

Celebrate Life



"If it's worth learning, it's worth celebrating." - Supercamp

January

Focus for the month: _____

1. Ideas to celebrate:

2. Food/fun/silly holidays to celebrate:

Martin Luther King day—3rd Monday

3. Birthdays to celebrate:

4. Bible verses to learn and celebrate:

5. Prayer requests/answers to celebrate:

Requests:	Answers:



Goal-setting: knowing what you want and going after it

Questions for personal evaluation:

- Three things that describe how others perceive you
- Three things that describe how you would like to be perceived
- Three behaviors/characteristics you would like to change
- Three talents/strengths that you have
- Three things you have done that you are most proud of
- Five things you love to do
- Five things that make you happy
- Five things you want—money and time no object
- Five dreams you have
- Five of your deepest desires
- Five things you want people to remember about you when you are gone
- Five things you would do if it were your last day on earth
- Five things you need each day to feel successful and happy
- Five characteristics you value most (in others/yourself)
- Five people who support and encourage you and should be a regular part of your life

Your purpose/role/responsibilities

- List five roles you have in life (Friend, boss, wife, son, teacher, writer...)
- For each role, write three goals you have for yourself in that role
- Fill out this for each role:

"I am/will become _____(role) who will _____(role objective) within _____(date). Three ways I know I am fulfilling this role are when I (am) _____(first goal), _____(second goal), and _____(third goal)."

Your goals

Lifetime goals. Put together a Bucket List: think big. This is your travel, adventure, and discovery for life.

Long term goals. Put together a one year, five year, and ten year goals page. For each one, make sure to cover these areas:

- Health (self)
- Relationships (others)
- Job/ministry (work)
- Fun/adventure (growth)

Short term goals. Put together your goals for today, this week, and this month. You will soon discover that many of these stay the same for EVERY day, week, and month, and some things are specific to THAT day. Make sure to note the difference.

Your Life Calling

God's purpose for you: to bring Him glory—1 Cor. 10:31, 1 Thess. 5:18

God's goal for you: to be like Christ (sanctification) 1 Thess. 4:3, Rom. 8:29, Mt. 4:19

God's calling for you: An individual life only you can fulfill regarding who, how, what, and why you will SERVE.

- Who: a specific people group (country/ethnic group, families, singles, mothers, kids, teens...)
- How: verbs describing type of serving being done (teaching, encouraging, assisting...)
- What: talents/skills/things you enjoy that will help you serve others
- Why: what is the point of your life? Of you serving God through others?

Fill in: "I will _____(what you listed for b) the group _____ (what you listed for a) through _____(what you listed for c) so that _____(what you listed for d)."

February

Focus for the month: _____

1. Ideas to celebrate:

2. Food/fun/silly holidays to celebrate:

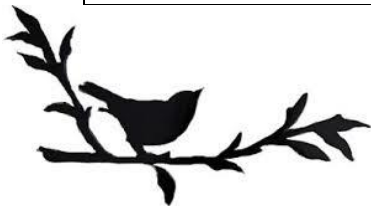
Valentine's day—Feb. 14

3. Birthdays to celebrate:

4. Bible verses to learn and celebrate:

5. Prayer requests/answers to celebrate:

Requests:	Answers:



Think about: What is love? What are the times I have felt the most loved, and why? How can I feel more love for people?

How to fall (more) in love with Jesus

Starting Off:

- Give your heart to Him (salvation, dedication)
- Remind Him often, and in many different ways that you belong to Him
- Write your testimony (God story). And share it
- Be baptized if you haven't already
- Go someplace just to be with Him (like a date, retreat, pilgrimage) regularly and often

The Bible and prayer:

- Read His love letters (the Bible) Try the "Read through the Bible in a year"
- Learn what He likes and doesn't like (check the Bible, nature)
- Do a Bible study on who God is, the names of God, the Gospels
- Imagine what He is doing right now. All the time
- Talk to Him every chance you have (prayer)
- Tell Him your secrets
- Pull up an (empty) chair for Him to help focus when you pray
- Pray out loud
- Ask Him the hard questions
- Keep an (answered) prayer journal
- Learn how to listen to Him, how to hear Him
- Be available whenever He needs you. Make Him your top priority

Maturing:

- Make Him special things/celebrate special dates/times/anniversaries together
- Appreciate the time He spends with you: Write down three things you are grateful for every day
- Candles and music together: Write/dedicate a song to Him. Have "Your song"
- Write Him love letters
- Remember/write down important/special things He's said to you (rhemas)
- Look for ways to "run into Him" out of the ordinary
- Do something for Him "just because"
- Dress up and look pretty for Him, the way He likes
- Show Him love in all five Love Languages
- Try out fasting
- Keep a Sabbath. Every week.
- Find books/music/movies that encourage you to grow spiritually
- Find your calling: who/how/where/why to serve
- Let go of any secret sins or anything holding you back from Him

Others:

- Believe and stand up for Him no matter what anyone else says
- Be prepared and defend Him to those who reject Him (apologetics)
- Talk about how great He is to other people. Admire Him openly (witnessing)
- Make a list of why you love Him. And share it
- Love the people He loves (everyone, His people, the poor, fatherless, widows)
- Find other people who love Him and hang out with them regularly (church)
- Ask a Christian you respect how they fall in love with Jesus
- Have an accountability partner
- Be disciplined by someone, and disciple someone
- Teach a Sunday school class
- Be involved in local and global ministry

Time often slips by and the day is over before we have a chance to focus on accomplishing something of meaning. This project will help you create practical goals for living each day with intentional purpose. Although the daily 'projects' often overlap topics, there are seven individual areas to concentrate on; one for each day of the week. ©KarianneCharbonnel

unday

The first priority of our life is our relationship with our Savoir. Use Sunday to focus on Christ's presence.

Isaiah 58:13-14 "If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob." The mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Practical applications

- Week one: Memorize a verse that God speaks to you with during the reading of His word
- Week two: Make it a point not to speak any idle words – but that everything you say be something that God approves of. To only speak things that encourage others and praise God, nothing selfish or complaining or negative.
- Week three: Instead of doing something for yourself, find a special way you can serve the Lord. This may be inviting someone over for dinner or
- Week four: Start reading a good Christian book that will help your spiritual growth and encourage you in your faith.
- Week five: If there is a fifth for this month, use it to spend extra time in conscious, earnest prayer. Make an effort to be alone and quiet before the Lord. "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matt 6:6

onday

Our second priority is our family. They are our immediate responsibility that Christ has given to us. The virtuous woman is our role model for a homemaker. Some of the verses about her include Proverbs 31: 10-11,26-28:

"A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; in her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."

