

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Celebrations - Week of October 12

Opening Thoughts/Discussion:

What do you celebrate when a family member achieves success... great or small ... and you take time to honor the milestone? Do you celebrate at work or perhaps in an organization of which you have invested time and energy? Do you as a team stop and recognize the sacrifice of many for a greater good? Do you celebrate breakthroughs on a societal level, where after a concerted effort shared by the community begins to bring about a shift in mindset and new attitudes reap positive changes? Do you celebrate the accomplishments of your spouse? How about on personal level... do you stop and thank God for goals the Lord is helping you accomplish?

Introduction

Celebrating is important. Learning to celebrate at the proper time and in appropriate ways is also crucial for the church. What do you think God celebrates? Reflecting upon and discussing what God celebrates may give us clues as to what the church should celebrate.

“Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other. Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone. See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people. Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:12-18).

Background

For sure the Lord celebrates faithfulness and obedience. Think of the life of Moses. Born to Hebrew parents when God’s people were forced into slavery, Moses’ story is incredible. When the descendants of Jacob had so multiplied after their arrival in Egypt during the days of Joseph, the new Pharaoh became so threatened (see Exodus 1:8-10) he decreed a horrific edict that all baby boys should be thrown into the Nile River in order to curb their population. Read the following passage and note how the LORD takes care of the Hebrew midwives as well as Moses’ mother and sister.

Read Exodus 1:15-22, 2:1-10

Only God could orchestrate such a story! Technically, Moses’ mother did comply with the edict – she put her baby in the Nile – only she made a little ark of safety. The LORD ensured not only that the little basket bearing precious cargo would make it safely to where the princess was bathing, but the LORD also softened the princess’ heart to take pity on this little one drawn out of the water. Then, when watchful sis approaches the princess offering to find a nurse, she gets her mother!... the very one who gave him birth. Many layers to this backstory to Moses; at least one thing we learn is that God celebrates when we do the courageous thing despite fear and wicked edicts. Put God first and he has your back!

Discussion:

- Think of a time you chose to put God first despite fear, negative voices, and perhaps even intrusive thoughts in your own head. How did the Lord come through for you?
- How is developing (and living into) a selfless faith part of spiritual maturation?

Read Hebrews 11:23-29

When Moses ‘grew up’ he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter but chose instead “to share the oppression of God’s people...” (see v24-25). Grown-up Christians find their identity in God and not in the praise of people. Note below three keys to becoming grown-up Christians:

- 1) Grown-up Christians know their citizenship is in heaven and not on earth. Re-visit **Hebrews 11:13-16** and read also **Hebrews 13:12-16**. Speak (briefly) to how heaven celebrates living generously, *doing good* and *sharing with those in need*.
- 2) Grown-up Christians face challenges with a turnaround faith. How does Hebrews 11:1 define faith?
- 3) Grown-up Christians model empathy and humility when sin takes us sideways. How did Moses model empathy and humility, according to Exodus 32:30-32?

Though we must be willing to take a stand for Christ as individuals, we are not called to solo Christianity. Notice Moses’ excuses gave way to faith when the LORD provided Aaron to go with him before Pharaoh (Exodus 4:13-17). Similarly, it’s when Jesus sends his disciples out *in pairs*, according to Luke 10:1, that his public ministry begins to spread exponentially. God celebrates when we bring others along with us to do ministry *together*. Why? ... because only what is shared is multiplied.

Moses learned to share ministry (Exodus 18:13-24). And toward the end of his life, the urgency of a successor became paramount for Moses. God supplied a faithful man who had been Moses’ assistant since his youth, Joshua son of Nun

(Exodus 33:8-11). Joshua had not been a part of Israel's idol worship at the foot of Mt. Sinai (see Exodus 32:15-20), and so, when it came time to cross into Canaan, God instructed Moses to call for Joshua. As all Israel watched, Moses commissions Joshua to lead the new generation of Israelites –
 “Be strong and courageous! For you will lead these people into the land that the LORD swore to their ancestors he would give them. You are the one who will divide it among them as their grants of land. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you” (Deuteronomy 31:7b-8).

In Closing

Read together *aloud* what Joshua, Moses' faithful successor, says at the end of his life as he summons all the tribes of Israel to Shechem –

“This is what the LORD, the God of Israel says: ‘Long ago your ancestors ... lived beyond the Euphrates River, and they worshiped other gods. But I took your ancestor Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him into the land of Canaan. I gave him many descendants through his son Isaac. To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. To Esau I gave the mountains of Seir, while Jacob and his children went down into Egypt. Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I brought terrible plagues on Egypt; and afterward I brought you out as a free people ... So fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD alone” (Joshua 24:1, 2-5, 14).

- As for you and your family, are you determined to serve the LORD like Joshua (v15)?
- What (in your life) do you need God to turn around today?
- Have you filled out a Joshua Menu? If not, what are you waiting for?
- Pray. Tell the Lord you love him. Give to the Lord whatever is keeping you from partnering with brothers and sisters and living into a lasting faith worth celebrating.

One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

October 12: Jeremiah 19:1-21:14, 1 Thessalonians 5:4-28, Psalm 82:1-8, Prov. 25:9-10
 October 13: Jeremiah 22:1-23:20, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12, Psalm 83:1-18, Prov. 25:11-14
 October 14: Jeremiah 23:21-25:38, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17, Psalm 84:1-12, Prov. 25:15
 October 15: Jeremiah 26:1-27:22, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18, Psalm 85:1-13, Proverbs 25:16
 October 16: Jeremiah 28:1-29:32, 1 Timothy 1:1-20, Psalm 86:1-17, Proverbs 25:17
 October 17: Jeremiah 30:1-31:26, 1 Timothy 2:1-15, Psalm 87:1-7, Proverbs 25:18-19
 October 18: Jeremiah 31:27-32:44, 1 Timothy 3:1-16, Psalm 88:1-18, Proverbs 25:20-22

CELEBRATION

Text: Exodus 1:15- 22, 2:1-12, Hebrews 11:23-27

PLAIN TRUTH

Grown up Christians find their _____ in
 God and not in the _____ of
 _____.

3 Keys to Growing up in Christ

1. Grown up Christians know their _____
 is in _____ and not earth.
2. Grown up Christians face challenges with a
 _____ faith.
3. Grown up Christians model _____ and
 _____ which grows people and organizations.



Scan the QR code to learn about
 areas of ministry to serve in
 or to fill out the menu online.

October 12, 2025