

THE HOUSE GOD BLESSES



Digging Deeper:

Read 2 Chron. 7:6

“And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres.” – Nehemiah 12:27

Celebrate: To observe or commemorate an event with ceremonies or festivities

Dedication: To set apart for a sacred purpose

- Go around and ask everyone to share their favorite celebrations each year or their favorite celebration ever!
- Why is it important to celebrate? What makes a celebration great? What makes a celebration special?
- Next consider the idea of dedication, which of course comes from the word dedicate... it is the act of dedicating. Talk about the word dedicate. Ask the question, “What things in your life have you dedicated (set apart) for a sacred purpose?”
- Sometimes, we dedicate things quietly in the stillness of our own hearts: “I’m going to dedicate my day tomorrow to fasting and prayer!” Other times, we make a public statement when we dedicate, like when parents dedicate their children to the Lord in front of their church family. And other times, we dedicate with a smaller group of people, like the Washington State University football team dedicating this season to their teammate who committed suicide last January.
- Lastly, talk about what you might dedicate as a family this coming year and then consider what celebration you could do to commemorate that dedication. Some possible examples would be: 1) setting apart an amount of time without technology 2) setting apart a regular time to write notes of encouragement to people 3) setting apart a time each week as a family for solitude.

Activity:

Praise Words: There are many different Hebrew words for praise in the Old Testament. Each word denotes a different expression of praise. Teach your family the different words and encourage them to express their praise using these methods:

- ◆ Tehillah (pronounced tehela) To sing our praise to God with all our hearts. *Psalms 35:28*
- ◆ Zamar (pronounced zamar) To use instruments to show praise. *Psalms 57:7*
- ◆ Shabach (pronounced shabak) To shout. *Psalms 145:4*
- ◆ Halal (pronounced halal) To celebrate, go mad over, or to be clamorously foolish. Similar to a celebration at a sporting event. *Psalms 150:2*
- ◆ Machowl (pronounced machowil) To turn, skip, move around, lift the feet in dance. *Psalms 150:4*
- ◆ Towdah (pronounced toda) To extend the hands in acceptance or agreement with God’s words and promises before you see the answer. *Psalms 42:4*
- ◆ Yadah (pronounced yada) To lift the hand in praise. *Psalms 28:7*
- ◆ Sachaq (pronounced sawqua) To laugh. *Proverbs 8:30*
- ◆ Guwl (pronounced gool) To dance or spin. *Psalms 118:24*
- ◆ Alats (pronounced awlais) To let out a battle cry. *Psalms 68:3*