

Celebration

‘celebrate’ – “to commemorate with festivity, honor publicly.” Webster’s

Celebrations in Our Home

Birthdays

Anniversary

Christmas

School Years

Arrival of pets etc.

Scripture full of admonition to celebrate

Celebration

“Only be careful and watch yourselves closely so that you will not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.” Deut. 4:9

“When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart

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will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me. But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.”

Duet. 8:10-18

Celebration

1. Remember the Who and What

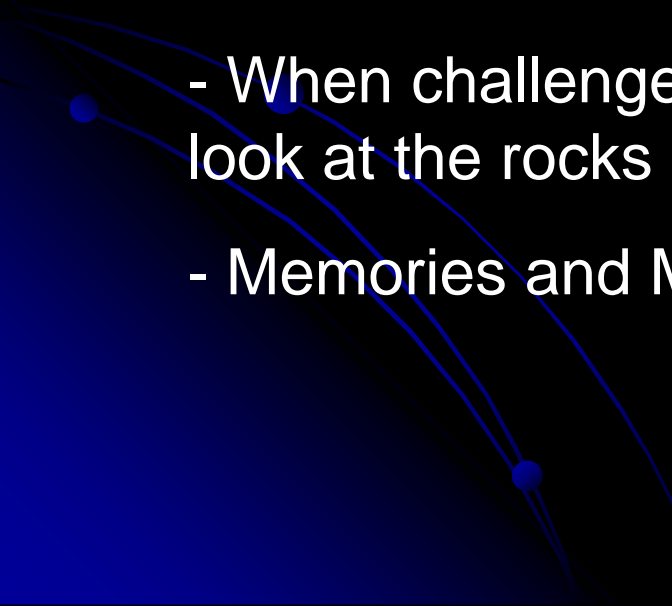
- Tell the story – recall the truth of the event
- The Lord Your God did Vs.7, 14-18
 - reminds you that God is faithful
 - reminds you that God worked in your history
 - renews in you that memory – emotion – resolve
- Checks your attitude
 - am I taking credit for God's blessing
 - am I grateful for God's provision

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“When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, ‘Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.’ So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, and said to them, ‘Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. In the future when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” Joshua 4:1-8

Celebration

2. Marking Moments, Making Monuments

- When we celebrate – find ways to make it special
 - special places, gifts, symbols of our love
 - God established a monument – remember
 - ‘serve as a sign among you’ – God did this here
 - When challenges that seemed impossible faced them, look at the rocks piled up.
 - Memories and Monuments essential in celebration
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Celebration

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.” Psalms 51:10-12

3. Renewal Of Passion and Purpose

- celebration renews priorities and passions
- steadfast approach to tomorrow's challenges because God has been faithful – provided, we can trust Him
- get back on track time – we can do better

Celebration

So What

1. Remember the Who and What

- celebrate God's faithfulness to our church - answered prayer
- celebrate God's love for us – incredible action on our behalf so relationship is possible

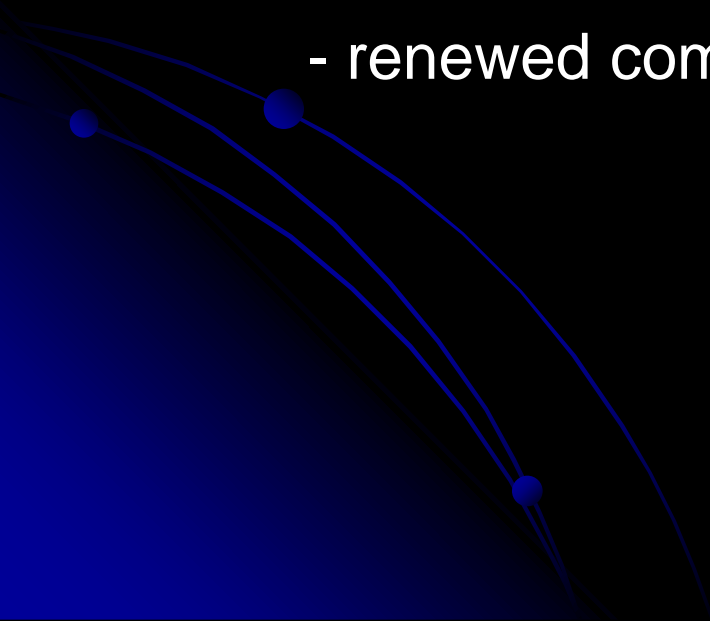
2. Marking Moments, Making Monuments

- Are you journaling, writing down when God breaks in? Do you have a tradition to mark God's work in your home?

Celebration

3. Renewal of Passion and Purpose

- renewed response to God's incredible action on my behalf
 - confession of sin and failure
 - commitment to return to right relationship
 - renewed commitment to walk with God



Children In Our World:

- 14 million born that die before age 5
- 10 million of those from 5 conditions
- 90 countries in our world with 40% under 15
- Several countries with 50% under 15

Children in Our Culture

- over half have experienced family break down
- less than 6% of homes attending a church
- greater instances of abuse and neglect than ever before

God's Word To Us About Children

“They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, ‘what were you arguing about on the road?’ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the twelve and said, ‘If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and servant of all.’ He took a child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.’” Mark 9:33-37

“People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’” Luke 18:15-17

- Disciples of Jesus should remove all hindrances that keep children from encountering Jesus!

“The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen” 1 Peter 4:7-11

⁴ “For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” Romans 12:4-8

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good” 1 Cor. 12 ...

¹⁸ “But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.” 1 Cor 12...

“But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.” 1 Cor. 12 ...