

Living the Celebration-**How you can bring the party to life!!!**

- a. Would people around you say that you are predominately happy, steady, or sad? How would like to increase your ability to celebrate God's grace over the next 30 days?

- b. What parts of the story of God's grace in verses 13-14, prompt you to feel like celebrating?

How can you demonstrate the Art of Celebration in your actions so others can notice?

How can you talk about it in hope-filled and joy-filled patterns?

- c. Pray for your "High 5" (these are 5 people you know who have not chosen to follow Jesus!) Ask God to help you to joyfully tell the good news to them and others who are far from God.
- d. Pray specifically for your ONE to experience the grace of Jesus in your opportunities to celebrate events with them.

Pray for Each Other "Lord, help us live the Art of Celebration!!!"



Life Group
Sermon Study
Week of 5/13/18



Big Idea: As we study the book of Colossians, we discover that we were born to celebrate! Every community within every culture, in every country, on every continent of the world places feasts and celebrations at the very center of their lives. Holidays, birthdays, graduations, weddings, babies, promotions, acquisitions, life-transitions, and every other significant moment in between become occasions to gather with those we love to celebrate the things we love. In this series, we will discover that when celebration becomes the centerpiece of our lives as Christ-followers, our faith deepens, our hope broadens, and love for the world expands. The more we celebrate, the more

COLOSSIANS: THE ART OF CELEBRATION**CELEBRATE GRACE!****Colossians 1:1-14**

The More We Celebrate, The More We Become Like Jesus.

^{1:3} We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, ⁵ which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in Heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News. ⁶ This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world, It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace. ⁷ You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. ⁸ He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

(Colossians 1:3-8, NLT)

Capture our Attention-

- a. Some gifts produce gratitude for a life-time. Examples could be an organ donation, an heirloom, a family name, or wise advice. What gift did you receive that has stretched your gratitude the longest?

- b. Share your Take-A-Way from last Sunday's sermon. What insight did God use to capture your attention? How are you trying to put that insight into practice in your daily life?

Discover The Spirit of Celebration-**Celebrating Grace.**

1. The Apostle Paul is the author of this short letter. He mentions some elements of his life that he has reason to be thankful for in verses 1 and 2.
2. In what way has Paul been a recipient of Grace in these areas?
 - “Chosen by the will of God”
 - “an Apostle (means, sent as a representative) of Jesus Christ”
 - “our brother Timothy”
 - “faithful brothers and sisters”
 - “Father give you grace and peace”

Which one of those would most make you grateful? Why?

2. What is the definition of the word “grace”? Put that definition into your own words.

How have you experienced moments of grace in your life?

3. One way to celebrate is with gratitude. How does Paul express his gratitude in these verses? **Colossians 1:3, 9, and 11** Why is this a great way to express gratitude for something?

What percentage of your prayers reflect expressions of gratitude? Are you happy with your current gratitude quotient? How would you like to see it change?

4. How does Paul describe Epaphras, the messenger who took the news of God's good grace to the people of this community? **Colossians 1:7,8 (see also 4:12-13).**

What kind of challenges would you face if you were to take the message of Jesus to people in your city?

5. Paul celebrates the message of the grace of Jesus with some powerful verbs. What are the verbs and why are some of them in the past tense? **Colossians 1:12-14**

How has your new life with Jesus been like walking in the light?