



merry
CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

WITH A

BIRTHDAY

PARTY

FOR JESUS!



MEREDITH LUDWIG CURTIS

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Christmas is a Birthday

"How did you know?" I asked my Aunt Mimi as I unwrapped Malibu Barbie. We were celebrating my birthday, and she had come all the way from Orlando, Florida to see me. Everyone in the room smiled. They all knew I loved Barbies.

Then came my favorite foods for dinner: fried chicken, macaroni-n-cheese, and fresh green beans. Best of all, there was an ice cream cake for dessert.

As I crawled into bed that night, I couldn't stop smiling. It had been a perfect birthday. My parents, my sister, my friends, and my family had made me feel special and loved. The day had been all about me!

I love birthdays, especially recreating for others the magical days my mother and father created for me growing up. I enjoy fixing favorite dishes, buying special gifts, and planning special moments that are exactly what the birthday boy or girl wants.



So, as we approach Christmas again this year, I want to keep in mind that Christmas is a birthday. Not just any birthday; Christmas is a King's birthday.

How do people celebrate a king's birthday?

King's Day in the Netherlands



In the Netherlands, King's Day, celebrated on King Willem-Alexander's birthday, is a national holiday. Most stores close and people celebrate. There are parties, parades, concerts, and all kinds of festivities. The king and his family join the people in their celebrating. Since the king is a member of the House of Orange, everyone wears orange and waves orange flags. Some people even wear orange wigs.



Official Royal Birthday in the UK

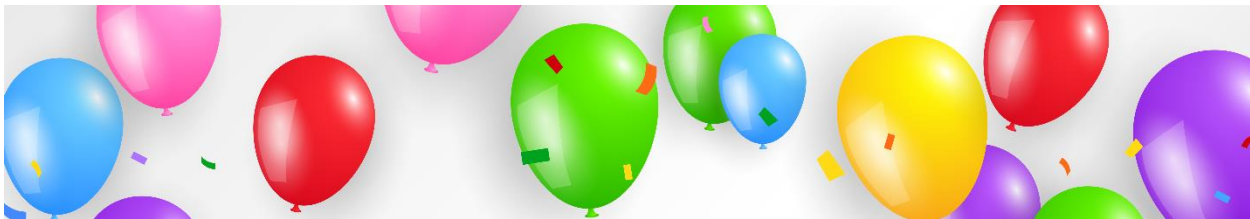


In the United Kingdom, the King's Official Birthday is celebrated the second Saturday in June. Until 1936, it was celebrated on the reigning king or queen's official birthday, but when George V died, it was decided to make the official celebration the second Saturday in June. His majesty's birthday is celebrated with a military parade (Trooping the Colour), gun salutes, and a host of festivities. King Charles and his family walk around outside of the palace greeting well-wishes. He and his entire family also appear on the balcony at Buckingham Palace and the Royal Air Force flies overhead.

Celebrating a Royal Birthday

In the Netherlands and England, the people want their monarch to know they are loved, admired, appreciated, and celebrated. It's a lovely time to be had by all.

With that in mind, let's celebrate Christmas as a birthday! Here are some ways to keep the birthday person JESUS in mind as we plan celebrations that He enjoys and show him adoration and honor.



Preparations

God the Father prepared for the first Christmas, the original birthday of the King of Kings. Lining up empires and languages, He chose the perfect time for His Son to be born. Then he left little clues about Jesus' birth through prophetic words and pictures of Christ for 4,000 years.



You see from Genesis to Revelation; the Bible reveals Jesus as Creator/Redeemer/King.

God planned the birth party, including who would sing and who would be the guests. He had the angel choirs sing and had both domestic and foreign visitors. The shepherds were local, but the wise men traveled a long distance to see the baby.

If God went to so much trouble preparing for His initial birth, then shouldn't we do the same in preparing for His annual birthday celebration?

God the Father commemorates special events like Passover or the stones that commemorate crossing the Jordan River.

When we celebrate Jesus' birthday, do we remember the Passover meal or the memorial stones near the Jordan River? The Lords often uses symbolism and memorials to help us remember. Traditions that represent or teach Jesus and His Salvation are a great way to give the Birthday King what He wants.

What will draw our hearts and our family's hearts closer to Jesus this holiday season? Choose the best over the good and mediocre. Schedule in time for rest and reflection.

