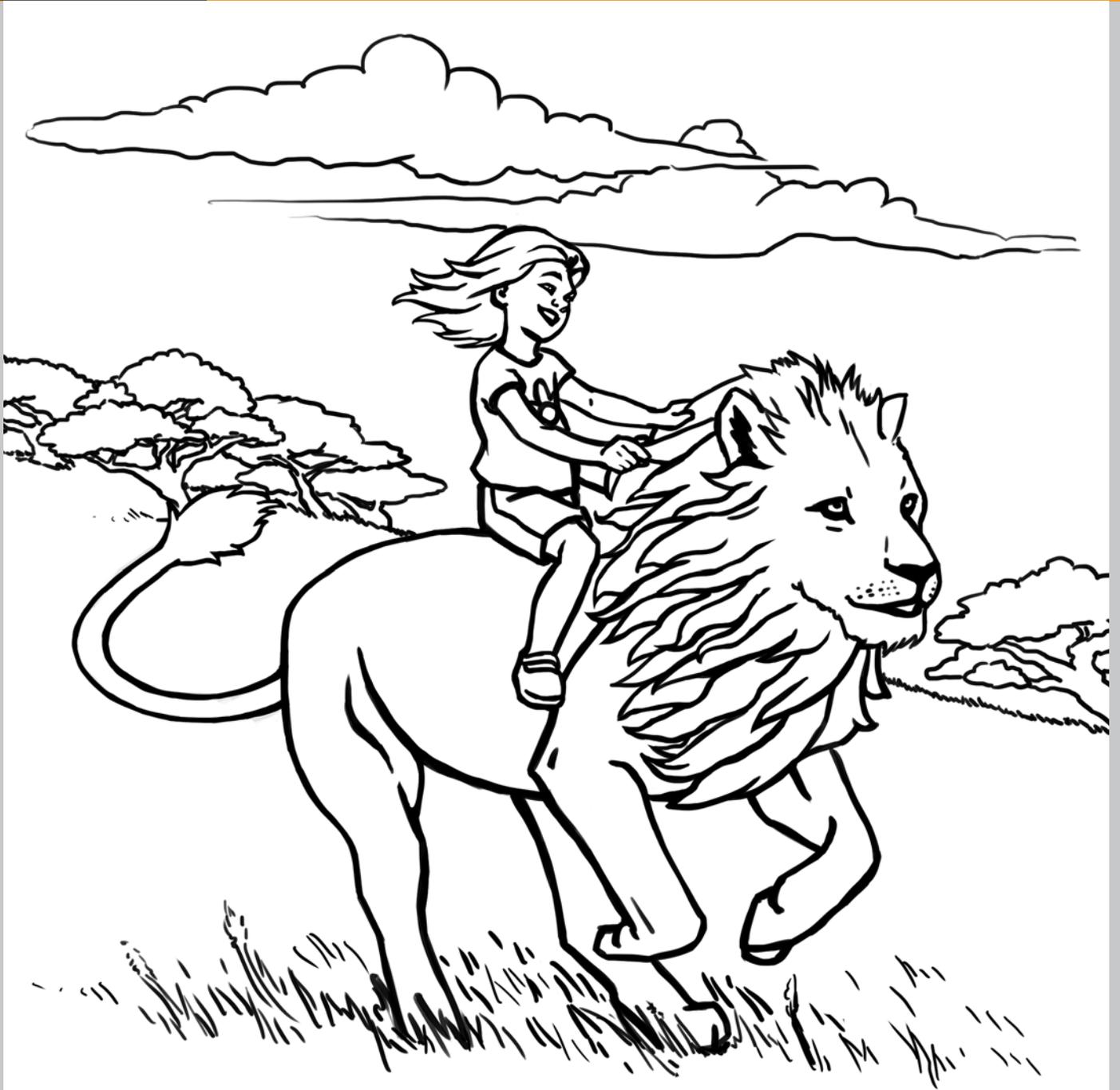




Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



Special Fall Festivals Lesson

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God has an amazing plan. He wants to have a family! God wants everyone to come into His Family. That includes *you!* That is *why* He created you! A baby grows inside his mother until he is born into the family of his mother and father. God wants you to grow until you can be born into the Family of God!

