

# How to Rejoice In God

## 1- Know the Truth (1 Corinthians 5:8)

- Make the purpose clear

## 2 - Share what you're celebrating (Habakkuk 2:2 principle)

## 3 - Involve food!

- Special foods for the occasion (unique? costly?)
  - Fatted Calf (Luke 15)
- Symbolic Foods (like: Jewish feasts)
  - Passover Meal - lamb, unleavened bread, herbs

## 4 - Choose Joy! (Reject Cynicism)

- Choose what to focus on during the rejoicing
  - some focus only on their sour mood...and stay there
  - some can only criticize expenditures vs. rejoice in the fruit of them! (Matt. 26:6-13, John 2:1-12)

## 5 - Make It Fun and Memorable

- tell stories of God's Faithfulness
- tell stories of God's delay, but coming thru

### Benefits of Celebrating:

- We Remember the Lord (Exodus 13:3; 1 Corinthians 11)
- We Rest from Work (Lev. 23:39)
- Celebration Facilitates Praise (Psalm 20:5)
- Community/Corporate Celebration
- Encouragement

### Things To Praise Intentionally

- Things that Last
- What God has said
- What God has done
- Repentance & Life (Luke 15)
- What has been examined / proven

### Ideas for Now:

- Write note cards with praiseworthy memories to attach to balloons & take home
- Write out parts of Salvation you're especially thankful for:
  - Remember: What they Rejoiced In:
    - Salvation open to the Gentiles (v.3) / Freedom from Circumcision (v. 5) / Freedom from the burden of keeping the law of Moses (v.5, 19) / God has granted to Gentiles to believe (v. 7) / God gave the Holy Spirit to Gentiles AS TO JEWS (v. 8) / God cleansed the Gentiles' and Jews' hearts by faith (v. 9) / God does not put heavy burdens on our backs, but removes them (v. 10 cf. Matt. 11:28-30) / God is the one who defines our faith, not people (v. 7-10, 12, 28) / God has repeatedly and decisively spoken through His Word (v. 15-18) / God's love is for many people from many nations, not just Jewish people (v. 17) / God has ways for us to follow, of consideration of others (v. 20), sexual purity (v. 20), and personal purity (v. 20)

- Start a Habit... of rejoicing in God's deeds monthly with your family / mentor, etc..