

Sukkot:

# THE BIG IDEA

## Rabbi Schwab's Two Shekels



Precisely as the weather turns too-cold-to-eat-outside, we build our Sukkah and eat outside. Why? Sukkot demonstrates our belief that the foundation of our home is not four walls and a roof. It's family, friends, community, and God. *These* keep us warm.

The Torah instructs us to recreate the huts of the ancient Israelites and recall God's miraculous "Clouds of Glory."

On the High Holidays we articulate our faith in God. On Sukkot, we live out that faith that God will provide even when a house doesn't.



"The Holy Spirit rests only on one who has a joyous heart." (Talmud)

No Torah holiday is associated with joy more than the holiday of Sukkot. But why is it religiously important? And why specifically on Sukkot?

Because, as the Talmud indicates, Judaism holds that joy enhances spirituality and brings God's presence more fully into the world.

And why joy specifically on Sukkot, when we dwell in a temporary home? As Rabbi Shlomo Riskin wrote, "When a homeowner leaves his spacious house for the sukkah, a fragile hut exposed to...discomforts, he can identify with those who lack protective surroundings, with the poor and the homeless. This fundamental identification with the less fortunate, is the essence of Jewish joy."

TABLE TALK

## Food for Thought

### DISCUSSION WITH CHILDREN

1. What do you like best about being outside?
2. When is it better to be inside?
3. Besides building a Sukkah, what are other ways you know the season is fall?

### DISCUSSION WITH ADULTS

1. What is the significance, at least here, of living in the Sukkah precisely as the weather turns cold?
2. Why do you think the Sukkah must be temporary and not permanent?
3. In your life, what do you see as being temporary? Permanent?



North Suburban Synagogue  
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בית כנסת בית אל

**DIRECTIONS:**

Stand your “Table Talk” up, and tape the open ends together to form a triangle. Put in the center of your dinner table to prompt a great discussion!

