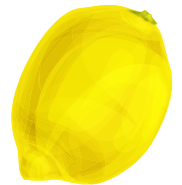
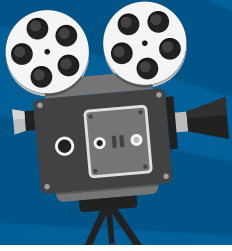


JAMS VIDEO PRESENTS

SUKKOT AND FINDING MEANINGFUL SPACES



SUKKOT

We celebrate the festival of Sukkot for seven days, from the 15th to the 21st of the Jewish month of Tishrei. This year, that's the 2nd to 9th of October 2020. Sukkot is followed by the festivals of Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, which are celebrated on the same day in Israel, consecutive days elsewhere.

Sukkot is one of the three harvest festivals that we celebrate each year: Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot. In the times of the Temple, Jews would have brought their crops to the Temple as a gift for the priests, or *kohanim*. Sukkot happens as we go from summer to autumn. It's a reminder for us to store up the bounty of summer, and the high of the High Holidays, and use it to keep us going through the cold winter ahead!

We celebrate Sukkot by eating, and in some cases sleeping, inside a temporary outdoor shelter called a Sukkah. We have a collection of four plants, called a lulav, which we bless and shake. We also follow the usual festival observances, including abstaining from work and eating festive meals.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

On Sukkot, we build a Sukkah to remind us of the protection the Jewish people received as they wandered in the desert for 40 years after leaving Egypt.

- Is there a physical space, indoors or outdoors, anywhere in the world, where you feel particularly safe and secure? What is it about that space that makes you feel that way?
- What sort of spaces make you feel the most Jewish? Is there a particular space, anywhere, that makes you feel particularly connected to being Jewish? If you're not Jewish, are there particular spaces which bring out specific parts of your cultural or religious identity?
- Do you have any daily routines or rituals which you like to do to keep you on track? What are they? Where did you get the inspiration to do these things?
- Do you have any Sukkot traditions in your family, or memories of celebrating Sukkot together?
- What is your favourite type of natural environment? How does spending time outdoors make you feel?
- What associations do you have with the turning of the seasons this time of the year? Do you make any changes to your daily routine as we welcome autumn?

