



Let's Celebrate

2025 Princess Party

Holiday/Seasonal

New Years Eve/Day:

- Throughout the year write on slips of paper or sticks or even rocks how God worked in a situation and each New Year review those ways He has shown Himself.
- Decide (or brainstorm) as a single person, a couple, or as a family what your mission will be in the upcoming year to glorify God and love others better! Write it out or print it out or paint it on a banner to remind you or your family throughout the year

Valentine's Day:

- Leading up to V-Day, I put a paper heart with something I love about that kid on their door so they end up with 14 hearts on their doors of what we love about them.
- We "sometimes remember" to do a fun breakfast all decorated for the kids but on the plastic tablecloth I like to add that God LOVES you even more than we do.
- Charcuterie table of colored plastic tablecloth for base with every kind of candy/treat so it covers the entire table or just make a centerpiece charcuterie if you don't want that much candy/treats in your home after the holiday!
- As a wife, tell your husband what you would like for Valentine's Day! DO NOT expect your husband to read your mind! Take that pressure off of him and be an encouragement instead! Great men are teachable!
- If you have adult children who are unmarried, focus on God loving them and them loving Him and others! This holiday doesn't have to leave out those who are single! How can they love others? God IS love!
- We had a "fancy" Valentine's dinner with sparkling grape juice, fun table setting, candles and we were dressed in our finest. After dinner, we put in Disney princess music and Dad danced with the girls and Mom danced with the boys.

St. Patrick's Day:

- I like to decorate the table again for when they wake up and come to the kitchen (its usually just bagged donuts - but we usually only get them on holidays so that keeps it special), but then I also put out the book - How to catch a leprechaun and we remind them to NOT pinch people who don't have green on but to be kind (and put green on).
- Read the history of Saint Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland! What an inspiring story! Talk about how it would be to live in Ireland and need Christ! Pray for the Irish people who don't know Jesus!
- Send your children to school loaded with sheets of green stickers to hand out to any person who forgot to wear green! Safety first!

Easter:

- Resurrection Eggs
- The Donkey Who Carried a King by RC Sproul book
- We like to "EGG" our neighbors with a door sign that says "You've been egged. Find x amount of eggs in your yard and one of them is empty just like the empty grave".
- Making "empty tomb" cookies
- Extended family: sing Easter hymns & songs
- Legend of the Easter Egg by Lori Walburg and dyeing eggs.
- Charcuterie table with chocolate bunnies and chocolate crosses plus every kind of Easter treat!

May Day

- Put a verse in the May Day baskets my kids deliver all over the neighborhood.
- Talk about the phrase, "May day"!

Mother's Day

- Make this a big deal even though you may feel it is self-serving! The Bible in Ephesians 6:1-3 tells us to obey our parents AND HONOR our parents! Teach your children to celebrate Mother's Day, preparing them beforehand to make cards, baked goods, breakfast in bed, etc.! Show them how you honor your mom! If you don't have children, and your mother is alive, HONOR her big! If your mom has passed away, text a Happy Mother's Day to some moms who are still living.

End of School:

- We make it fun and decorate our back porch with bright colors to kick off summer. Get their favorite snacks and drinks and sit outside (it's usually been super nice) and just hang out. We talk about all the things we are excited to do in the upcoming summer (could create a summer bucket list). My kids always love going to camp (Timberlake, CRC, and so it's a good time to talk again about those things too)
- For the first day of school and the last day of school for a surprise we would paint on the windows of the car(ours when I took them to school & theirs when they drove to school!)

Graduations:

- We always serve the graduate's favorite food. It's a fun way to let those that come find out what the graduate likes: hot tamales, tacos, doughnuts, coffee bar, Italian sodas, and cotton candy. I've learned to add the favorite food items to the invite so guests can plan their graduation hopping accordingly.
- When you celebrate a graduation, keep kids of all ages in mind! Provide something for the little ones if possible!

Father's Day

- During Sunday dinner, we go around the table saying what we love about Dad. Have every child write a letter or make a card. Get your children used to honoring their dad! It is important to teach your young children to do all things, as they won't do it even close to perfectly the first time, but keep practicing! Eventually they WILL! (this works for husbands too)

4th of July:

- Discuss Freedom for the USA but also our freedom in Christ from our sins/bondage if conversation naturally presents itself.
- We have handed out \$2 bills for the 4th of July! On the backside of the \$2 is a picture of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It's a great way to talk about those that risked everything for freedom.
- Invite not only family members to your cookout or event! Invite neighbors or those who are single or who do not have family close or family at all!