Practical applications

- Week One: Give special attention to your husband. Greet him at the door when he comes home from work. Ask him how his day was and listen. Do something special for him (maybe his favorite dinner or dessert).
- Week Two: Parents are to train their children. And children are to honor their father and mother. Discuss this with your children in a conversation. Tell them that you will be looking for ways to praise them when they are showing proper respect. Follow through by praising your children for obedience, good attitudes, and responsiveness.
- Week Three: Ask God for wisdom for your tongue. Use today to guard your tongue from any hurtful or insensitive remarks. Husbands need their wife's support, and children crave their

mothers approval. A negative remark that is said without Christ's guidance can make a wedge in relationships. Create a law of kindness for your tongue

- Week Four: There are said to be five love languages. Quality Time, Acts of Service, Words of Encouragement, Gift giving, and Physical Touch. Know what things mean something to each of the members of your household. Do something for each of them that reflects their own love language.
- Week five: If there is a fifth for this month, use it to spend extra time in conscious, earnest prayer. Make an effort to be alone and quiet before the Lord. "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matt 6:6

uesday

Tuesday's focus is our home. This is the building which holds our family. It is our base for ministry. It is a reflection of ourselves. It is meant to be a place of peace and love. It may seem insignificant, but if we are not faithful in small things, how can God trust us with big things?

Matthew 25:23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Practical applications

- Week one: Choose one project that you have been putting aside and tackle it.
- Week two: Take a big box. Go through each room in the house and choose three things out of each room to get rid of. Take the box to Good Will and be done with it!
- Week three: The bedroom's function is for rest and romance. Today clean your bedroom and use it tonight for both functions!
- Week Four: The virtuous woman is not idle ("She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness." Proverbs 31:27). Find one thing that causes you to have idle time (some typical ones include computer, telephone, television, etc). Cut back on time that is not productive and instead use it to "tend to household affairs" and create a more peaceful environment for those you love. Today, make sure the main living areas are clean and clutter free.
- Week five: If there is a fifth for this month, use it to spend extra time in conscious, earnest prayer. Make an effort to be alone and quiet before the Lord. "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matt 6:6

ednesday

God has an individual will for each of us, which includes a ministering to others. It is an action – a way to serve God by touching the lives of others.

"...I will show you my faith by my works." James 2:18

Practical applications

- Week One: Supporting the local church needs to be a part of every believers life. Find a way to serve your local church today.
- Week Two: Supporting missions is an important way to help fulfill the great commission. Write a letter of encouragement, spend time in prayer, or find another way to be involved in the great commission today.
- Week Three: Everyone needs a personal ministry, a specific way that they know God wants to use their life. If you do not have a personal ministry, ask God to give you one. It could be starting a playgroup to meet neighborhood moms and be a witness. It could be a specific neighbor that God gives you a burden for. It could be raising money to support a cause that you believe in. Put extra time into your personal ministry today.

- Week Four: Today involve your family in a family ministry. Use today to teach your children ways to serve the Lord and encourage them to have a heart for others. Some ideas: baking cookies for someone who had a new baby, coloring get well cards for someone who is sick, mowing the lawn or shoveling for someone!
- Week five: If there is a fifth for this month, use it to spend extra time in conscious, earnest prayer. Make an effort to be alone and quiet before the Lord. "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matt 6:6

hursday

Take time for yourself. Burnout happens when you forget to rest in God's peace and presence and enjoy the good gifts that He has provided for you.

"What? know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own?" | Corinthians 6:19

Practical applications

- Week One: Exercise – keeping our body in shape takes choice. It helps us to have more energy, and keep us able to serve even as we age. Exercise is also a mood booster, which woman often need! Today make time to exercise and to remind yourself to make a regular habit of it.
- Week Two: Healthy eating – Meal time is an area that most of us need to work on redeeming the time, to see it as an opportunity for unity, positive training, and enjoyment. Today redeem time by making sure that your family all eats dinner together, and that the meal includes attention to table manners, conversation that includes everyone, and that the food is healthy. Choosing healthy foods not only is the right choice for yourself, but also teaches your children self-discipline: to put thought into what they consume instead of whatever is most pleasurable (this carries over to what we watch on TV, listen to, the words we say etc. Self-discipline encompasses every part of life). Continue the spirit of unity into clean up, giving everyone a task.
- Week Three: Clothing – the virtuous woman clothes her family in 'scarlet'. In other words, they were well dressed. Take time today to tend to the clothing in your house. Maybe it's laundry and ironing or mending that need done. Or cleaning out a dresser or closet and removing clothes that don't fit or aren't worn.
- Week Four: Outlets – self time is important too. Today do something that helps renew and refresh your spirit, so that you're more effective. Perhaps a bubble bath, a cup of tea and looking over a magazine, or going to bed early. God gave us individual interests and talents, maybe today is the time to work on a special hobby of yours, scrapbooking or crafts or just listening to your favorite music in the sunshine.
- Week five: If there is a fifth for this month, use it to spend extra time in conscious, earnest prayer. Make an effort to be alone and quiet before the Lord. "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matt 6:6

riday

Our primary purpose of existence is to glorify God. One of the best ways to give God praise is to "let our light shine with good works". Having a shining heart that is filled with the love of God and allowing it to pour out into doing good works is an effective way to witness! Today testify to others of your great God.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" Matthew 5:16

Practical applications

Week One: Ask God to give you conversations today where you are able to talk about Him. It may be sharing a blessing with another Christian, and therefore encouraging them, or it might be to someone who doesn't know God, and therefore whetting their interest in Him.

Week Two: Find a Good Work to do today, but make sure that as you do this thing for someone, give God the glory so that they see it as a gift from Him

Week Three: God wants us to use our resources in the most effective way possible. Think of a way that you can save money today (cutting back on something) in order to have more money available for serving the Lord. Or find a way to earn money (work on gathering and pricing things for a garage sale for example).

