



Study Word



shekel: (shek' əl) a Jewish coin

“Now Abigail, tell me the three other names for the Feast of Pentecost (Pen' ti kost),” instructed Father when the family had finished the evening meal.

“Are there three?” asked the little girl. She thought for a minute. “One is the Feast of Weeks. One is the Feast of Harvest. And . . . and . . . the other is . . . the Feast of Pentecost.”

Father's eyes twinkled under his bushy black brows. “I said three *other* names.”

“Oh. That's all I know.”

“Ethan.” Father turned to his youngest son.

“The Feast of First Fruits,” said the boy promptly. “We had to memorize those in school.”

“Well, if I could go to school, I'd have known them too,” said Abigail.

“Girls can't go to school, but they can learn just as much as the boys. Only they must work harder to learn it,” said Mother comfortingly.

“Abigail, you didn't know all the names, but you know what *Pentecost* means, don't you?” asked Asher.

“Yes, I know that. *Pentecost* means ‘fifty.’”

“Fifty what?” asked Father. “Fifty sheep? Fifty years? Fifty **shekels**?”

Abigail didn't know and Ethan said he had forgotten, so Father explained. “It means fifty days. Way back there in the time of Moses, God told Israel to keep three special feasts. Three times a year all the men were to gather at the tabernacle to celebrate those three feasts. Passover is the first one. And Pentecost is the second.

“God told them to count seven weeks from the second day of Passover week.”

“That's why we call it the Feast of Weeks, isn't it?” put in Abigail.

“Yes. Then on the next day, the fiftieth, they were to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. And we call it the Feast of Harvest because on that day we celebrate the good harvests which God has given during the year. On Pentecost, or the Feast of First Fruits, we offer to God two loaves of raised bread made from fresh grain.”

“I like this good raised bread better than the unleavened bread we eat at Passover time,” said Ethan, breaking off a piece from

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the big loaf on the table.

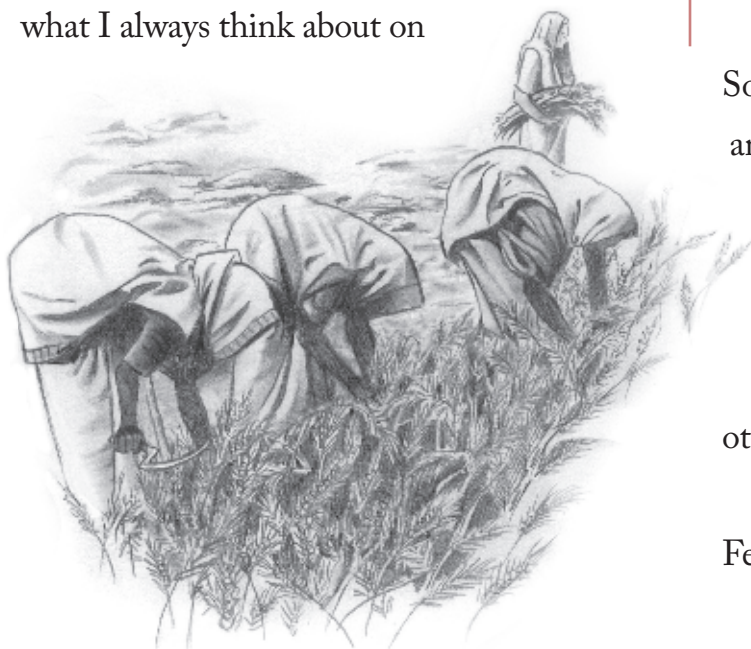
“The two feasts have two very different meanings,” Father explained, “but both are to help us remember things our God has done for us. Asher, can you tell us what those things are?”

“I think so. At Passover we remember the hard, bitter life our people suffered in Egypt. That’s why we eat bitter herbs. And we remember how God got them away from there and saved the lives of the firstborn.”

“The Passover lamb died to save them,” Abigail pointed out.

“Yes. So there are happy and sad things to remember at Passover. But Pentecost is all joyful. Then we remember all the good harvests God has given us in the fifty days since Passover.”

“That is right,” said Father. “Do you know what I always think about on



the Feast of Pentecost?”

“What?” asked Ethan and Abigail at the same moment.

“I think about the first time Moses told our people about the Feast of Pentecost. It was at Mount Sinai. Some of our rabbis think it was fifty days after they left Egypt. Anyway, it wasn’t very long before they would get to the Promised Land. They had been slaves. Now Moses was telling them about celebrating abundant harvest in the good land God was taking them to. But what happened when they came to the border of that good land?”

“They got scared,” said Asher in a disgusted voice. “After all they had seen God do in Egypt! After all the ways He had showed His power! He had gotten them out of Egypt, but they wouldn’t trust Him to take them into Canaan!”

“Yes,” said Father. “They refused to trust. So instead of going into the Promised Land and celebrating the Feast of Pentecost after a good grain harvest, they spent the next forty years eating manna while living in the wilderness.

“Now, Abigail, can you tell me the three other names for Pentecost?”

“Yes, I’m sure I can now. Feast of Weeks, Feast of Harvest, and Feast of First Fruits.”

FROM THE STORY

Write *Passover* or *Pentecost*.

1. _____ eat bread without yeast.
2. _____ offer raised bread to God.
3. _____ remember abundant harvests.
4. _____ remember suffering in Egypt.
5. _____ remember God delivered.

Write a number in each blank.

6. The Jews celebrate Pentecost _____ days after the second day of Passover.
7. God told the men of Israel to meet at the tabernacle _____ times each year to celebrate feasts.
8. Between Passover and Pentecost are _____ weeks.
9. The children of Israel lived in the wilderness for _____ years.
10. The Feast of Pentecost has _____ names in all.
11. On the Feast of Pentecost, the Jews offer _____ loaves of raised bread to God.

Write the three other names of the Feast of Pentecost.

12. _____
13. _____
14. _____

WE REMEMBER

Write *T* for *true* or *F* for *false*.

15. _____ Bread for Passover is made without yeast.
16. _____ Nisan, the month of flowers, was the first month.

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Underline the correct answer.

17. At Passover a perfect **newborn, year-old** lamb was killed.
18. Death of the firstborn was the **tenth, twelfth** plague.
19. The Jews eat bitter herbs at Passover to remember **their unpleasant life in Egypt, that God saved their firstborn.**

Write the letter of the correct answers.

20. Passover helps the Jews remember _____, _____, and _____.
 - a. God rested on the seventh day and made it holy
 - b. God saved the lives of the firstborn in Egypt
 - c. An innocent lamb had to die
 - d. God sent bountiful harvests
 - e. The Israelites had a bitter life in Egypt

Lesson

4

The Day of Atonement



Study Words



atonement: (ə tōn' mēnt) making a payment for sins committed

High Priest: (hī' prēst) the highest order of the ancient Jewish priesthood

priest: (prēst) specially appointed leader to go between man and God

sacrifice: (sa' krē fīs) an animal killed and offered to God on an altar

Samaritan: (sə mer' ə tən) people who lived in Samaria who were only part Jew and did not worship at the temple in Jerusalem; the Jews did not like the Samaritans