What Jesus Wants

One thing we love to do on birthdays is play the Encouragement Game.

Everyone goes around and shares things they appreciate about the birthday person. It is often a tearful time as the birthday person is blessed and others realize how much he or she means to them.

We can do that with Jesus at Christmas. Think of all the things we appreciate about Jesus, starting with His help at Creation.

“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16 NASB).

Jesus wants our worship each day, so we know that during the Christmas season, He wants our worship.

What else does Jesus want for His birthday.

Well, we know from His Word that He appreciates:

- Worship from grateful sincere hearts
- Marriages that are faithful and committed
- Families that love one another
- Serving the Poor, Needy, those in Jail as if we were serving Him
- Celebrations (e.g. in Nehemiah, He commands the Israelites to celebrate with feasting and sweet drinks)
- Prayer
- Studying, Reading, Memorizing, & Meditating on His Word
- Enjoyment for all He has given us
- Generosity with a cheerful heart



Let's Throw a Party

Is Jesus, the birthday person, the focus of all our preparations or is he on the periphery?

If Jesus is the focus of your celebration, then let's celebrate! Let's throw a party!

Here are some Christ-centered ways to honor Jesus and celebrate His birthday:

Happy Birthday to You

We always put candles in our Christmas morning cinnamon rolls and sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

Purchase Gifts for Baby Jesus

We love to purchase baby blankets, clothing, rattles, diapers, wipes, and other baby stuff for a baby boy. Then we donate everything to a Crisis Pregnancy Center.

Time Set Aside for Worship

We love to play worship music and worship together in the family room. Of course, at Christmastime, we play Christmas worship music.

Romantic Lights

Mike and I love to snuggle together with all the lights off except the Christmas tree lights. It is romantic and soothing, giving us an opportunity to step away from busyness and just relax together.

Family Devotions

Our Curtis Family Christmas Devotions were written back in 1991, and we still use them! We love them! They have Scripture to read, questions to discuss, and carols to sing. They have brought deep meaning to the Christmas story over the years covering all the little details, angel appearing to Mary, Elizabeth & Zachariah, Mary's Song, Zacariah's Song, Joseph's Dream, Trip to Bethlehem, Birth, Shepherds, Wise Men, Anna, Simeon, and Flight to Egypt.

Making Family Memories

God our precious Heavenly Father created the family to reflect His Forever Family. Creating memories together helps to cement that bond of love, making it easier to reflect the love of Jesus to a dying world.

Birthday Party for Jesus

When the children were younger, we would have a birthday party for Jesus, inviting friends to join the festivities.

The bottom line is that all our festivities are part of a grand Birthday Celebration for Jesus! It's all about Him after all and we take that seriously. We sit in quiet wonder and rejoice in glorious joy. After all, it's the birthday of a King!

Have Your Own Birthday Party for Jesus!

You can throw a birthday party for Jesus at home or at church. Children love this!

Who to Invite

This can be a family party, or you can invite friends. Jesus told His disciples when they threw a party to include those who would be unable to repay your kindness.

Talk to your children and let them help you plan the festivities, including who to invite. Consider including neighbors and other children who don't know Jesus yet.



Invitations

You can purchase party invitations or make your own by hand or on the computer.

Make sure to include the date, time, and location of the party. We've held all our parties at home or church, but a park would make a nice venue, too.

Even though you send invitations, it is best to follow up with a reminder text a day or two before the party.

Decorations



Red and green balloons and streamers are festive and signal that it's a birthday party.

Putting a nativity scene or town of Bethlehem display in a prominent place is another way to use décor to communicate the message of Christmas.

Candles, twinkle lights, and Christmas knick-knacks all add to the festive mood – do what is comfortable for you.



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

Tell the Story

Tell the Christmas story at your Birthday Party for Jesus. After all, this is the Good News of not only Christmas, but our entire Christian lives.

Matthew 2 and Luke 2 contain the Christmas stories and you can read straight from Scripture.

You can read the Christmas story from a Bible storybook.

You can tell the story with puppets or a flannelgraph board.

Children can put on costumes and act the story out.

After you tell the story, share the Gospel message. (there is a simple one on my website: <https://www.powerlineprod.com/about/the-good-news/>) and invite anyone who would be willing to surrender their hearts and lives to Jesus to receive His FREE gift of eternal life.

