



SUKKOT IS COMING!

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This family's building and decorating a sukkah, gathering together a lulav and etrog, and inviting friends to join them in their backyard for starlit meals. Which holiday do you think is near? (The title gives it away!)

JEWISH CONCEPTS

Looking for a Jewish holiday filled with family fun? *Sukkot*, a fall harvest holiday, fits the bill. Many families build a *sukkah* (the singular form of the Hebrew word “sukkot”), a makeshift booth or hut that is designed for eating, sleeping, and entertaining guests during the weeklong holiday. A *sukkah* reminds us of the days when Israelites wandered the desert living in temporary dwellings. It also harkens back to a time when farmers slept in booths in their fields during the harvest.

Two ritual objects that appear at *Sukkot* are an *etrog* (citron) and a *lulav* (a bundle of willow, palm, and myrtle branches). Taken together, these are called the Four Species, and people wave them up and down and towards the north, south, east, and west, symbolizing that God is everywhere. But for kids, the best part of *Sukkot* is often welcoming friends and neighbors into the *sukkah* for a meal, and maybe even camping out in it at night! The roof of a *sukkah* is loosely layered with branches and greenery, just thick enough to provide shade from the sun but sparse enough to see the moon through it at night. Happy *Sukkot*!