To grow and be born into God's Family, you must learn to obey God and live His way of life. How can you learn to obey God? One important way is by keeping God's seven special holy days of the year. These are part of God's holy festivals. He made these festivals to show us the seven steps of His incredible plan for mankind.

The first three festivals happen in the springtime. They show us how God is helping people grow inside His Church like a baby grows inside its mother. When Jesus Christ returns, these people will be born into God's Family!

The last four festivals happen in the fall. They show us how the people in God's Church will help Jesus Christ bring everyone else into the God Family.

This lesson explains the meaning of the four festivals that occur during fall: the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day.

FEAST OF TRUMPETS

The fourth festival in God's plan is the Feast of Trumpets. It is also a high holy day. It is the first fall festival. It pictures the most



God will change the nature of animals in the Millennium.

important event in the history of the universe: the return of Jesus Christ!

Thousands of years ago, God commanded the ancient Israelites to keep the Feast of Trumpets. Whenever God commands something, it is always for our good. If we obey, then God will bless us for our obedience.

To let everyone know that it was time for this feast day to start, He told the priests to blow a *shofar*. A *shofar* is a trumpet made out of a ram's horn. (A ram is a male sheep.) The sound it makes is a piercing *blast*. The Israelites also blew two long silver trumpets. The joyful sound of these trumpets was likely a variety of musical notes.

God commanded the Israelites not to do any work on the day of Trumpets. Instead they were commanded to gather together for

a special meeting. At this meeting, the priest offered a sacrifice to God (Leviticus 23:23-25).

The Bible tells us that when Jesus Christ returns to Earth, there will be a trumpet blast (1 Thessalonians 4:16). This blast will be so loud that everyone on Earth will hear it!

When this trumpet blasts, something amazing will happen. Everyone who was in God's Church who remained faithful to God till death will be *brought back to life!* God will resurrect them and transform them into God beings. They will be born into His Family! Then everyone in God's Church who is still alive will also be born into God's Family.

This transformation will happen as fast as you can blink your eyes (1 Corinthians 15:52).

When Jesus Christ returns, He will rule the whole world! All the people who have been in God's Church will be God beings. They will help Jesus Christ teach everyone in the world how to live God's way of life. This is the special meaning of the day of Trumpets!

DAY OF ATONEMENT

The fifth festival in God's plan is the Day of Atonement. It is a high holy day. God commands the people in His Church to fast on this day. Fasting on Atonement means not eating any food or drinking any water from sunset to sunset!

