

Easter Volunteer Service

Holidays & Holy Days

I. Why?

A. Lasting Ordinance

Exodus 12:13–16 (NIV®)

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.

¹⁴ **"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance.** ¹⁵ For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat—that is all you may do.

B. Three Pilgrimage Feasts

Deuteronomy 16:16–17 (NIV®)

¹⁶ **Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose:** at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. No man should appear before the Lord empty-handed: ¹⁷ Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.

Jesus at Passover

Luke 2:41–43 (NIV®)

⁴¹ Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

II. Christmas & Easter

A. Our Complaints & Antagonists

- ❖ While we have been complaining, antagonists have been working to minimize the holy days.

B. The Opportunity

1. Pause to Remember and Be Grateful
2. Generational Learning
3. Institutional Effort (Churches, Christian Universities, Christian Schools)

III. Our Community

A. When God is Moving, A Learning Season

B. Awareness, A Listening Season

C. Humility, A Transformational Season

Expressions

- 1) Service
- 2) Thoughtful
- 3) Sacrificial
- 4) Generous
- 5) Patient
- 6) Kind
- 7) Failures (Kept Trying)

Daniel 10:12 (NIV®)

Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them."

James 4:10 (NIV®)

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

1 Peter 5:6–7 (NIV®)

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Philippians 2:5–8 (NIV®)

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!