



Sermon-Based Study Guide

May 29, 2016

Missio Dei: Celebrate!
Ecclesiastes 3:4; Luke 15

CONNECT

1. Share with your group a memory of enthusiastic celebration. What was the occasion and why has the memory stayed with you; still bringing a smile to your face?

ENGAGE

Celebration Matters

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1,4

1. Why do we find it hard to 'pause with a purpose' and celebrate?
2. Were there experiences from your upbringing that stifled or looked down on times of celebration?
3. What makes it hard for you to celebrate today?

At the heart of celebration: a story, a song, a sign

Read Joshua 4:1-9

- What do we learn about the importance of celebration from this OT story.

Read Nehemiah 6:15-16, 12:27-47

- What do we learn about the 'ingredients' of celebration?

Read Luke 15:5, 9, 23-24, 32

- What do we learn about the joy factor of celebration from the stories Jesus told in Luke 15? (Specifically, read thoughtfully these verses:)
- According to Jesus, why is celebrating massively important and the appropriate thing to do at times?
- As church family, what are some of the consequences of thoughtful celebration?...for example...our understanding of the character and mission of God is clarified...what else?

APPLY

1. Back to you! is there something...a story of some sort you can celebrate and mark the moment in a meaningful way? What could that look like and who would you love to share the moment with?