

CELEBRATE

MAY 7 & 8
WEEK 1
MOTHER'S DAY

Message Notes

Danny Anderson

When was the last time you celebrated?

Celebration follows a positive **event**.

Life can get you **down**.

“How frail is humanity! How short is life, how full of **trouble!**” *Job 14:1*

“Celebration brings **joy** into life, and joy makes us **strong.**” Richard Foster

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: **Rejoice!** *Philippians 4:4*

“Don’t be dejected and sad, for the **joy** of the Lord is your **strength!**”
Nehemiah 8:10

God wants to fill you with **joy**.

“Undoubtedly God is the most joyous being in the universe. The abundance of his love and generosity is inseparable from his infinite joy. All of the good and beautiful things from which we occasionally drink tiny droplets of soul-exhilarating joy, God continuously experiences in all of their breath and depth and richness.” Dallas Willard

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be **full.**” *John 15:11*

Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never **forget** the good things he has done for me. *Psalms 103:2*

Your mother gave **birth** to you.

“All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.” Abraham Lincoln

“May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace.”
Numbers 6:24-26

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT | SUNDAY <small>John 5:24-47</small> | MONDAY <small>John 6:1-21</small> | TUESDAY <small>John 6:22-42</small> |
| this week | may 8 | may 9 | may 10 |
| WEDNESDAY <small>John 6:43-71</small> | THURSDAY <small>John 7:1-29</small> | FRIDAY <small>John 7:30-53</small> | SATURDAY <small>John 8:1-20</small> |
| may 11 | may 12 | may 13 | may 14 |
| WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE <small>Psalm 103:2</small> | | | |

CELEBRATE



For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Check-in

LAST WEEK'S ACTION STEP

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

OTHER POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR CHECK-IN

TIME WITH GOD - What are you applying that you are getting from your daily time with God?

MEMORY/MEDITATION VERSE - State it.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR - Who was accountable for you? Did they care for you by helping you achieve your action step(s) this past week?

Introduction

Celebration, when done right, is a wonderful thing. It brings joy and fills specific moments of our lives up to the brim with happiness and satisfaction. In the Old Testament, the Israelites celebrated to remind themselves of all the good things God had done. Just like the Israelites, we must take the time to celebrate what God has done (and is doing) in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

Discussion Questions

1. When was the last time you celebrated? What were you celebrating, and what did your celebration include? What emotions did you experience?

2. Read 2 Chronicles 30:21-23. How did this celebration affect the Israelites? How are you affected when you celebrate what God is doing for you and those around you? Why does celebration cause these sorts of emotions to rise up in us?

Small Group Questions Continued

3. Read John 15:11. Why is it important to Jesus that His followers be filled with joy? Using the scale below, rate your usual level of joy. Share your self-evaluation and discuss ways you can stay filled.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I have difficulty finding joy | | My highs and lows seem to come and go | | I find joy in all things |

Read Psalm 103:1-2. How do you remind yourself to celebrate what God is doing around you?

4. Read Nehemiah 8:10. How does the "joy of the Lord" provide you with strength? Use the space below to list some of the reasons God has given you to celebrate. Discuss how celebrating these things on a regular basis could fill you with joy and strength.

What are some practical steps you can take to celebrate this coming week?

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are

My memory verse is _____

This coming week, I'm praying for:

