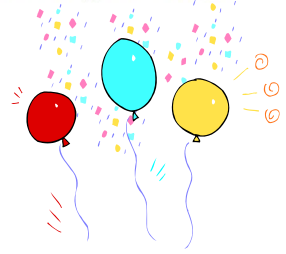




Celebrate What God Has Done

By Brenda Carpenter



Psalm 118:24

"This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Children's Sermon

Have available an old 2005 calendar that is all marked up with holidays and special days.
Also have available a new 2006 calendar that you can mark together.

"Look what I have today. Do any of you have one of these at home? (Hold up the 2006 calendar.) I use my calendar to write down important dates and special things that may have happened throughout the year. Let's look through my old 2005 calendar and see what kinds of blessings God gave me this last year. (Have some dates highlighted and talk about how God blessed you. Examples: Valentine's Day, God shows us His love; a newborn baby in the family; Fourth of July, God gave us a free country where we can worship Him; etc.)

God blesses us every day with so many wonderful things. All throughout the Bible God tells us of different celebrations where people are praising His name. Here are a few scripture verses for you to look up in the Bible and read together:



Luke 15:1-7
Luke 15:8-10
Luke 15:11-32



Let's all celebrate what God has done!



Celebration Song

(Words and Music by Mary Rice Hopkins)

(Big Steps for Little Feet CD)

(Kids Kamp CD, Shorter Version)

You may not have much rhythm
And you may not play the guitar
But everyone can celebrate
No matter who you are

If you have feet then you can dance
If you have a voice then sing
If you have hands then reach out
With the love that Jesus brings

Chorus

So come on sing along
Shake somebody's hand
Let's celebrate what God has done
With His family of friends

You may not play the violin
And you may not play the harp
But everyone can celebrate
No matter who you are

If you have a face then you can smile
If you have eyes that can see
Celebrating comes from inside
The hearts of you and me

(Repeat Chorus)

He gave us mountains that climb so high
And He gave us trees to bring shade
He gave us God's Word to look inside
The hearts of those He made

He gave us friends that help us through
And He gave us songs in the night
He gave us the clouds when the sky is not blue
He gave us the sun to bring light

(Repeat Chorus)

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Celebrate with Friends ~ Craft (1)

God gave us so many things to be thankful for and to celebrate.



At the art table have available materials for the children to make their own celebration hats. These can be worn at a special snack time today or sometime throughout the week.

2006 Celebration Calendar ~ Craft (2)

What a great way to start a new year then with a "Celebration Calendar."


This activity will take the children some time to do; make sure to allow them enough time to finish so they do not feel rushed.

Have Available the Following:

- 12 legal-size sheets of paper with a month template on the bottom of each sheet and blank spot on top. This will be for the children to draw their own picture.
- Markers / Crayons
- Stickers for special days (birthday, lost tooth, etc.)

Have the child draw their own picture for each month. Help the younger children with suggestions for events that happen each month. (ie., February: Valentine's Day / April: Spring / May: Flowers / June: Summer / Dec. Christmas / etc.)

Once the calendars are done, either connect the pages at the top with plastic rings or staple. Be sure to have a special sticker placed on each child's birthday.



January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Celebration Snack



There is no better way to celebrate what God has done than with a party! Use your hats that were made in the craft area and have a special celebration. Make a list of all the different things that you can celebrate. God has blessed us with friends, sun, rain, food, trees, a voice, eyes, and Christ's birth!

Snack Ideas:

Fruits and Veggies

Cupcakes

Ice Cream and Cookies

Yogurt / Jello

Fruit Punch



Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we want to thank You for all the blessings that You have given us throughout this last year. We want to celebrate all that You have done for us. We are looking forward to seeing how You will bless us this next year.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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Great Resources for Active Learners

By Mary Rice Hopkins

Featuring "Celebration Song"



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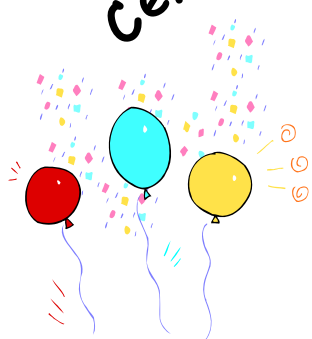


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With Mary Rice Hopkins'

Parable Praise Party Books



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