

## Celebration habits



# CELEBRATION

This month with the focus on **Celebration** we are mainly thinking about ideas of how to celebrate God, each other, and our place in God's Story, noting markers that celebrate our journey: our 'owned' traditions and 'rights of passage'.



## PERSONAL EXERCISES

**P1) Building on last month,** continue with the 40 Acts of Generosity [www.40acts.org.uk](http://www.40acts.org.uk) - or sign up for the remaining daily reflections - its not too late!

**P2) Whats your story?** Think about the stories that you own that are celebrating what is going on in your life, or what God is doing? Prepare those stories (inc writing them out). Where can you change atmospheres by then sharing those stories? If nowhere else, email them to church - its requested every week (see the bulletin / website).

**P3) Remembering His Benefits** Read & if possible memorise Psalm 103 - what are God's benefits that you want to remember (& list?)



## HOUSEHOLD IDEAS

**H1) Celebrating each other** As a household, when could you make a set time each week over this next month (eg over a set meal or connection point) as an opportunity to celebrate in turn everyone in your house? Take 1 meal a week over the next month; & each week focus on 1 person; celebrating their life, who they are, their journey so far, what you are thankful for about them - everyone else in the household is given a chance to celebrate that person. The focus can be on: Who they are (identity); how they connect with others (relationships); & their activity (abilities, gifting, successes, potential & places they are called to influence).

**H2) New Traditions** Think about creating a new tradition as your household for the Easter season - consider the examples from the talk on each of the 4 days of the season as a starting / jumping off point to adapt something meaningful that you would like to celebrate as a household in future years, or this one!

**H3) Rights of Passage:** are there rights of passage you'd like to use this season to develop as a household? For families, its an opportunity to think about different coming of age' events - even an annual list from 0-21+!? For shared houses, its a chance to think about how you do start & end seasons for each member of the house; how you create rhythms of celebration & what you want to celebrate more as you develop as a household?

**H4) Events to celebrate?** Discuss as a house what festivals & events in the year you most want to celebrate & turn into traditions? Anniversaries? Sporting celebrations? Eurovision?! Look at the attached list of suggestions throughout the year, & discuss which of these you might own, & what others you'd consider?



**SG1 Celebrating each other** You may want to use the household idea in **H1)** to take time celebrating each other.

**SG2 Celebrating the Lord** As worship you could take Psalm 89: 15-18 as a jumping off point to 'acclaiming the Lord' - use some creative ways to do this - writing / declarations of prepared lists etc as well as sung worship.

**SG3 Celebrating Hope** As a group you could agree a **Memory Verse** (that you challenge each other to all learn) that speaks into the areas you are most identifying God is

getting your attention or challenging you in about celebrating either who He is, or the place of hope in your lives. A starter suggested verse Romans 5: 3-5 — the goal of all the difficult things in our lives, is that they lead to celebrating the hope we have in him! You could make memorising those verses competitive & test yourselves the following week :  
:) Prizes for the best / who manages it!



Over this month there are a number of opportunities to **celebrate** together:

- remembering being part of the Freedom Story of the People of God, as we **celebrate** Passover on Maundy Thursday (April 2nd)
- The fun family **celebrations** on Easter Saturday (@ Ashton Court) & Sunday (in church)
- In what ways as we gather together (especially as we **celebrate** each Lord's Day), can you both make more space & for bring an attitude of **Celebration** to that Sunday gathering?
- Are there other areas in the church's life or activity you can help create more space for **Celebration** to happen?