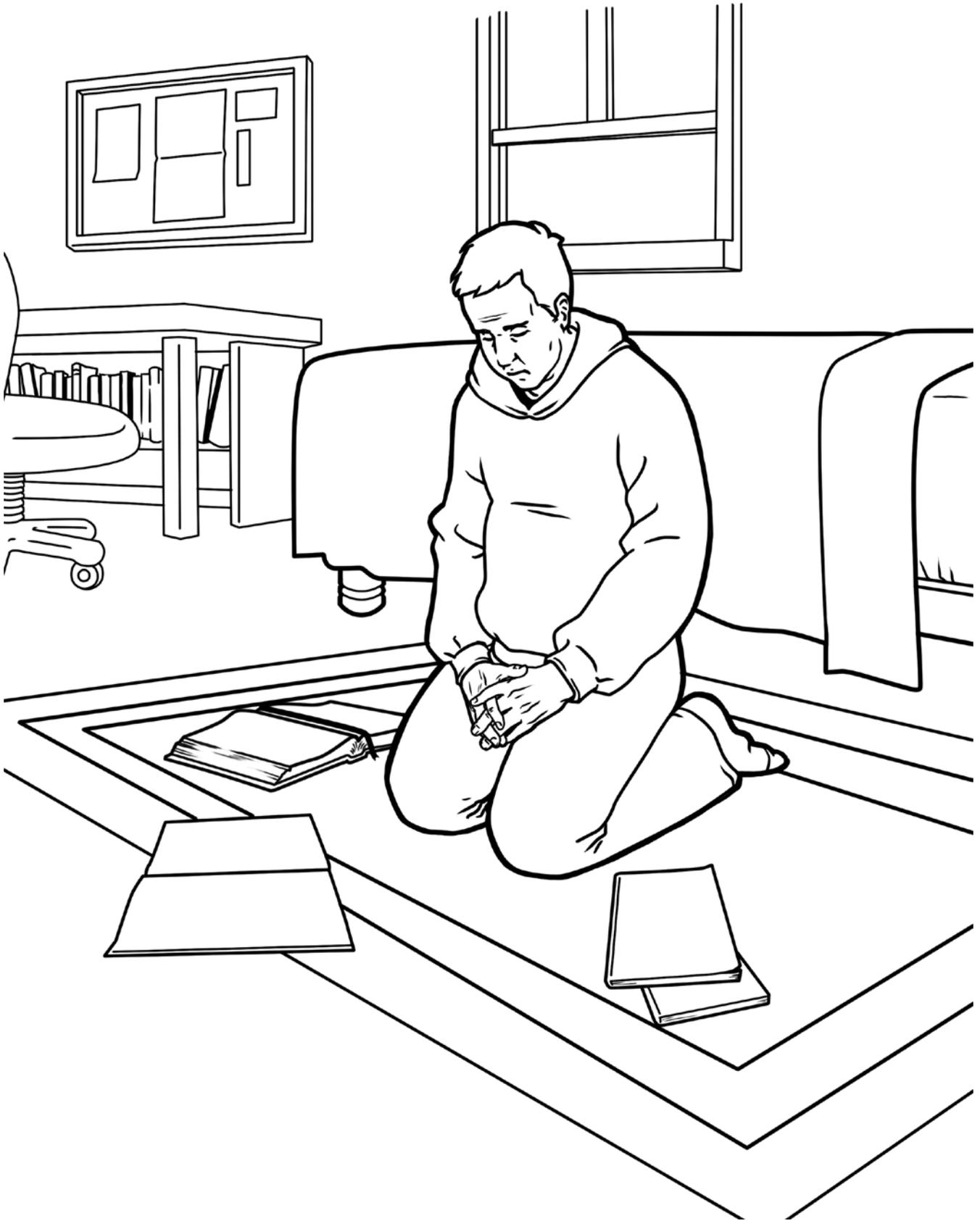
There is a reason God commands people in His Church to fast. It is so that they will realize how weak human beings are. When we don't eat food or drink water, we feel very weak. This shows us how much we need God! Why? Because it is God who gives us the food and water we need to live.

The Day of Atonement also symbolizes an event that happens after Jesus Christ returns: the locking up of Satan! Satan is an evil spirit being who is always trying to convince people that his way of selfishness is better than God's way of love. Every time



ILLUSTRATIONS MELISSA BARREIRO

An ancient Israelite blows a shofar to announce the start of the Feast of Trumpets.



On the Day of Atonement, extra time is spent in prayer and study.

someone is mean or hurtful or disobedient to God, it is because they are living Satan's way!

Atonement pictures the time when God will stop Satan. He will not let him convince people to be selfish. God will put Satan in a bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-2). Then Jesus Christ will teach everyone about God's way of love. Satan will not be there to convince them to be selfish and evil. People will live God's way of love, and they will become more like God. They will become *at one* with God. This is why this festival is called the day of *At-one-ment!*

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The sixth festival in God's plan is the Feast of Tabernacles. This festival is seven days long. The first day is a high holy day. This festival represents a time called the Millennium. The Millennium begins when Jesus Christ returns to Earth. It lasts for 1,000 years. During this time, Satan will be locked up, and Jesus Christ will rule the Earth. He will teach everyone God's way of love. People in God's Church who have been born into God's Family will help Him.

