ELEMENTARY





LIFE APP

Initiative: Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

KEY QUESTION

What is God doing in your life that you can celebrate?

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

The Wall Is Rebuilt Nehemiah 3-4, 6:15-16, 8:1-17

MEMORY VERSE

"Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord." Colossians 3:23a, NIrV

ACTIVITY: "WOULD YOU RATHER?" PARTY

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do

Clear a room so you can both run from one side to the other safely. (Or go outside if you have a yard you can run through.) Read from the following list, assigning one side of the room to an answer, and the other side of the room to the other answer.

Say, "We're going to talk about our favorite ways to celebrate. I'll ask a question and then point to one side of the room for each answer. You and I will both run to the side of the room that represents what WE would choose. Here we go!"

- "Would you rather have: a ZOOMTM party or a drive-through party?
- a summer party or a winter party?
- a party with friends or a party with family?
- a fancy clothes party or a pajama party?
- · confetti or sprinkles?
- A party at your house or a party somewhere else?
- one big gift or lots of small gifts?
- the same birthday as your best friend, or having the day all to yourself?
- chocolate cake or vanilla cake?
- a big birthday breakfast or a big birthday dinner?
- · cupcakes or regular cake?"

Say, "Parties are always fun because you're celebrating something special. We celebrate because we're excited and thankful—and we always have a reason to celebrate!"

TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY:

Why were Nehemiah and Israelites celebrating? (God had helped them finish the city wall of Jerusalem.)

What were the people remembering as they celebrated the Feast of Booths? (They remembered how God took care of His people in the wilderness after He led them out of slavery in Egypt.)

How has God helped our family?

What friends has God given you?

What are some other things you know about God that you can praise or celebrate right now?

If we want to make a point of noticing what God has done and remembering to thank Him, what might help us do that?

When things don't turn out as we had hoped, why can we still celebrate? (Brainstorm some creative ways you can celebrate what God has done.)

Share about how you like to celebrate what God has done.

PRAYER

"Dear God, You deserve our praises every day! You care for us . . . You help us make wise choices . . . You answer our prayers . . . and You remind us of Your amazing power as we look at all that You've created. Best of all, You love us so much that You gave us Jesus! Thank You for making a way for us to be forgiven and to know You forever. Remind us often of the things we've learned this month from the life of Nehemiah. Help us take initiative by seeing what needs to be done and doing it. In Jesus' name, amen."