Week Four: Christ wants us to make disciples. Invest in someone's life today to further a relationship. Build this relationship up in the Lord. It might be a Christian who just needs some spiritual encouragement. Or it might be someone who doesn't know Christ. Today disciple someone through attention to the spiritual.

Week five: If there is a fifth for this month, use it to spend extra time in conscious, earnest prayer. Make an effort to be alone and quiet before the Lord. "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matt 6:6

aturday

Redeeming the time helps us to create opportunity. Saturdays, focus on doing good to other Christians.

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10

Practical applications

Week one: Choose one Christian to encourage today. Make them a pie, give an uplifting card, a thoughtful phone call, or something else!

Week two: Enjoy fellowship. This might mean inviting someone over. Make intentional plans to have Christ be the center of the evening. It could be having a cup of coffee with a girlfriend and sharing a praise of a blessing God has given. Or this could mean having a family over for game night and everyone praying together before the close of the evening. It could mean going to a Christian event with someone. Think of a way you can enjoy fellowship with another Christian.

Week three: Find a way to serve in your church. Maybe clean out a closet, or prepare a special poem or music to share. Or volunteer for a project.

Week four: Think about a Christian who has frustrated you. It could be a family member. Purpose to do good to them, and promote Christian unity. Pray for God to help you respond to the situation correctly. If you cannot think of someone who has offended you, pray for Christians you know who are going through a difficult time. Be prepared to be a peacemaker if the opportunity arises. Use today to recognize that Christians are to be a testimony by the way they interact with each other.

Week five: If there is a fifth for this month, use it to spend extra time in conscious, earnest prayer. Make an effort to be alone and quiet before the Lord. "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matt 6:6

March

Focus for the month: _____

1. Ideas to celebrate:

2. Food/fun/silly holidays to celebrate:

International Women's day—March 8

3. Birthdays to celebrate:

4. Bible verses to learn and celebrate:

5. Prayer requests/answers to celebrate:

Requests:	Answers:



Lent: Drawing Closer to Christ

Reading through the Gospels (in parallel, chronological order) in 47 days (Includes Sundays)

"Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. In Western Christianity, [Ash Wednesday](#) marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins [40 days](#) prior to [Easter](#) (Sundays are not included in that count, but are in this count, making it 47). Many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of [fasting](#), [repentance](#), moderation and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on [Jesus Christ](#) - His suffering and His sacrifice, His life, death, burial and resurrection." <http://christianity.about.com/od/holidaytips/qt/whatislent.html>
Ash Wednesday Dates: 2015: February 18, 2016:February 10, 2017:March 1, 2018: February 14, 2019: March 6

Day 47, Wednesday: Preparing for Jesus
What do we learn from Jesus' genealogy?

John 1:1-18
Matthew 1:1-17
Luke 3:23-38
Luke 1:1-80
Matthew 1:18-25

Day 46, Thursday: Jesus is born
What are Magi, and how many were there?

Luke 2:1-38
Matthew 2:1-23, Luke 2:39-52

Day 45, Friday: John and Jesus
What was John's message?

Matthew 3:1-17, Mark 1:1-11, Luke 3:1-23
John 1:19-34
Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4: 1-13

Day 44, Saturday: Disciples
What did it mean to be a disciple?

John 1:35-51, 2:1-25, 3:1-36
Matthew 4:12, Mark 1:14, Luke 3:19-20

Day 43, Sunday: Samaritans
How were women treated in Jesus' day?

John 4:1-42
Luke 4:14-30, John 4:43-54

Day 42, Monday: Healings and Miracles
What was Jesus' message?

Matthew 4:13-25, Mark 1:14-20, Luke 4:31-32
Mark 1:21-28, Luke 4:33-37
Matthew 8:14-17, Mark 1:29-31, Luke 4:38-39
Mark 1:32-39, Luke 4:40-44

Day 41, Tuesday: Fish
Why don't we see miracles like these now?

Luke 5:1-11
Matthew 8:2-4, Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-16
Matthew 9:2-17, Mark 2:1-22, Luke 5:17-39

Day 40, Wednesday: Passover
What are the witnesses to Jesus being God?
John 5:1-47

Day 39, Thursday: Sabbath
What is the point of the Sabbath?
Matthew 12: 1-21, Mark 2:23-28, 3:1-7, Luke 6:1-19
Matthew 4:23-25, Mark 3:7-19

Day 38, Friday: Sermon on the Mount
What stands out to you of Jesus' teachings?
Matthew 5:1-48, 6:1-34, 7:1-29, 8:1
Luke 6:20-49

Day 37, Saturday: Jesus and John
What are the similarities/differences in Jesus and John?
Matthew 8: 5-13, Luke 7:1-17
Matthew 11:2-30, Luke 7:18-35

Day 36, Sunday: Great Love
How do you show love?
Luke 7:36-50, 8:1-3

Day 35, Monday: Rebuked
What is the unpardonable sin?
Matthew 12:22-50, Mark 3:20-35, Luke 8:19-21

Day 34, Tuesday: Parables
Which is your favorite parable and why?
Matthew 13:1-53, Mark 4:1-34, Luke 8:4-18

Day 33, Wednesday: Across the Sea
Why wouldn't Jesus let the healed man go with Him?
Matthew 8:18, 23-34, Mark 4:35-41, 5:1-20, Luke 8:22-39

Day 32, Thursday : Back to Life
Who and how many, in all the Bible, were raised from the dead?
Matthew 9:1, 9:18-26, Mark 5:21-43, Luke 8:40-56

Day 31, Friday: 12 Sent
What do you believe the Bible says about Demons and spirits?
Matthew 9:27-34
Matthew 13:54-58, Mark 6:1-6
Matthew 9:35-11:1, Mark 6:7-13, Luke 9:1-6
Matthew 14:1-12, Mark 6:14-29, Luke 9:7-9

Day 30, Saturday: 5,000
Why is rest so important?
Matthew 14:13-23, Mark 6:30-47, Luke 9:10-17
John 6:1-15

Day 29, Sunday: Walking on Water
What does faith look like?
Matthew 14: 24-36, Mark 6:48-56, John 6:16-7:1

Day 28, Monday: Hypocrites
How have you been a hypocrite?
Matthew 15:1-28, Mark 7:1-37

Day 27, Tuesday: Pharisees
Would you have been more like a Pharisee or disciple?
Matthew 15:29-39, 16: 1-12, Mark 8:1-21