Back to School:

- Host or attend a back to school coffee for some Godly fellowship as you kick off another new season. (Marci Epp faithfully hosted for several years here in the area and now Jamie Sands offers her home that first day back to school!) Not from around here . . . go ahead and start one if you are able! If a smaller group, gather a few mom friends to pray over your kids upcoming school year together! Lots of emotions on those first days back to school so it's always good to be there for one another.

Halloween:

- You don't have to celebrate this holiday the way the world does. In our home, we never celebrated Halloween but always dressed in costumes throughout the year and loved the candy. You can talk about the power that isn't flesh and blood but the power of the air and this present darkness and how the POWER of Christ is the STRONGEST and has overcome all darkness by Jesus' death on the cross and that perfect love (the love of Christ) casts out fear! Some Christian families celebrate Halloween so they may want to weigh in on how they do it.

Thanksgiving:

- Thanksgiving Tree where we add leaves to a tree about things we are thankful for.
- Extended family celebration: go around the table and say what you are thankful for
- Tell stories of the family after the big lunch or dinner! Have everyone sit around and listen to the patriarchs tell stories and others who can tell stories of the family and how they are thankful for so many things!

Christmas:

- We read the book "Cosmic Christmas" by Max Lucado, usually on Christmas Eve.
- Julotta Christmas Morning Service at Monroe
- Reading Luke 2 before opening gifts
- The Shepherd on the Search - Christmas Advent Activity (*Similar to elf on the shelf but scaled back from all the shenanigans*)
- The Legend of the Candy Cane Book and we have a Candy Cane Hunt outside (weather permitting like an Easter Egg Hunt)
- A Tale of Three Trees by Angela Hunt & Tim Jonke
- LOVE the idea of reading a Christmas book each night together but can't say I was ever 100% successful in doing that leading up to Christmas.
- Buy a new Christmas book with Christian theme each year. Yes we read before bedtime. When older we just take time in an evening to read several of them
- Extended family Christmas—sing Christmas carols. So delightful to see and hear the next generation who know the words and singing along.
- Kid friendly advent calendar made of felt.
- Happy Birthday Jesus party including cake!
- Nativity scene—we had several of them
- Have a plastic or kid friendly Nativity so that kids can play with the characters
- As the kids become adults or your family grows larger, consider no purchased gifts, but instead a large family meal and talking about past Christmas memories and prayer requests and pray

Other:

- Have fun with your kids on random "holidays" too! Thank God for creating those super yummy items or fun activities and bodies that move and can participate in so many good things in life.

FUN HOLIDAYS TO CELEBRATE WITH KIDS

JANUARY

4th Trivia Day
8th Bubble Bath Day
17th Kid Inventors' Day
19th Popcorn Day
24th Compliment Day

FEBRUARY

2nd Play Your Ukulele Day
4th Thank Your Mailman Day
5th Chocolate Fondue Day
14th Valentine's Day
17th Random Act of Kindness Day

MARCH

1st World Compliment Day
19th Let's Laugh Day
20th World Storytelling Day
25th Waffle Day
26th Make Up Your Own Holiday Day

APRIL

1st April Fools Day
3rd World Party Day
5th Read a Road Map Day
22nd Jelly Bean Day
26th Pretzel Day

MAY

4th Star Wars Day (May the 4th)
11th Eat What You Want Day
12th Limerick Day
14th Dance Like a Chicken Day
24th Scavenger Hunt Day

JUNE

1st Say Something Nice Day
1st=National Doughnut Day
17th Eat Your Vegetables Day
18th International Picnic Day
29th Camera Day

JULY

1st International Joke Day
9th Sugar Cookie Day
10th Teddy Bears' Picnic Day
20th Space Exploration Day
31st Uncommon Musical Instrument Day

AUGUST

2nd Ice Cream Sandwich Day
3rd Watermelon Day
8th Happiness Happens Day
26th Dog Appreciation Day
31st Eat Outside Day

SEPTEMBER

4th Eat an Extra Dessert Day
6th Read a Book Day
11th Make Your Bed Day
13th Roast Dahl Day
28th Good Neighbor Day

OCTOBER

4th Taco Day
6th Mad Hatter Day
11th It's My Party Day
16th Dictionary Day
30th Candy Corn Day

NOVEMBER

3rd Sandwich Day
8th Tongue Twister Day
11th Origami Day
17th Take A Hike Day
24th Celebrate Your Unique Talent Day

DECEMBER

1st Eat a Red Apple Day
3rd Make a Gift Day
7th Letter Writing Day
12th Gingerbread House Day
26th Thank You Note Day



Celebrations

Weddings:

- Parents and family members coming up to the altar to pray with the bride and groom during a song. Makes for a BEAUTIFUL photo of the prayers taking place for the couple to frame.
- Have everyone pray around the bride who is in the “getting ready” room before the ceremony while doing makeup and hair. The same could be done with the men in the groom’s room before the ceremony.

