

middle school



Lesson 3 / September 18, 2022

A Special Celebration

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 

Lesson 3

Focus:
God calls us to
celebrate what He
has done.

Lesson 3

Bible Basis:
Exodus 12:1-3.
5-7. 12-14

Lesson 3

Memory Verse:
I will remember the deeds of the
LORD; yes, I will remember your
miracles of long ago.
—Psalm 77:11

Students will watch a video about a surprise celebration as they consider whether what God has done for us is worth celebrating.

Materials:

- Internet access
- Party supplies and decorations
- Party snacks (cupcakes, popcorn, etc. Be sure to provide options for food allergies.)
- Optional icebreaker game: Bag of regular colored M&M™ candies; small bowl

Prior to group time, set up your classroom. Use as many decorations as you care to in order to create a party atmosphere. Set up snacks; pour M&Ms in a bowl, but do not put it out as a snack. As students enter, surprise them with an impromptu party. Explain that the party is for no particular reason other than to celebrate your group and the people in it.

If time allows, play this ice breaker game (if not, skip to the next paragraph). Have your students sit in a large circle. Walk past your students one by one and have them pick an M&M randomly from the bowl—instruct them not to eat it at this time. Once everyone has one, instruct them to tell something about themselves based on the color of M&M they chose. Go around the circle asking each student to show their M&M; ask them the coordinating question. (After playing the game, students may eat the rest of the M&Ms.)

M&M Icebreaker Questions

- Yellow – What are your three favorite foods?
- Green – What is something you can't live without?
- Blue – What do you want to be when you grow up?
- Red – What is your favorite book or movie?
- Orange – What is your favorite animal and why?
- Brown – What is something you are good at?

Have students talk about special celebrations they have attended: a surprise party, wedding anniversary, classroom party at school for a goal met, a birthday celebration, etc.

Show the following video clip to your students [0:38]:

Subway surprise! Thanksgiving dinner served on L train

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lgvmybl4OEM>

Ask:

➤ **Do you think most of the passengers were excited about the surprise dinner or annoyed at the unexpected crowd and celebration? Why?** (Accept all reasonable responses.)

➤ **How would you feel to be invited into an unexpected celebration? Do you think it would be easy or difficult to get into a celebration mindset?** (Answers will vary. Students might say it could be challenging to get into a celebration mindset if they were tired or on the way home from work. Or, they might say they'd be delighted by the surprise and happy to celebrate.)

Celebrations happen all of the time, but some are more special than others as we saw in this surprise Thanksgiving celebration. The Israelites had reason to celebrate something very special—let's find out when and how they celebrated!

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

A Special Celebration

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 3

Focus:

God calls us to celebrate what He has done.

Lesson 3

Bible Basis:

Exodus 12:1-3.
5-7. 12-14

Lesson 3

Memory Verse:

I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.
—Psalm 77:11

Materials:

- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring pens/pencils and index cards to class.

God created the Passover celebration as a time for the Israelites to recall what He did for them. The lamb they sacrificed to put blood on the doorposts as protection against death entering their households is a picture of Jesus—the Lamb of God and ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

➤ **Why was the Passover an event worth celebrating?** (Some answers may include: God saved Israel's sons from death; God provided a way for the plagues to end; the Israelites were able to escape Egyptian slavery after this event; God created a Promised Land that the Israelites would be able to make their own, etc.)

Earlier, we celebrated our class and the people in it. We chose to celebrate each other and what we mean to each other with party decorations and snacks. It is fun to celebrate things, even little things. God wants us to remember what He has done. This is often done when Christians celebrate Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection. Yet, there are many other things in the Bible worth remembering and celebrating. God's inspired Word has much to remind us of as believers!

Hand out index cards and pens/pencils (or invite students to have those items ready at home). Have students write on their index card today's memory verse and one reason why it's important to remember and celebrate what God or Jesus has done for us. Then have them write something *besides* Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection that is worth celebrating. (Examples might include: God created a beautiful world for us to live in, God is always with us, God loves us, God cares what happens to us, God has a plan for our lives, etc.) Allow ample time for students to do this.

Encourage students to turn to the person on their right and share what they have written down and why they think what they wrote down is worth celebrating!

As we head into our week ahead, it is easy to forget what we've talked about today. Perhaps you have another celebration to enjoy such as a friend or family member's birthday. Maybe it's been a year since you joined the band or a team or became friends with a certain person.

There are many things we remember and celebrate each month. This week, try to focus on a spiritual thing to remember and celebrate. For example, the day you believed in Christ, were baptized, and became a Christian, the first time you participated in the Lord's Supper, making a close Christian friend, leading another person to Christ, sharing deep spiritual thoughts with someone your age, helping a non-believer see that Christians are loving and caring, etc. The list can go on and on. Tell the person on your right with whom you recently shared your plan for remembering something spiritual this week. And then, be sure to celebrate this spiritual event in your own way this week!

Close in prayer thanking God for all that He has done in your life and your families' lives. Praise Him for specific answers to prayers you have seen in this group. Be sure to follow up with students to see how their celebrations went.

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