Day 26, Wednesday: Peter
Why couldn't the disciples tell others Jesus was Christ?
Matthew 16:13-28, Mark 8:22-9:1, Luke 9:18-27

Day 25, Thursday: Transfiguration
What was the point of the disciples seeing Jesus transfigured?
Matthew 17:1-27, Mark 9:2-32, Luke 9:28-45

Day 24, Friday: The Greatest
What makes children so special/important?
Matthew 18:1-35, Mark 9:33-50, Luke 9:46-50

Day 23, Saturday: Jesus Chooses
What is wrong with saying goodbye?
John 7:2-10
Luke 9:51-56
Matthew 8:19-22, Luke 9:57-62

Day 22, Sunday: Feast
How did Jesus teach, and how was it different from normal?
John 7:11-53

Day 21, Monday: In the Temple
Why doesn't the Bible tell us what Jesus wrote in the sand?
John 8:1-59

Day 20, Tuesday: Blind
Why do people get sick? What is the point of sickness?
John 9:1-10:21

Day 19, Wednesday: 70 Sent
How did Jesus send out people? What did they do?
Luke 10:1-42

Day 18, Thursday: Wash your Hands
Why were rules so important to the Pharisees?
Luke 11:1-54

Day 17, Friday: Be Ready
How do you get "heaven rich"?
Luke 12: 1-59

Day 16, Saturday: Mustard Seed
What is the kingdom of God? What is it like?
Luke 13:1-21
John 10:22-42
Luke 13:22-35

Day 15, Sunday: Cost of Discipleship
What is the cost of discipleship?
Luke 14:1-35

Day 14, Monday: Lost
What did it take to be found?
Luke 15:1-32

Day 13, Tuesday: Teaching
What does Jesus teach about the afterlife?
Luke 16:1-31, 17:1-10

Day 12, Wednesday: Lazarus
Why did Jesus cry?
John 11:1-54

Day 11, Thursday: Thankful
What do you believe about the rapture?
Luke 17:11-37, 18:1-14

Day 10, Friday: Like Children
What does Jesus teach about singleness/marriage?
Matthew 19: 1-26, Mark 10:1-27, Luke 18:15-27

Day 9, Saturday: First or Last
What does it take to be great?
Matthew 19:27-20:34, Mark 10:28-52,
Luke 18: 28-43

Day 8, Sunday: To Jerusalem
What does Jesus mean by the "Poor will always be with you?"
Luke 19:1-27
John 11:54-57, 12:1-11
Matthew 26: 6-13, Mark 14:3-9

HOLY WEEK

Day 7, Monday: Into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19: 28-44, John 12: 12-19

Day 6, Tuesday: Fig Tree

Mark 11: 12-19, Matthew 21: 12-17, Luke 19:45-48

Day 5, Wednesday: Questioning

Matthew 21:18-26:2, Mark 11:20-13:37, Luke 20:1-21:38, John 12:20-50

Matthew 26:3-5, 14-16, Mark 14:1-2, 10-11, Luke 22:1-6

Day 4, Thursday: The Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:17-20, Mark 14:12-17, Luke 22:7-14

John 13:1-20

Matthew 26: 26-29, Mark 14: 22-25, Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

Matthew 26: 21-25, Mark 14:18-21, Luke 22:21-30, John 13:21-35

Matthew 26:31-35, Mark 14:27-31, Luke 22:31-38, John 13:36-14:31

Matthew 26:30, Mark 14:26, John 15:1-17:26

Day 3, Friday: Crucifixion

Matthew 26:36-75, Mark 14:32-72, Luke 22:39-71, John 18:1-28

Matthew 27:1-10, Acts 1:16-20

Matthew 27:11-66, Mark 15:1-47, Luke 23:1-56, John 18: 29-19:42

Day 2, Saturday: Rest and Wait

Day 1: Sunday: Easter and on

Matthew 28:1-15, Mark 16:1-13, Luke 24:1-32, John 20:1-18

1 Corinthians 15:5, Luke 24:34

Luke 24:33-43, John 20:19-25

Mark 16:14, John 20:26-29

John 21:1-23

1 Corinthians 15:6-7

Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15-20, Luke 24:44-53, John 20:30-31, 21:24-25

Acts 1:4-11

April

Focus for the month: _____

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2. Food/fun/silly holidays to celebrate:
3. Birthdays to celebrate:
4. Bible verses to learn and celebrate:
5. Prayer requests/answers to celebrate:

Requests:	Answers:

