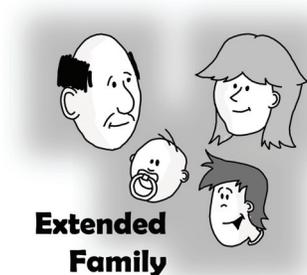


Celebrating Life in My Family

When your family has a celebration, what do you usually do? Circle the things that your family most often does when it is celebrating something important.



Think of the last celebration or special moment that you shared with your family:

- What were you celebrating?

- How did you celebrate it?

- What did you like about the celebration?

- What would you do differently?

Jesus Celebrates Life

Jesus was a man who knew how to celebrate life. He paid attention to regular moments—like visiting with the Samaritan woman when she went to fill up her water jug, and he paid attention to special moments—like celebrating the Passover feast with his disciples or sharing a visit with Martha and Mary. Jesus celebrated God's presence in the beauty of nature (think of how many stories he told with birds and trees in them!) and in the beauty of others when he went and dined with people like Zacchaeus.

Here's a Scripture match for you to do. In order to explore some of the ways that Jesus celebrated or spoke about life, you need to look up the Bible passage in the right column and match it to the correct phrase or summary in the left column.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. I came that you may have life and have it to the full. | Luke 10:38-42 |
| 2. Jesus celebrates at a wedding and helps them out. | Mark 14:22-26 |
| 3. Jesus attends a Festival. | Luke 19:1-10 |
| 4. Jesus celebrates a special meal with his disciples. | John 10:10 |
| 5. Jesus hangs out with some little people. | John 7:10-14 |
| 6. Jesus has a sleep over. | Luke 18:15-17 |
| 7. Jesus chooses to spend time with his friend. | John 2:1-11 |

If Jesus was coming to your house to celebrate something important with you, what foods would you feed him?



Would you do something special for prayer?

What would you talk about with him?

Who would you invite to join you at the table?

(Correct answers for the Bible match activity: 1 = John 10:10, 2 = John 2:1-11, 3 = John 7:10-14, 4 = Mark 14:22-26, 5 = Luke 18:15-17, 6 = Luke 19:1-10, 7 = Luke 10:38-42)

Times to Celebrate Life

Let's consider all the moments in our lives worth celebrating. Review the list below and put an "S" beside those things that need to be celebrated in a small way (for example, saying a brief prayer) and "L" for those things that need to be celebrated in a large way (marking the moment with a celebration of some kind):

- _____ 1. Waking up in the morning
- _____ 2. Getting to school on time
- _____ 3. Doing well (according to your abilities!) on your report card
- _____ 4. Walking for the first time
- _____ 5. Saying your first word
- _____ 6. Your very first day of school
- _____ 7. Getting a good mark on a test
- _____ 8. Learning how to ride your bike without training wheels
- _____ 9. Learning how to read
- _____ 10. Getting your first library card
- _____ 11. Having your first sleep over
- _____ 12. Your birthday
- _____ 13. The anniversary of your baptism
- _____ 14. Doing well in music or sports
- _____ 15. Learning how to tie your shoes
- _____ 16. Christmas
- _____ 17. Easter
- _____ 18. Going to summer camp for the first time
- _____ 19. Having a good day
- _____ 20. Completing a major school project

Life is meant to be celebrated. Yes, there are times in our lives when we're sad and we hurt, but we always remember that Jesus celebrates life. We have been blessed with hope in the love of God, and are called to be joyful people!

Try It! — Celebrating Life

Is there something special you have coming up in your household that you could plan a celebration for? Maybe it's a birthday or important time or a special accomplishment or a local holiday. Here are several steps for preparing your celebration.

1. Think of a name and a theme for your celebration. For example, "Sarah's Super Grades" or "John's Jubilant Hockey Win."
2. Designate someone to lead the celebration, kind of like a Master of Ceremonies.
3. Create a "plan" for your celebration.
 - a. How will you begin? A prayer? A special song? A special greeting?
 - b. What things will you include in the celebration:
 - A Bible reading?
 - A short story or poetry reading?
 - Story telling about the moment or person being celebrated?
 - Slides or pictures?
 - A special ritual, like a blessing?
4. How will you end the celebration? Special food? A song? Special activities like games?
5. Do you need to decorate for the celebration? Do you need to send out invitations?

Ready? Set? Celebrate !!!

