Welcome to a Year of Celebration!

Week 37: September 11-17, 2022

Celebrate Patriot Day

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.

Video Devotional

Go to Patrick Wilson's YouTube page and watch the video devotional for this week: Celebrate Patriot Day. Then, consider and discuss with your family/friends the following questions:

- What is something that is very painful in your life right now?
- In your own words, express how you wrestle with God being loving but allowing pain to occur in our lives?
- Why do you think we are so intentional to want to find someone to identify with the cause of events in our lives?
- What triggers do you have as a result of pain you've experienced?
- If you are raw and real, how do you feel about your pain?
- What steps should you take to work through your pain?
- How will you look to God for hope this week?

Craft: Confetti Eggs

1. Tap the top of a raw egg to create a small hole. Remove enough of the shell to create a hole big enough to pour the egg out. Use the egg for another recipe.
2. Mix water, vinegar, and food coloring to make dye (red, blue, etc.) and set egg shells in dye (maybe leave some white).
3. Buy confetti or make some with colored or tissue paper and a whole punch or scissors.
4. Once the eggs have dried, fill them with confetti (funnel is optional).
5. Cut tissue paper to cover the openings and glue or tape it in place. Throw eggs in the driveway for easier clean up.

Needed Supplies:

- Raw Eggs
- Spoon
- Small Bowls
- 1/4 c. Vinegar
- 1/2 c. Water
- Food Coloring
- Confetti
- Tissue Paper
- Funnel (optional)

Food to Prepare

The World Trade Center towers were a part of the New York skyline, so it would be fun to experiment with New York style foods this week. According to NYC: The Official Guide, here are some foods that NYC does right.

1. PIZZA: The crust should be crisp yet still flexible enough to fold lengthwise as you eat. The sauce should have a balance of sweetness and acidity, and the cheese should be of high-enough quality that it melts oozingly on the slice, pulling away in strings when you bite.

2. BAGEL: NYC boils and bakes its bagels to achieve a shiny finish and chewy consistency. They're generally lightly sweetened with malt or honey.

3. CHEESECAKE: New York cheesecake is known to be dense and creamy (with extra egg yolk in the cream cheese) served on a thin cookie or graham-cracker crust.

4. GENERAL TSO'S CHICKEN: Battered and friend chunks of chicken with chilies and broccoli is thickened with corn-starch sauce filled with sweet and spicy flavors.

5. EGG CREAM: Milk and seltzer in correct proportions (neither egg nor cream) makes for a frothy head at the top of the glass and best made with Fox's U-Bet chocolate syrup.

6. PASTRAMI AND CORNED BEEF: Cured in brine and seasoned with pepper, these tender cuts of meat are best eaten piled high on warm slices of rye bread with spicy mustard.

7. STREET MEAT: There are lots of choices: spiced chicken, chopped lamb, beef gyro, or pork souvlaki. These meats are typically served with rice and various sauces.

8. CRONUT: This is a flaky doughnut shell layered like a croissant with creamy filling and icing on top.

9. COFFEE REGULAR: Coffee with milk and sugar in NYC style.

10. BLACK AND WHITE COOKIE: This is a "drop cake" made with extra flour added to cupcake batter, baked and smothered in chocolate and vanilla frosting.

11. EGG AND CHEESE SANDWICH: Egg and cheese come on a variety of bread options.

Enjoy a taste of New York City!

Movies to Watch

If you are movie fan, pick out a favorite movie to watch alone or with family/friends. These movies deal with the events and after effects of the attack on September 11th. If you'd rather, just pick another great movie to watch together. Pop some popcorn, curl up on the couch, and enjoy the show!

September 11th Movies:

- Patriots Day
- Zero Dark Thirty
- United 93
- 12 Strong
- Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close
- Fahrenheit 9/11
- NYC Epicenters 9/11 —> 2021 1/2
- Chief
- Reign Over Me
- The Report
- The Reluctant Fundamentalist
- Worth

Nerf Gun Firefighting

Each person will need to have his/her own nerf gun. For fun, you can use paper and decorate the nerf guns to look more like fire hoses. Set up red plastic cups throughout the living room. The red cups represent fires that need to be put out. On "go," send everyone throughout the living room to put out as many fires as possible.

