

# *Intentional Celebration*

## **What is to be celebrated?**

Birthday, Anniversary, Accomplishment, Answered Prayer, Season or holiday

## **Birthdays:**

### *Thoughtfulness:*

Whose birthday is it?

Does he/she enjoy birthday celebrations?

Should I plan a party? Who would he/she enjoy spending time with?

Should I plan a special evening for us only or a small group of people?

What does the birthday person enjoy?

### *Intentionality:*

Why am I thankful for him/her?

What areas have I seen him or her grow in this year?

What are my prayers for him/her?

What are my hopes for the next year for him/her?

### *Brainstorms:*

Write a letter telling the birthday person the things above.

Take turns sharing what you are thankful for about that person over a meal.

Share what you see the Lord at work doing.

## **Anniversaries:**

### *Thoughtfulness:*

Remember your anniversary.

Always assume you will be celebrating.

Discuss this with your spouse early...

### *Intentionality:*

Get away together. Different years call for different celebrations (Dinner, Overnight, Out of the Country)

Remember where God has been good to you. What have been the joys and sorrows of the year?

Why are you thankful to be married to your spouse?

What have you enjoyed about this year of marriage?

What are your hopes for the next year?

### *Brainstorms:*

Stones of Remembrance: Keep a jar of rocks and write memories on the rocks. Once a year (on your anniversary) look at them and remember God's goodness to you in the trials and joys of life.

Watch your wedding video or look at photos. Discuss what each other were thinking and feeling at that time.

Want to go big? Recreate your honeymoon!



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### **Accomplishments:**

Take time to recognize, acknowledge, and celebrate accomplishments.

Examples: Grades, Sports/ Competitions, Promotions, Transitions, Big Achievements

#### *Thoughtfulness and Intentionality:*

Where has the person displayed Christlike character while working towards the goal?

Where are you proud and thankful for him or her?

(Celebrate what you want to see more of)

#### *Brainstorm:*

*Take the family out for ice cream and explain to everyone what the celebration is about.*

*Write an encouraging letter.*

*Eat a special meal.*

### **Answered Prayers:**

So often we pray and forget to acknowledge, much less celebrate, when God answers.... Make this a family rhythm.

#### *Thoughtfulness and Intentionality:*

Where have you seen God be good to you and answer prayers?

Where have you experienced God's nearness?

#### *Brainstorm:*

Make prayer and praise a part of your family rhythms.

Discuss God's goodness over a special meal.

### **Seasons and Holidays:**

Make intentional and Gospel-centered traditions that the family looks forward to.

#### *Questions to Consider:*

What holiday traditions do you want your family to remember?

What traditions build family warmth and fun memories?

How can we make much of Jesus during this holiday or season?

#### *Brainstorm:*

Discuss traditions with your spouse and family. What would you like to change about holidays? What do you enjoy? What can we do about this?

Plan an annual trip the whole family looks forward to (camping, beach, visiting out of state family, etc.)

**Celebration, when done well, is something everyone enjoys. Being intentional in celebrations takes more work than one may realize, but it's always worth it. Intentional celebrations show your love to one another, build family warmth, and are a great way to worship Jesus.**



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