions with the man with the skin disease in Matthew 8:1-4 connected? What would this say to a first century Jew about the identity of Jesus?

6. How has this study helped you to understand the Feasts of the Lord and their relevance to us as followers of Christ? What might be the benefits of celebrating these annual festivals for you as a Christian?

7. Have you personally received God's forgiveness through faith in the death of Christ for your sins? What difference has this decision made in your life? If you have yet to do this, what are your thoughts on this commitment in the light of the imagery of the Passover and the other feasts?

Infuse

Focus throughout the week on Psalm 139:23-24.

(23) Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

(24) See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

This is actually a prayer you can use at quiet moments in your day. The Day of Atonement was to be spent in mourning over one's sins. We have the wonderful assurance that our sins are forgiven because of Christ's once and for all work of atonement on the cross. We are still called, however, to examine our lives to ensure that we are walking in the light, as 1 John 1:5-10 tells us to do.

Insight

Reflect on how you came to a personal relationship with Jesus. What were the circumstances that led to you receiving Christ? What sort of a difference has knowing God's forgiveness made in your life? How has it affected your pathway, your relationships and your character? If you have not made this step, what are your reasons for not doing it?

Invest

Review all the *Invest* goals you have created during this study and write down a thanksgiving list of all the things you have achieved or at least attempted as you have sought to align your life more fully with the ways of the Lord over the last number of weeks. God bless you as you continue to grow in Him.

Notes
