

Welcome to a Year of Celebration!

Week 35: August 28-September 3, 2022

Celebrate The Wedding of the Ages (pt. 6)

This year, we are focusing on who God is and how we can celebrate him and the life that he offers to us. We will draw deeper into a relationship with the Lord through examining his nature and desire for personal intimacy with us as his people, and we are going to do so in such a fun way! We are going to journey in 2022 through practical ways to celebrate various holidays! We will look at many of your favorite celebrations: Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day and much more. We will explore the historic, liturgical holidays of the year, learn about the Jewish festivals of the Bible days, and even consider some of the celebrations of other religious faiths. I'm so glad you will be on this journey with us.

In this packet, you will find some ideas for you to grow closer to God, your family, and others. Nothing is required. It is all for fun and your personal enjoyment and growth. There are enough activities that you could do one or two per day during the week if you want. If you don't want to do something, skip it. If another idea comes to mind, do it. Watch for God's abundant goodness and celebrate it.

Come Join Us as We
CELEBRATE GOD!



**"They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness."**

Dr. Patrick Wilson

(Psalm 145:7)

2022



Video Devotional

Go to Patrick Wilson's YouTube page and watch the video devotional for this week: Celebrate Wedding of the Ages (part 6). Then, consider and discuss with your family/friends the following questions:

- If you could travel anywhere in the world where would you want to go?
- How is the honeymoon of God and his people more of a coming home than going away?
- Why do you think Jesus told the Sadducees that people will not be given in marriage in heaven?
- In your own words, describe what you think eternity with God will be like.
- How will you prioritize spending time with Jesus now?
- What stands out to you from the series, The Wedding of the Ages?

Craft: Time Capsule

1. Take the jar or canister and decorate it with your favorite stickers, paint, cut-outs, sequins, or other decorations. Make it your own, personal time capsule.
2. Ask family members or friends to write special letters to you and seal them up (without reading them) in the time capsule.
3. Purchase or use (nonperishable) items in your home that are unique to the culture and interests that you have right now.
4. Print out headlines or articles about current events.
5. Consider additional ways to identify the current times (i.e, go to the store and write the prices for common items, print off the top hit songs or hit movies for the year).
6. Seal the container with packing tape and put it away. Agree on a special occasion to open it (i.e., graduation, wedding).

Needed Supplies:

- A sealable jar or canister
- Decoration items
- Letters from family and friends
- News printouts
- Special items from our times



Food to Prepare

Going on a honeymoon can be time away together near home or halfway around the world. It is fun to travel to other places, but it is not always practical to do so. Yet, in this day and time, you can bring much of the world to you. One way that you can do that is to pick foods unique to particular locations. According to Martha Stewart, here are the top honeymoon destinations for food lovers. Consider picking one, researching it, and making a spread of food related to that destination.

1. Oahu, Hawaii: spam musubi, boneless chicken, mahi mahi, and pineapple
2. Valle de Guadalupe, Mexico: tuna carpaccio, stuffed quail, pappardelle with heirloom tomatoes, fresh produce, and wine
3. Bologna, Italy: Bolognese sauce, tortellini, tagliatelle, cheese, meats, and wine
4. St. Martin: bitterballen friend meatballs, lobster bisque, escargot, and filet de boeuf
5. Lima, Peru: alpaca meat, corn, potatoes, and beans

Too exotic for you? No worries. Just pick a place that you would one day want to visit, look up the best foods or restaurants there, and make your own home version. If you want to go to the extra effort, decorate your table in a way that represents the culture of the location for your family meal and enjoy sharing about what you've learned with others around the table.

Not So Newlywed Game

Have the kids get together and make up a list of questions for their parents. If an older sibling can help with ideas and writing them down, great. If not, bring in another person to help the kids come up with questions. They could be about how the couple met, their personal favorite things, or about specific experiences.

Divide the questions in half. Take one half of the cards and ask Dad the questions with Mom out of the room. Right down his answers. Then, with Dad out of the room, ask Mom the other half of the questions. Bring both parents together and ask Mom the questions asked of Dad and visa versa. See how many matches they can get.



Movies to Watch

If you are movie fan, pick out a favorite movie to watch alone or with family/friends. These are movies that celebrate a honeymoon. If you'd rather, just pick another great movie to watch together. Pop some popcorn, curl up on the couch, and enjoy the show!

Spin the Globe

If you have a globe, spin it and let each person stop the globe with one finger. If their finger lands on water, spin it again. If it lands on a country, that person is to research as much as they can about that country. Once each person has a country to research, see who can find out the most things about some or all of the following:

- Origin and Founding
- Wars and Struggles
- Leadership and Government
- Culture and Celebrations
- Food and Festivities
- Geography and Agriculture
- Economy and Business
- Religion and Faith
- Destinations and Tourism

Honeymoon Movies:

- Death on the Nile
 - Once Upon a Honeymoon
 - Honeymoon in Vegas
 - The Heartbreak Kid
 - Just Married
 - A Perfect Getaway
 - The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn (pt. 1)
 - Along Came Polly
 - Shrek 2
 - My Favorite Wife
 - Camille
 - Niagara
 - On Chesil Beach
 - The Prince and Me: A Royal Honeymoon
 - So I Married an Axe Murderer
 - Honeymoon Academy
 - Arsenic and Old Lace
 - Cinderella II
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Bible Study

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” (Philippians 3:20-21)

You have an earthly citizenship in the country you are a part of. It is what designates your national identity. With this citizenship comes opportunities and responsibilities.

