

Traditions are for Transformation

How to use celebrations for the spiritual formation and nurture of children

Candice Watters

April 17, 2021

1. Christians are called to _____ . Nehemiah 8:10
2. Christians are called to _____ like _____ .
Colossians 3:17, 23

How then do Christians celebrate?

3. We: _____ .
Exodus 31:13b
Psalm 103:1-2
Psalm 77:11
Psalm 143:5
Psalm 106:7
- And so teach our children to praise _____ not _____ .
Psalm 40:16 But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

Celebration is for _____ . Deuteronomy 4:9-10

4. We: _____ . Proverbs 9:1-6

"Those who dislike ritual in general—ritual in any way and every department of life—may be asked most earnestly to reconsider the question. It is a pattern imposed on the mere flux of our feelings by reason and will, which renders pleasures less fugitive and griefs more endurable, which hands over to the power of wise custom the task (to which the individual and his moods are so inadequate) of being festive or sober, gay or reverent, when we choose to be, and not at the bidding of chance." C. S. Lewis, *Paradise Lost* preface

5. We: _____ .
 - a. With _____ to _____ .

b. With _____ on _____.

c. With _____ in _____. Delighting in _____
_____ of all _____.

What is the point of all this celebrating? A _____ oriented to
_____ and _____.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Help for Celebrating:

All Year

A family calendar hung in a common space.

Set times to plan and review the plan periodically.

Noel Piper, *Treasuring God in Our Traditions*

Edith Schaeffer, *What is a Family?*

Douglas McKelvey, *Every Moment Holy, Vol. 1 (Liturgies for everyday life)*

Every Moment Holy, Vol. 2, Death, Grief, & Hope

Spring

Lent devotional: *Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die*, John Piper, daily readings leading up to

Maundy Thursday (Passover), Good Friday, Easter Sunday

March 17, St. Patrick's Day, History of former slave-turned-missionary, Patrick,

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/who-was-st-patrick-3/>

Winter

Advent devotionals to read as a family: *Repeat the Sounding Joy*, Christopher Ash, *Come Let Us*

Adore Him, Paul David Tripp, John Piper, *Jotham's Journey*, Arnold Ytreeide