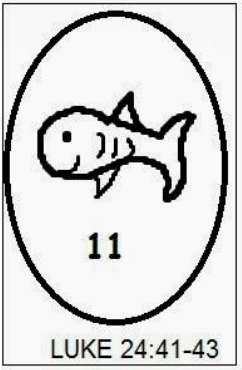
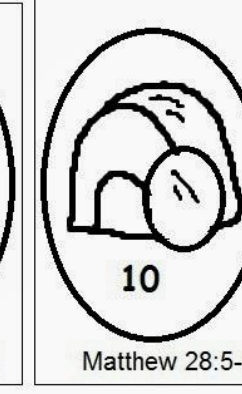
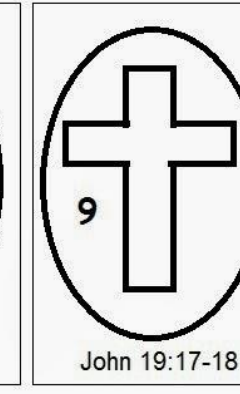
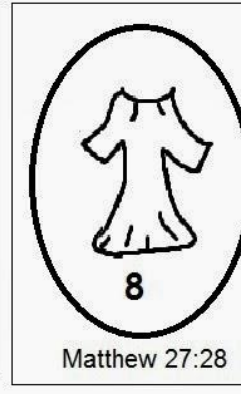
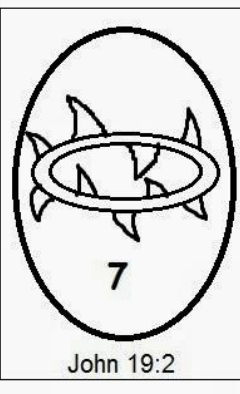
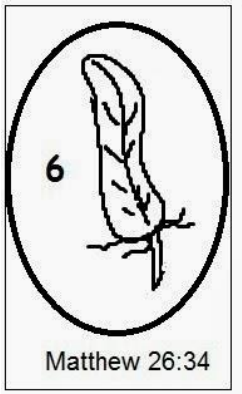
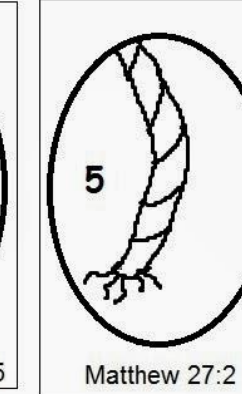
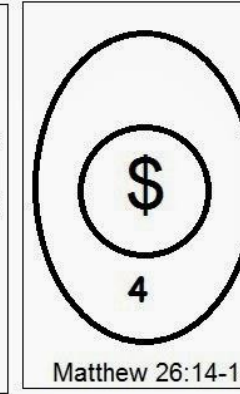
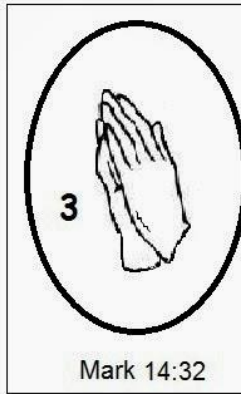
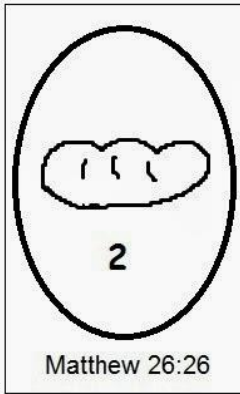
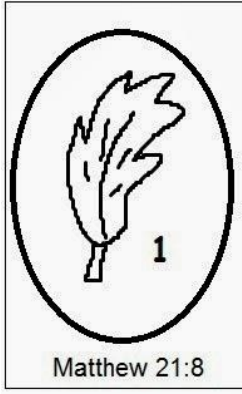


Holy Week Ideas

- Read through the Holy Week in the Gospels
- Palm Sunday ideas:
- Celebrate Passover

Passover in 5 Questions—What’s different about this night?

1. Why this bread? (**Matzo**—whole wheat unleavened bread) Yeast represents sin—this is a time to get rid of sin—clean house, as it were. But the only true way to do that is through One without sin—Jesus. He was broken (Have three pieces, break the middle one, and hide half of it somewhere) for us (later, whoever finds the broken piece of matzo gets a prize—yeah resurrection!).
 2. Why **Horseradish**? To remember the bitter slavery of Israel in Egypt, and how we were slaves to sin before Christ. STRONG stuff that burns.
 3. Why the double-dipping? We dip **Parsley** into **Salt water** twice to remember the salty tears of life—it isn’t easy here—we were made for Heaven. On the first Passover, they dipped the hyssop in the blood of the sacrifice lamb and put it on the doors so that the first born (have them raise their hands) wouldn’t be killed by the angel of death. The punishment for sin—like every single time you sin—is someone/thing dying and giving their blood (why blood? I am not sure—but that is how God made things to be). Sin is serious stuff.
We then dip the parsley into the **Apple/raisin mixture** which is sweet. It is to remember the mortar the slaves made in Egypt (think Pyramids). But there is a sweet hope. Jesus gave His blood—since he was perfect, it counts for everyone for always—if we accept it. This makes for a lot of very happy lambs and very happy people. And a very sweet home in heaven.
 4. Why are we relaxed on the floor? Because we are free—who needs tables? TOAST to that!
Grape juice—preview to our party in heaven!
 5. Why **Easter eggs**? (I added this question because I think it is interesting) Boiled eggs are a part of Passover, and traditional Jewish funerals. They are a symbol of mourning and renewal: today we mourn because Jesus had to die (It is called “good” Friday for us—it didn’t feel very good for Jesus!) and have renewal because He rose from the dead (Easter!!!). And—fun fact—eggs are ridiculously strong: get all the kids to try to break one (but they HAVE to follow the rules or dirty messes will happen) by using (ONLY) their index finger and thumb, holding the egg upright—it is practically impossible to break.
- Good Friday ideas:
 - Saturday Ideas: dying Easter eggs, preparing for Easter, making/reading the “resurrection eggs”
 - Easter Sunday ideas: An Ester tree with grapes/hot cross buns, hidden baskets/eggs (each family member has a color), newspaper doors to break through

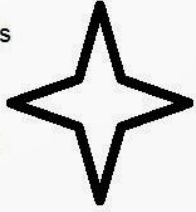


Happy Easter

Resurrection Eggs

1. **Palm Branch**- Represents the triumphal entry
2. **Bread**- Last Supper Jesus broke bread with disciples
3. **Praying Hands**- Jesus praying in Garden of Gethsemane
4. **Coin**- Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 silver coins
5. **Rope**- Jesus was bound up and led away by soldiers
6. **Feather**- Peter denied Jesus 3 times & rooster crowed just like Jesus said it would happen
7. **Thorns**- They placed a crown of thorns on Jesus head
8. **Purple Robe**- Jesus robe was taken away from him
9. **Cross**- Jesus died on a cross for our sins
10. **Tomb**- Jesus was placed in a tomb and rose on the third day
11. **Fish**- Jesus ate fish with the disciples
12. **Clouds**- Jesus went up to Heaven

Church House Collection ©



May

Focus for the month: _____

1. Ideas to celebrate:

2. Food/fun/silly holidays to celebrate:

Mother's day—2nd Sunday

3. Birthdays to celebrate:

4. Bible verses to learn and celebrate:

5. Prayer requests/answers to celebrate:

Requests:	Answers:



Our Heroes

As Mother's day and Father's day are celebrated, let us remember them and the other heroes in our life.

