

REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

2.13

Just for Parents Feb 26, 2017

Alarm. Snooze. Alarm. Snooze. Shower. Dress and feed the kids. Car keys, lunch, cell phone. "Where's my cell phone?" Traffic. Meetings. Traffic. Car pool. Gym. Dinner—take out. Homework. Practice. Put the kids to bed. Clean up. Late night TV. Sleep—sort of.

If you could bottle a typical day, I would venture to say that this would be the label on the back of many of your bottles. As you are preparing to create the space for a wonderful time of remembrance and celebration with your children, it is important that you yourself take some time away and remember and celebrate the most simple and yet profound truth—God loves you. Take some time, whether it is an entire day or just a few hours one morning, to personally celebrate the love of your heavenly Father.

One way to remember and celebrate God's love is to take a Sabbath—to rest.

Take a break from work. Anything you consider to be work, stop during this time. Go for a leisurely walk, read a book, listen to music—do whatever it is that fills your soul and does not resemble work in any way. As you take a Sabbath, ponder the love of God. Think about how He has uniquely created you, provided for you, and been faithful to you. Breathe deeply and just be present in this moment with your God and His love.

Blessing

Open a Bible and read Psalm 107:15:

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unending love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

Prayer

(Insert child's name), give thanks to the Lord because He loves you and takes care of you.



God Loves Me

Did You Know ...

Several times a year, the Israelites gathered together for a festival to remember and celebrate God.

God had done for His people and to **celebrate** His goodness. They were times for the entire faith community to gather together without the burden of work to simply worship and celebrate. During the feasts, the Israelites ate, danced, sang, played instruments, prayed, and offered sacrifices to God.

In Leviticus 23, the Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed feasts ... which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.'" These seven festivals are: Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Festival of First Fruits, Feast of Harvest, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths). In addition, the Israelites would gather weekly to celebrate the Sabbath. These were times to **remember** what

The **Feast of Passover** was fulfilled by the death of the Messiah; the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** was fulfilled by His sinless sacrifice; and the **Festival of First Fruits** was fulfilled by the resurrection of the Messiah. **The Feast of Harvest** began with a great harvest of three thousand souls by the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, who continues to harvest souls today. **The Feast of Trumpets** will announce Christ's return; **the Day of Atonement** will usher in His judgment of the nations; and finally, **the Feast of Tabernacles** begins the journey to our new home in a new heaven and new earth.



Tot Talk

God Loves Me

Your child will be able to associate a heart as a sign of love. Make a special treat in the shape of a heart—cookies, rice cereal treats, her favorite sandwich, even pizza can be easily shaped into a heart.

Ask your child if he knows who loves him. As he begins sharing his list, guide him to remember how much God loves him. Remind him of all the ways God shows love to your family. Share with him that God created him and takes care of him. Then give him his treat and tell him, "Today is a special day. It is a day to remember and celebrate God's love for us."