Paul uses this same concept to speak about our eternal citizenship. We temporarily reside in this world, but eternally we will dwell in heaven with God. God’s kingdom has already begun in the hearts of his people, but it is not fully realized until Jesus returns to establish his kingdom in its fullness. At that time, which we’ve called the Wedding of the Ages, Jesus will establish his dominion over all things and “bring everything under his control.”

This includes us. We will live in the dominion of Jesus. He will reign over all things. He will transform our existence into glorious bodies that are eternal. We do not fully understand what this means because we’ve never experienced it. The closest example we have is Jesus’ resurrection body. Whatever this eternal state will be, it is beyond amazing! We will dwell with God in bodies that will not break down, hurt, get sick, or die. We will spend eternity with God in heaven. Oh what a day that will be!

Prayer Time

Sometimes we can be so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly good. While it is great to anticipate and celebrate our future home in heaven, God has left us here for a purpose—to extend his kingdom on earth and into the hearts of others around us.

Spend time this week praying about the values of heaven. Consider reading through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and writing down these values. Then, ask God to show you times and ways that throughout the week you can extend these heavenly values in your life and in the lives of others around you.

Try to pray throughout the day as God leads you in ways to extend his kingdom on earth.



Serve:

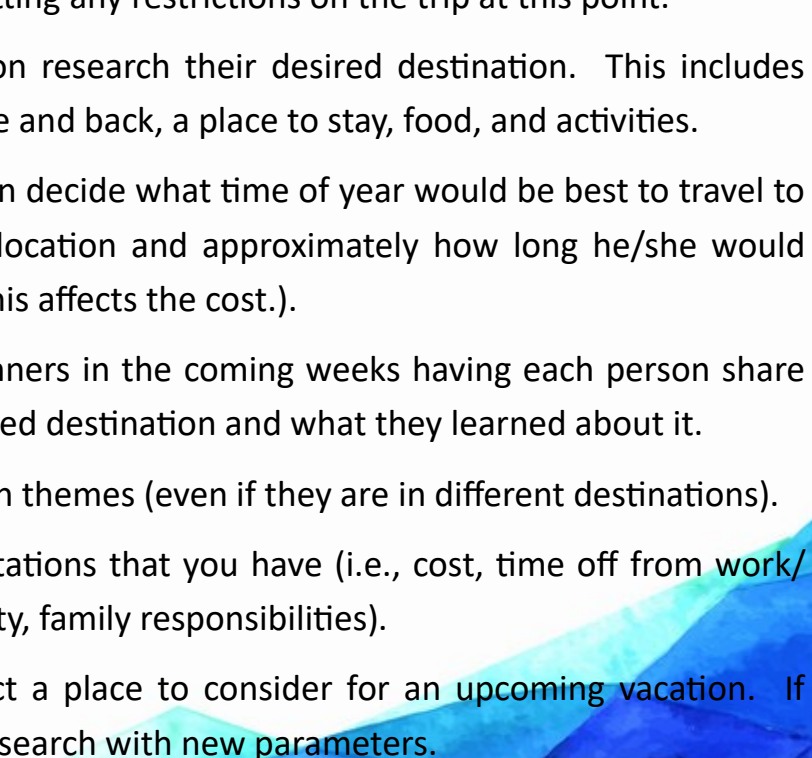
Ecological Footprint

If you go to the Global Footprint Network you can calculate your impact on the world we live in: <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/home/en>

Our global footprint is determined by what we eat, our homes, our cars, our disposal of trash, and how we live. You can do little things like turn off the lights when not using them or recycle your trash. Identify one step that you and your family can take to help preserve the world we live in. Try to commit to doing this one step for the rest of the calendar year together.

Connect: Plan a Vacation

As the fall season approaches and the school year gets underway, it can be hard to think ahead to a vacation. However, planning now for a trip over the holidays, spring break, or even next summer gives you the time to prepare financially and organizationally.

1. Ask everyone to think/dream about somewhere they would like to travel. Avoid putting any restrictions on the trip at this point.
 2. Have each person research their desired destination. This includes costs to get there and back, a place to stay, food, and activities.
 3. Have each person decide what time of year would be best to travel to his/her desired location and approximately how long he/she would desire to stay (This affects the cost.).
 4. Take turns at dinners in the coming weeks having each person share about their desired destination and what they learned about it.
 5. Look for common themes (even if they are in different destinations).
 6. Identify the limitations that you have (i.e., cost, time off from work/school, availability, family responsibilities).
 7. If possible, select a place to consider for an upcoming vacation. If not, reset and research with new parameters.
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Worship

Carve out some time to listen to worship music, hum or sing along. Here are some great songs to get you started. These songs are about God's eternal love for us. Look them up on YouTube if you don't have them in your music repertoire.

Pick your own songs and spend time worshipping and celebrating who God is to you and all the ways that he has blessed your life.

Forever Worship Songs:

- Hymn of Heaven
- Forever
- There is a Redeemer
- I Could Sing of Your Love Forever
- Forever Reign
- Your Love Never Fails
- Unending Love
- The Everlasting Love of God
- I Can Only Imagine
- Amazing Grace
- Revelation Song
- Mansion on a Hilltop
- There Will Be a Day
- When the Roll is Called Up Yonder

Challenge: Get a Passport

Even if you do not have immediate plans to travel, you might consider getting a passport. Sometimes it takes several weeks to get a passport, and it is good to have it handy when needed.

"Joy is not only a fruit of the Spirit of God, but a manifestation of the presence of the very real Jesus who dwells inside of us."

—William Paul Young