

To Bee or Not to Bee

by Steve Niedrauer



It's not a lot of fun to be a drone. You do a little breeding, fall on the sidewalk, wiggle a little and die. Yet in Hashem's design, male hymenopterans are relegated to such a life.

It is a lot of fun to be a priest. You spend your life ministering to people, interceding for them, and meeting face to face with God on a regular basis. In Hashem's design, priests are relegated to such a life.

I don't know about you, but I don't want to be a drone. Unfortunately, it seems that our culture tries to drive dads in that direction. A job with just an 8-hour shift is rare these days. At least one that supports a family well. Adding on a commute and any outside commitments, dads tend to be relegated to dronehood. Dad is a shadowy figure who leaves home early, arrives home late and is connected to offspring by a little DNA. Most dads are physically and emotionally drained by the end of the work day. They come home, ready to fall on the sidewalk, wiggle a little, and die. They are drones.

On the other hand, I don't know about you, but I would like to be a priest. As a matter of fact, we are called to be priests. As the Good Book says, we are to be a kingdom of priests. Priests are directly involved with the people, not hiding in caves like a medieval monk. Rather, a priest emulates the Messiah, who was humble enough to put aside His divine privilege, and go down to the level of His people and serve them, right where they were at.

Many dads express a deep desire to get out of the dronehood cycle, get home, and get involved in the lives of their family—in short, become a family priest. Realistically, however, one cannot just up and quit a job. The electricity would soon go out, children would hold their bellies and cry, and wives would stare blankly at the empty cupboards.

Sukkot to the rescue. Sukkot offers a wonderful opportunity to break the dronehood mold for a time and "tabernacle" with your family. Instead of watching from a distance this year, get involved in your own family's Sukkot. What better time to mimic Messiah's example than at Sukkot, dwelling in the sukkah with those whom you love? Where does the priest minister but at the Tabernacle? Make the week a special week. Be pro-active. Instead of standing back and watching in amusement, jump in and help organize a week of spiritual growth and fun and activities.

Need ideas? Start with building the sukkah. Plan it, decorate it, make it beautiful. After all, it is the symbolic place where Hashem dwells with His people. Need other ideas? Nights of skits, games, fun meals, Torah studies (don't bore them, dad—prepare!), dancing, and sleeping out under the stars can be just the thing to help you start down the anti-drone road. Who knows, with Hashem's help, perhaps you can also begin to make your journey home, so that you can always "tabernacle" with your family. Don't miss this opportunity to descend from your privilege as dignified head of the house to join your wife and children and "tabernacle" with them. You may get dirty, get bug bitten, lose sleep and long for your nice warm bed, but don't miss this opportunity to be like Messiah who "...dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory."



Ideas for Celebrating Sukkot

Decorating your sukkah:

Felt banners with Sukkot themes on them (see craft in this issue).

Plastic fruit hung from the roof or strung in multiples on long strands of ribbon tied from one corner of the sukkah to another.

Gold or silver bead garlands and strings of lights left over from when you used to celebrate (gasp!) Christmas.

Silk flowers and silk flower garlands in fall colors.

White or colored fabric netting, twisted around posts, hung in swags from the roof, etc. Fasten the ends with fancy craft ribbon bows!

Wicker baskets, hung from the roof.

A picnic table with a pretty plastic tablecloth in fall colors.

Special disposable dishes in fall colors.

Activities in your sukkah:

Sleep in it!

Move your stereo out to the sukkah and use it as the music source for some outdoor dancing.

Hang several kerosene lamps around in your sukkah to give lots of night time light and play games around your picnic table.

Have a campfire next to your sukkah. Roast marshmallows (kosher ones, of course!)

Play charades. Make out slips of paper ahead of time with things to act out, such as Bible characters, Sukkot themes, etc.

Plan some fun Torah studies on Sukkot themes, using skits, crafts, games, songs, and other activities that go along with what you are studying.