1. What makes a Hero?

Qualities:

Values:

Actions:

2. Heroes in the Bible:

3. Heroes in history:

4. Heroes in our lives:

5. How can we honor/celebrate our heroes?

June

Focus for the month: _____

1. Ideas to celebrate:

2. Food/fun/silly holidays to celebrate:

Father's day—3rd Sunday, Sao Joao—June 24

3. Birthdays to celebrate:

4. Bible verses to learn and celebrate:

5. Prayer requests/answers to celebrate:

Requests:	Answers:



July

Focus for the month: _____

1. Ideas to celebrate:

2. Food/fun/silly holidays to celebrate:

Independence Day—July 4

3. Birthdays to celebrate:

4. Bible verses to learn and celebrate:

5. Prayer requests/answers to celebrate:

Requests:	Answers:



Faith

- What is faith? What is Christianity? Write out your testimony if you haven't before (see the tips)
- Make a list of things you believe—like a statement of faith.
 1. I believe the Bible is true, the Word of God revealed to us, and has all I need to know for living this life.
 2. I believe that God loved me before the world began and sent His Son, who is God, to die for me, which he did gladly, going to hell for me before I even knew Him. He then came back to life, defeating death, and returned to heaven, making a home for me.
 3. I believe that I was born with a sin nature, broken, and could/can only be fixed through the power of Christ's blood and a personal relationship with Him. And while I am on earth, I will still always struggle and be in need of God's grace.
 4. I believe that through salvation I have been given a new heart with true, pure desires—but must choose momentarily to not return to substitutes, but to walk in the communion and presence of the His Holy Spirit who was given to me as a seal of my family credentials.
 5. I believe that through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection is the only way to heaven, and God is just and right in this. I don't understand/know how this works, but those who do not choose Him will be separated from Him in hell.
 6. I believe that every person is invaluable because they are made by God, and life begins at conception. God loves everyone the same and doesn't give up on any of them so neither can I. I will work to love each life as my own.
 7. I believe that each person was made for a reason and has a part in this life that only they can fulfill.
 8. I believe that every day is a gift from God and should be lived to the fullest for Him, living with eternity in mind, and not knowing if it will be your last.
 9. I believe that God knows me and has a plan for me, and that everything that happens is still under His control and will, in the end, be for my good and to bring Him glory.
 10. I believe that Satan is real and spiritual warfare happens and we are called to fight and be intercessors. I also know that God is stronger and wins, so I don't have to blow that out of proportion.
 11. I believe that being a Christian means I am not my own, I am a temple of the Holy Spirit, and that my goal is to be conformed into the image of Christ.
 12. I believe that when I confess my sins, I am forgiven and made clean and restored, as God sees not me, but the perfect blood of Christ that covers me.
 13. I believe that there is nothing I can do to get out of His hands (undo salvation). I am adopted and my name is written in the book of life. God is just and I will be punished if I disobey, but never disowned.
 14. I believe that it is vital to have a daily time with God, reading the Bible and praying and sharing. Without this I will wither away spiritually.
 15. I believe my clothes, words, music, entertainment, and activities must be pleasing to God and not make anyone else stumble—or it is sin.
- Make sure to cover what you believe about
 1. God the Father (theology proper), God the Son, God the Holy Spirit
 2. Sin, Salvation, Man
 3. Angels, Church, End times
- How can you celebrate your faith?

Do's in testimony writing:

- 1. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you write.
- 2. Prepare your testimony so you can share it with groups as well as with individuals.
- 3. Keep within your time limit.
- 4. Be realistic. Do not imply that Christ removes all of life's problems, but rather that He enables you to live through them as you walk in obedience to Him.
- 5. Consider your audience. Be sensitive to them. Write and speak to communicate with the particular group to whom you are speaking. Be relevant to the audience.

Don'ts in testimony writing:

- 1. Don't make statements that reflect negatively on the church, other organizations, or other people.
- 3. Avoid speaking in a preachy manner. Preaching won't communicate nearly well as sharing "yourself" with the audience. Speak about personal experiences in your own life to which they can relate. Let the Holy Spirit do the convicting.
- 4. Don't use vague terms such as "joyful", "peaceful", "happy", or "changed" without explaining them.
- 5. Avoid using Biblical words such as "saved", "converted", "convicted", or "sin" without clarifying what you mean. Non-Christians may not be familiar with these words.
- 6. Don't force your testimony on another person.
- 7. Don't focus too much on yourself or your past experiences.
- 8. Don't condemn others.

Writing style hints:

- 1. Begin with an attention-getting sentence or incident. Avoid using flowery words or phrases that are unnatural to you.
- 2. Be positive from start to finish.
- 3. Be specific. Give enough details to arouse interest.
- 4. Be accurate. Include interesting, thought provoking experiences.
- 6. Use one or two Scripture verses, but only where they would relate directly and fit in naturally.
- 7. Edit and rewrite as needed.
- 8. Write a closing that makes your testimony sound finished and logical.
- 9. The closing of the testimony should relate to the main theme of the testimony.

How to present your testimony:

- 1. Rehearse your testimony until it becomes natural. You should know your testimony well enough so it doesn't sound memorized as you present it.
- 2. Share your testimony with conviction in the power of the Holy Spirit. You should believe what you are sharing in your testimony.
- 3. Smile often. Ask the Lord to give you a pleasant countenance. Your smile will relax the audience and interest them in what you are saying.
- 4. Speak clearly but in a natural, relaxed tone. Speak loudly enough to be heard.
- 6. Avoid nervous mannerisms such as rubbing your nose, swaying, jingling coins in your pocket, playing with a pencil, clearing your throat, or using many "you know's" and "uh's". These nervous mannerisms become distractions for the audience. They will not pay close attention to your words when they are distracted.
- 7. Avoid arguing or using emotional pressure or methods in your testimony to obtain decisions for Christ. The Bible teaches that men and women are born of the Spirit, not through the persuasiveness or logic of others.
- 8. Some references that you may look up later are: Matthew 16:17, John 3:5, 6 and I Corinthians 2:4, 5.
- Answer these questions: what was my life like before knowing Christ? How did I come to know Christ? What has happened/changed since? What Scriptures made salvation clear to me?

Remember that a successful testimony is one given in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.

August

Focus for the month: _____

1. Ideas to celebrate:

2. Food/fun/silly holidays to celebrate:

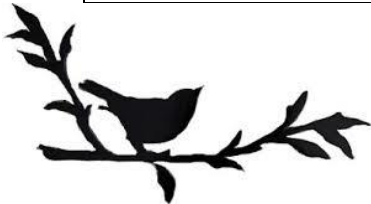
Jamaica Independence Day—August 6

3. Birthdays to celebrate:

4. Bible verses to learn and celebrate:

5. Prayer requests/answers to celebrate:

Requests:	Answers:



How can you celebrate missions?