Anniversaries

- Make sure to go on a date!!! Marriage is hard! Show your kids and others that you still date one another!
- If you have little kiddos and just can’t get a sitter, put the kids to bed early and have a homemade date! These are fun and be creative! Some of my favorite things are zero cost!
- Along the lines of dating your spouse, we try to also take a trip when it works for us, usually in February. We have LOVED going the Love Like You Mean It Cruise by Family Life. It’s an amazing week of Christ centered worship and speakers and you meet so many believers from other parts of the US.
- Bring your parents on a vacation with your kids so you & your spouse can go on a date in the evenings while your parents watch the kids/put them to sleep!

Birthday’s:

- Celebrate Spiritual Birthdays: We have gifts and a special meal and we intentionally take time to pray for that person and thank the Lord for the decision that they made to follow Him with all their days.
- Go around the table and everyone say what they love about the birthday person
- On their 12th Birthday we do the Passport to Purity Weekend. It’s a beautiful time to be together.

Baby Dedications:

- All of the entire family members go up on stage
- All gather for a family photo afterward and a meal either at a restaurant or home

Baptisms:

- Gather for a celebration meal afterward

Funerals:

- Funerals are so hard. One thing we learned recently after walking through a long illness with a loved one is to not leave anything unsaid. Also, show your children how to walk in God’s goodness EVEN WHEN it’s not in the Lord’s will to heal the person.
- We have two teddy bears made out of both grandpa’s shirts and they are a source of joy and comfort to us. It reminds us to talk about the memories we have.
- Bring a disposable pan of brownies to the visitation to give to the family as you pass them. Water bottles are awesome as well to bring with the brownies to give to the family members! They are grieving and not thinking about eating and it can be a long line of people they will be talking to.

Daily Life

- Sing Doxology before big family meals
- Praying before meals and bedtime
- Pray for the injured when you see an ambulance/fire truck
- Thank the Lord for sunrises/sunsets
- Open dialog while watching a movie
- Stars and Planets: Taking time to watch the events in the sky
- Creation: Pointing out God’s handiwork in creation everywhere you go
- Have a family text thread where you pray for a particular person on the same day each month. For instance, my child’s birthday is on the 20th, so on the 20th of every month, I let our “family

text thread” know some ways they could pray for that child. A different family member has a different day of the month and we all pray for that child on his/her day.

- Some seasons of life are easier than others, but on our child’s birthday day of each month, she gets to stay up 30 minutes later with her dad and I to play a game, visit, etc. My other kid’s birthday is on the 9th. So each month on the 9th, he has his turn.
- Making jobs a party by including cousins i.e. picking strawberries or blueberries or making applesauce or painting the shed.
- Establish spiritual Memorial Stones and talk about them
- Put phones away. Never have phones at the diner table or when in a room together. Never place a phone on the table at which you are sitting. It hinders conversation just by being present, studies show.

List of Resources

Books:

- Cosmic Christmas: Max Lucado
- Indescribable, The Wonder of Creation & How Great is Our God by Louie Giglio
- Journey of the Cross for young readers by Helen Haidle
- Benjamin’s Box by Melody Carlson. Goes with resurrection eggs
- Legend of the Christmas Tree by Rick Osborne
- The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey by Susan Wojciechowski
- The Crippled Lamb by Max Lucado
- Josie’s Gift by Kathleen Bostrom
- The Candle in the Window by Grace Johnson
- Legend of St. Nicholas by Dandi Mackall
- Annika’s Secret Wish by Beverly Lewis
- The Bible Story Handbook by John H Walton and Kim E. Walton
- Habits of the Household by Justin Whitmel Earley
- The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt (you will rethink giving your child a phone and may put yours away)
- Thanksgiving: A Time to Remember by Barbara Rainey
- Jodie Berndt.com (All things prayer for your kids and practical advice)
- The Whole-Brain Child by Daniel J Siegel, M.D., and Tina Payne Bryson, Ph.D.
- Raising Emotionally Strong Boys by David Thomas
- Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys by Stephen James and David Thomas
- Risen Motherhood Podcast
- Dana K. White Youtube channel plus podcast on all things decluttering and living with peace over possessions