During the Millennium, amazing things will happen! Blind people will be given their sight; deaf people will hear; and handicapped people will walk! Animals will be tame and gentle. Children will play with lions, leopards, wolves, snakes and other animals, and they will not hurt them (Isaiah 11:6).

God gave the ancient Israelites special commands for keeping the Feast of Tabernacles. He told them to leave their homes and live in huts for seven days. People in God's Church today also leave their homes. They go to a special Feast site for seven days and live in a temporary home, usually a hotel room or maybe a tent. God's people save up special money to go to the Feast. This money is called the *second tithe*. It is money that God gives us to go to the Feast of Tabernacles and to enjoy good food and other good



With the nature of animals changed,
perhaps you will have a lion as your pet!

things while we are there. This represents all the people in the world having lots of good food and other good things during the Millennium!

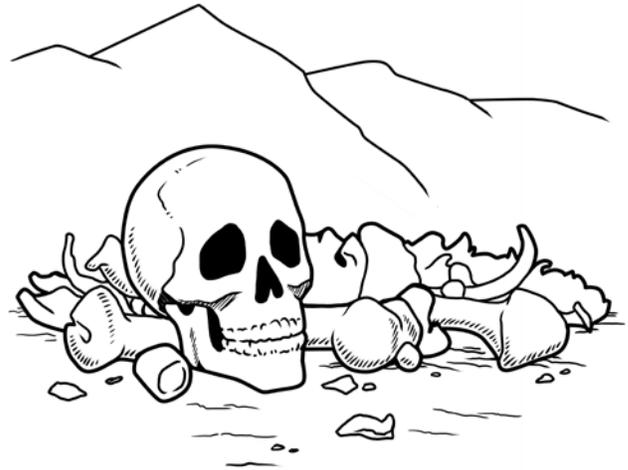
LAST GREAT DAY

The last festival in God's plan is called the Last Great Day. It is a high holy day. It is the day after the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles. It pictures a time after the Millennium. During this time, everyone who has ever lived and died without knowing about God will be brought back to life! Think about all those billions of people! Some of them are your ancestors.

When God brings them back to life, they will have many God beings to help them: Jesus Christ, people in God's Church who were born into God's Family, and all the people in the Millennium who were born into God's Family.

There will probably be about 100 billion people who are brought back to life! They will then have a chance to learn about God and be born as God beings. And at the end of the Last Great Day, God the Father will come to Earth! He will live here with Jesus Christ and all the many, many children who will be born into His Family. That will complete the seventh step of His master plan.

Then, with their new family, God the Father and Jesus Christ will rule the universe forever! They will create new worlds and do amazing things that, right now, we can't even imagine!

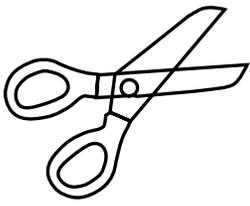


All who have ever lived and died will be resurrected.

Feast Progress Chart

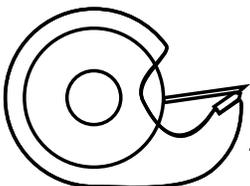
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	LGD
I did my part to keep our room clean today.								
I prayed today.								
I made a new friend today.								
I behaved well in services today.								
I used good manners at meal times today.								
I was joyful today.								

These are six things you should do every day at the Feast. At the end of each day, put a check mark in the boxes of the things you completed.



Scrapbook

Paste pictures from your Feast here. You can also use this space to write down your new friends' addresses so you can keep in touch after the Feast.



Maze to the Feast



Can you help the family
get to the Feast site?