Afterward, sing a few Christmas carols. Children love to sing, especially with motions. (I just make up motions). Christmas carols continue to tell the story of our Savior's birth.

- *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!*
- *Joy to the World!*
- *Little Town of Bethlehem*
- *Come All Ye Faithful*
- *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*
- *Silent Night*



Games

Our favorite game to play is “Pin the Tail on Mary’s Donkey.” All you need to do is pick up a “Pin the Tail on the Donkey” game at a party store.

Another fun game is the Christmas Motion Game. Everyone sits in a circle and Mom or Dad tells the Christmas story. Here’s the catch. Certain words have certain motions.

- Angel – flap your arms like wings
- Shepherd – pretend to hold a shepherd’s crook
- Jesus or Baby – pretend to rock a little baby in your arms
- Star – point to sky
- Mary – make a motion on your stomach like its big (Pregnant)
- King (or Wise Men) – use both hands to make a pretend crown on your head
- Sheep – kneel on the ground and say “Baa- Baa”

This is hilarious fun! 😊 😊



Finally, make your guests British Christmas Crackers. You’ll need a toilet paper roll or paper towel roll, candies, little toys, and a pretend ring for one of the poppers. Slip it into one cracker. Everyone sits around in a circle and when someone yells, “Merry Christmas,” everyone breaks their cracker. The winner has the ring inside.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

Crafts

Craft ideas abound on the internet, but I'll share a few of my favorites.

- Guests make an ornament to take home and hang on their own Christmas tree.
- Decorate a small gingerbread house or sugar cookie with frosting and candies.
- Fill a plastic ornament with shredded photo and add a picture of baby Jesus.
- Have the guests make their own British Christmas cracker.



Party Favors

Grab some white lunch bags from WalMart or order online. Children can decorate the bags with markers and stickers as a craft or you can do it yourself.

Fill the bag with a candy cane and some Christmas stickers. The children can put their craft and / or decorated treat (gingerbread house or Christmas cookie).



Gifts for Jesus

Children can bring wrapped gifts for a baby boy and these can be donated to a Crisis Pregnancy Center.



Pinata

Our brothers and sisters in Mexico celebrate Christmas with lots of traditions and festivities. One of my favorites is the pinata.

You can purchase a Christmas pinata from a party store. Fill it with candy and hang it from a sturdy tree. Children line up and take turns swatting at it so that it breaks and all the candy spills out.

This is a great way to end the party!



Food

Of course, we have to have a birthday cake with candles for Jesus. The kids can blow them out.

If a cake sounds too messy, consider cupcakes. I used to make cupcakes in flat-bottomed ice cream cones. The stand up on a tray and are less messy than cupcakes.

Other food and drink ideas:

- Red & Green Papper Slices
- Tortilla Chips with Salsa
- Hot Chocolate
- Red or Green Fruit Punch
- Christmas Cookies
- Cheese Sticks
- Crackers
- Celery Stuffed with Peanut Butter or Almond Butter or Cream Cheese



Inviting the Lost to the Birthday Party

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He is concerned about the lost and broken. At Christmas, we have the real message of hope. It's not what Santa can bring you, but what Jesus has accomplished for you through His cross and resurrection!

Think of creative ways to tell people about Jesus.

Go Christmas caroling and invite neighbors to church.

Create little tracts that share the Gospel message.

Share the Gospel of Hope on Facebook, in person, or through emails. However, you do it, share the Gospel with those who need to hear it.

Visit hospitals, homeless shelters and nursing homes at Christmas time and share the Gospel message through word and song.

Your family can be like the shepherds who heard the angels sing and saw the Baby Jesus. Then they told everyone who would listen the Good News about the Savior born in Bethlehem.

This Christmas, keep your eyes on Jesus and remember that Christmas is a birthday. This will make your Christmas celebrations forever to be more festive and joyous than you could ever imagine.



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Powerline Productions



Powerline Productions exists to serve you! We have resources to help you grow in your relationship with Jesus, experience joy and success in your homeschooling journey, and fulfill the Great Commission with your family in your home, church, and community. We offer curriculum, unit studies, high school classes, Bible studies, novels, timelines, and cookbooks just for you!

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Celebrate Christmas with Us!