For older and more skilled "firefighters," you can have them stand in the center or a certain place in the room and tell them that the fires are too hot to get any closer. They have to shoot from range to hit their targets and safely put out the fires.

Another variation is to time them. Say that in order to save the city, they have to put out the fires within a certain amount of time.

Have fun and then talk about the importance of firefighters.

Bible Study

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

Life is really hard, and at times it is full of pain, grief, and anguish. Notice the words that Paul uses in the verse above: "hard pressed," "perplexed," "persecuted," and "struck down." These are painful words, and they describe our lives at times.

Yet, notice how Paul contrasts these words. He says that even though these horrible experiences are part of our reality, they are not the whole story. He speaks of us NOT being "crushed," "in despair," "abandoned," and "destroyed." This is an example of how the Bible holds two opposing truths in tension. Both are true at the same time. We are hard pressed but not crushed. We are perplexed but not in despair. We are persecuted but not abandoned. We are struck down but not destroyed.

We live in the now but not yet of God's kingdom. We live in this world but are not of this world. We experience tragedy, but we do so with God present with us. While he leaves us in a world wrought with personal choice that results in tears, sorrow, pain, and death, we have a future in a place where these are no longer a reality (Rev. 21:4). This is the hope that we cling to in the midst of our present suffering.

Prayer Time

Spend your prayer time this week really trying to focus on the spiritual realm. Evil exists in the world, and it invades our lives. The spirit of evil is all around us and knocking at the door of our will, seeking to impact our decisions.

Yet, we can withstand these temptations when we walk in the Spirit and stay attuned to his nudging in our souls. Putting on the armor of God and walking in the mind of Christ, we can be personally victorious and live with greater perception of the spiritual forces around us.

Pray that God will help you to have spiritual discernment to know his ways and to walk in them this week.

Serve: Give to the Never Forget Fund

Launched ahead of the milestone 20th anniversary of 9/11, The Never Forget Fund supports educational programs and helps preserve the 9/11 Memorial & Museum as a sacred place of remembrance, reflection, and learning for a new generation.

In 2021, programs it funded reached more than 2.5 million students, educators, professional audiences, and community members, including:

- 1 million participants in our annual Anniversary in the Schools webinar, from every state, six U.S. territories, and 48 countries
- 1.5 million people at libraries, schools, and community centers who experienced our downloadable poster exhibition
- 15,000 educators through professional development opportunities, special events, and partnerships
- 3,000 participants in custom professional programs for law enforcement, intelligence, military, and first response agencies

For millions born after 2001, 9/11 is not a memory lived but history learned. The 9/11 Memorial & Museum educates students, trains teachers, and engages communities to ensure that young people understand the ongoing repercussions of the attacks. The Never Forget Fund ensures our key programs, which are more relevant than ever, reach the widest possible audience with the stories of the unity, resilience, and hope that defined our collective response.

To donate, go to: https://secure.everyaction.com/Yae2bxY0H0yK8TsfuRFBpw2/

Visit a Fire or Police Station

Be sure to call ahead and request permission to visit. Schedule a time that is amenable. Consider writing a thank you or baking cookies to take as an expression of appreciation.

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 trusting God when disaster strikes. 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.

Comfort Worship Songs:

- Graves Into Gardens
- I Am Not Alone
- Peace Be Still
- Cry Out to Jesus
- It is Well With My Soul
- I Will Rise
- Even If
- He is With You
- I Can Only Imagine
- Just Be Held
- Give Me Jesus
- God is In This Story
- I Will Carry You
- He Will Hold Me Fast
- There Will Be a Day
- Held
- Be Still My Soul

Challenge: Write Your Story

If you were alive on September 11, 2001, journal about your experiences that day. Write about how you heard, what you felt, and what you did before, during, and after the attacks. Tell how your life was impacted by these events. Then, share you story with a family member or friend.

"If we learn nothing else from this tragedy, we learn that life is short and there is no time for hate." —Sandy Dahl, wife of Flight 93 Pilot