1. Have a large world map that you can mark on and pray for peoples, events, and missionaries
2. Have a weekly rice and beans meal, where you eat like 2/3^{rds} of the world
3. Pray for and get to know some missionaries
4. Child sponsorship
5. Go on a missions trip
6. Write thank you notes/letters regularly and randomly to missionaries/everyone
7. Get to know your neighbors intentionally
8. Volunteer. Somewhere. Often
9. Redirect gifts. Instead of having people give you birthday and holiday gifts, ask them to donate gifts or money to a good cause/missions
10. Stop to help
11. Become a mentor or tutor
12. Be a voice for someone who doesn't have a voice. Stand up for someone who needs it. Don't let evil prosper
13. Come to the rescue. If you realize someone is sick, bring them some hot tea, etc.
14. Stand up for your beliefs without flaunting them
15. Adopt

Information about Poverty

1. There is a difference between USA poverty and third-world poverty. Poverty level in the USA is roughly \$11,000 a year, adding \$4,000 per person in the household. Minimum wage (a decent living) in Brazil is about USD \$4,000, let alone those living in poverty. The official world poverty line is \$2 a day or \$750 a year.
2. There are different kinds of poverty: Eric Jensen's "Teaching With Poverty in Mind" lists: a. **Situational** poverty (from a crisis or disaster), b. **Urban and Rural** poverty (Each have their different needs), c. **Generational** poverty (in the family for a while, not equipped to move out of poverty), d. **Absolute** poverty (day-to-day survival), and e. **Relative** poverty (not meeting society's average standard of living.)
3. Some poverty is relative, as is wealth, as an internal measurement compared to those around you
4. The solutions for each kind of poverty are different, and cannot be lumped together.
5. For those in deep poverty, the main reasons are a. **Decreasing national/local prosperity** b. **Health/death shocks**, c. **Natural disasters** d. **Failure of initiative** (agriculture) e. **Family problems/expenses** e. **Asset depletion**
6. The main reasons for poverty in the USA are: a. **Divorce/separation** b. **Out-of-wedlock child** c. **Earnings fail**.

7. Poverty is often transient. Most people are in and out of poverty, or kinds of poverty, depending on circumstances, rather than it being a permanent place of destitution.
8. There are often **mind-sets** that go along with the level of money you perceive yourself to be in. Those in **poverty often value relationships and entertainment** first. Those in **middle class value work, achievement, and material security**. Those who are **wealthy value security, privacy, and maintaining their wealth**.
9. The “mind sets” might overgeneralize and stereotype, but everyone has their own rules and values from how they were raised, and they often hinder success in life. Payne, Ruby K, Philip DeVol, and Terie Dreussi Smith. "Bridges out of poverty." *Strategies for professionals and communities*. New York: Aha (2001).
10. To move from poverty to middle class or middle class to materially wealthy “mind-set,” an individual may have to give up some aspects of their relationships for achievement (at least for some period of time)
11. There are four common ways or reasons why that people move out of poverty: a. An **insight, goal, and determination** to change b. A particular **talent or skill** c. A **relationship** with someone who guides and supports d. The **pain** of living in poverty.
12. “Band-aid” help (go in, fix/build/change something, get out) doesn’t help in the long run, although is necessary in certain situations, especially situational poverty/health issues (ie disaster relief, war, etc.). It reinforces the idea that they can’t do it alone (Relief vs. Development).
13. Understand, overall, how blessed you are. If the world were shrunk to 100 people, 7 would have a college degree, 17 couldn’t read. 48 people would be living off of \$2 a day or less. 22 would not have electricity, 13 would not have safe drinking water.
14. Do you really want to know a little about poverty? Take the rice and beans or \$2 a day challenge for a week or a month, read stories at www.buildinglivingstones.blogspot.com and read “Half the Sky.”
15. You will (probably) never really know what poverty truly feels like. If you can read and understand this list, you have been given at least a basic education, skills, and resources in the world. You can go out and “experience” poverty, but you always know that if it came down to it, someone or somehow you could provide for yourself. Those in deep poverty do not have that assurance.

September

Focus for the month: _____

1. Ideas to celebrate:

2. Food/fun/silly holidays to celebrate:

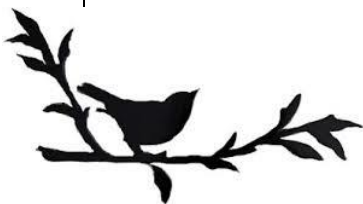
Brazilian Independence Day—September 7

3. Birthdays to celebrate:

4. Bible verses to learn and celebrate:

5. Prayer requests/answers to celebrate:

Requests:	Answers:



Celebrate Learning

1. Learn how your brain works: Brain Rules, by John Medina
2. Learn about the three learning channels: visual, auditory, and Kinesthetic (learn about the 8 intelligences) and know your strengths
3. Learn the way your brain likes: using Mind Maps
4. Learn through books: make a list of 50 books you will read
5. Learn through media: TED Talks
6. Learn through forming habits:

http://www.ted.com/talks/matt_cutts_try_something_new_for_30_days.html

- Cook a new meal/recipe every day
- Read a chapter (of the Bible, of a book) every day
- Do one Pinterest idea/craft you pinned ages ago every day
- Draw a picture every day
- Take a picture every day
- Learn a chord (guitar) or practice an instrument every day
- Learn 10 new vocabulary words (in your own language or another) every day
- Memorize a Bible verse every day
- Live off of \$2 a day, like half the world, every day
- Try vegetarianism/veganism
- Eat only raw foods/the Daniel diet
- Pray for/study a different country every day
- Learn/memorize a constellation (and its story) every day
- Write 500 words (10 minutes fastwriting) every day
- Nanowrimo (Write 50,000 words in a month)
- Post a blog every day
- Learn a new song every day
- Train for a mini/marathon
- Watch a new TED talk every day
- Call up a different old friend every day
- Write 3 things you are grateful for every day
- Write a letter to someone every day
- Talk to a new stranger every day
- Walk/go somewhere you've never been in your own city every day
- Write one thing you want to do/want for your life every day

October

Focus for the month: _____

1. Ideas to celebrate:

2. Food/fun/silly holidays to celebrate:

Children's day—October 12, National Heroes Day Jamaica—3rd Monday

3. Birthdays to celebrate:

4. Bible verses to learn and celebrate:

5. Prayer requests/answers to celebrate:

Requests:	Answers:



Celebrate Teaching

- You have to know it yourself before you can pass it on to someone else
- Anything worth knowing is worth sharing with (teaching) someone else
- Use props. They help you and the kids stay focused
- Teaching is discovery. The teacher and student finding answers together
- Being a teacher is so much more than just being a teacher. It is wearing all the hats needed to provide what is needed for the student
- “They don’t care what you know until they know that you care.”
- Teaching takes dedication and perseverance, without instant reward. They probably will never thank you—many of them don’t know how to put their gratitude into words yet
- Teaching is a lifestyle. You can’t fake it for long
- Teaching is mutual—a two way street. Be humble about giving and receiving
- Teaching is an ART. Get trained and keep learning how to do it better (best training ever: Supercamp)
- From Supercamp: a. Everything speaks b. Everything is on purpose c. Experience before label d. Acknowledge every effort and e. If it is worth doing, it is worth celebrating
- Also from Supercamp: lesson plan should include EEL DR C: enroll, experience, label demonstrate, review, celebrate
- Learn to use silence, to control your state, and the state of the room
- Always remember: attention spans are basically one minute per year old (up to about 15-20). So if you have a room of 6 year olds, divide the content into 6 minute chunks and have state changes in between each chunk.
- You, as the teacher, need to know the student well enough to connect learning content with their previous knowledge and schema, not leaving any gaps
- Use music as much as possible, as a state change, as a dance break, as a come in/leave...
- See the “10” in every child, even if they show up as a 2—you see potential
- Make every child feel glad they came and that you care. You do not know what else is going on in their lives or if you will ever get the chance to teach them again
- Know your objective for what you are teaching: what is the outcome you want, and how can you get there? Be direct
- In the first 2 minutes, let the students know a. what you are going to share and b. why it is worth it for them to listen
- I have something valuable to share, and I know it will make a difference in your life: that is why I am a teacher
- Teacher rewards: that 2 minute (or so) window where the kids are actually looking at you and listening and you can see the wheels turning in their heads as they truly “get it.”
- Sleep enough and take care of yourself. If Teacher ain’t happy, nobody (in the class) is happy
- Be humble: if you mess up, apologize right there in front of the class. Vulnerability breeds vulnerability. If you don’t know the answer to something they ask—great! Then you get to find the answer together
- Laugh a lot: learning is fun, remember?
- You get what you invest: be prepared, and include interesting things to keep yourself interested as well
- Look for the little victories and praise them: God is always working somewhere
- When they fail don’t think it is final and when they succeed don’t think your job is done
- Be real. They know the difference

November

Focus for the month: _____

1. Ideas to celebrate:

2. Food/fun/silly holidays to celebrate:

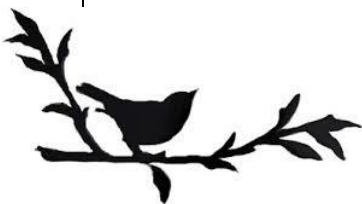
Thanksgiving—4th Thursday

3. Birthdays to celebrate:

4. Bible verses to learn and celebrate:

5. Prayer requests/answers to celebrate:

Requests:	Answers:



Holiday ideas

- Ask what old traditional food people remember having for that holiday and make some of it
- Cookie making contest. No recipes allowed. All from your head.
- Are there any traditional songs for this holiday? Learn a new one.
- Make holiday cards/cookies and give them away to neighbors
- Read a book about the holiday (or just a good book) aloud
- Fire in the fire place (if cold), fire outside (if hot)
- Call people you won't see on the holiday to connect. YEA SKYPE!
- Choose/create one "traditional" holiday movie to watch together, and do it every year
- Play gestures/charades
- Take time to reflect and write a letter to your past self (5 years ago) and future self (5 years in the future) of your ideas, what you like, don't like, want...
- Share best memories/lessons learned of the year
- Share favorite memories of past holidays you've had
- Make a fort/sleep on the floor together
- Listen to radio theater/podcasts together
- Sparklers! For any and all holidays
- Secret Stalker (pick names from a hat to leave love notes/messages for them all day without revealing who you are)
- Make a movie/video/skit something
- White elephant gift exchange
- Light a buncha candles
- No internet/video games/news watching! More family/real people time
- Spend 10 minutes on Pinterest or Google, getting good holiday ideas to do
- Talent contest—everyone must do something!
- Brainstorm what family traditions you want to create for that holiday in the future
- Break out the board games
- Find a way to serve/include/bless others on that holiday
- Don't waste this day being normal

December

Focus for the month: _____

1. Ideas to celebrate:
2. Food/fun/silly holidays to celebrate:
3. Birthdays to celebrate:
4. Bible verses to learn and celebrate:
5. Prayer requests/answers to celebrate:

Requests:	Answers:



Christmas (Advent)

1. (December 1) Begin your Christmas list of what/who you will give
2. Begin Christmas decorations
3. Review your goals from the current year—how are you doing?
4. Go over your own family genealogy
5. Go over Jesus' genealogy in Matthew/Luke
6. Put together a family Christmas letter to mail out
7. Sit around with eggnog/hot chocolate and share stories of how God has provided
8. Read the "3 trees" book
9. Study Christmas traditions around the world
10. Study Jewish traditions and holidays
11. Read 1/3rd of the "Best Christmas Pageant Ever"
12. Read 1/3rd of the "Best Christmas Pageant Ever"
13. Read 1/3rd of the "Best Christmas Pageant Ever"
14. Evening with candles/fireplace. Have a candle every day until Christmas
15. Have an evening of worship
- 16.
17. Read the "Gift of the Magi"
18. Find mission's catalogs and send Christmas presents (GFA, World Vision)
19. Watch "It's a Wonderful Life"
20. Watch "Miracle on 34th Street"
21. Plan all the special food you want for Christmas/New Years. Start making Christmas cookies.
22. Watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas"
23. Watch "The Grinch who stole Christmas"
24. Christmas Eve! Watch "Muppet Christmas Carol," open one present each, sleep in front of the tree, attend a Christmas eve candle service
25. Read the Christmas story and presents and stockings

New Years: Write top ten lessons learned from the year, bake together, sparkling juice cheers, write goals for next year with a year verse