WHEN THE DESERT BLOOMS
THE DISCIPLINE OF CELEBRATION

The desert and the dry land will rejoice; the desert will celebrate and blossom. Like crocuses, it will burst into bloom, and rejoice with gladness and shouts of joy. (Isaiah 35:1-2 ISV)

WHAT IS THE DISCIPLINE OF CELEBRATION?

Celebration is one of Scripture's oldest spiritual rhythms, woven into the lives of God's people from the very beginning. Throughout the Old Testament, God invited His people to rejoice—to remember His faithfulness through feasts, festivals, songs, and shared meals. These practices were not dependent on ideal circumstances; many arose out of wilderness wandering, waiting, uncertainty, and grief. Yet celebration became a way for God's people to embody hope, reminding one another that even in barren seasons, God is still at work, still present, still faithful.

ARE YOU READY TO CELEBRATE?

Celebration doesn't deny suffering, dismiss grief, or minimize pain. Instead, **it is an act of courage.** It is choosing to thank God *in* our circumstances rather than waiting for them to change.

Each month, choose three small, purposeful actions to deepen your awareness of God's goodness. Use the boxes to record your monthly steps all year. Let the ideas below be a springboard to courageously celebrating the little things every day.

- Celebrate by reading our *Daily Dose* and *Posts to Ponder*. Brighten your day by becoming a subscriber and inviting a friend.
- Try a new prayer practice with someone you love. *Exploring Prayer* (chronic-joy.org/prayer) has dozens of resources to celebrate the gifts of grace, answered prayers, and quiet reminders of God at work.
- Become a monthly $6 donor and celebrate the work God is doing in and through Chronic Joy all year.
- Celebrate a birthday or anniversary with unique gifts: Chronic Joy books, flat cards, or *Gifts for the Soul*. (shop.chronic-joy.org)
- Send a #PenToPaper note to a loved one celebrating the ordinary Tuesdays, changes of seasons, and special occasions.
- Celebrate how Chronic Joy has blessed you by becoming a *Friend-Raiser* and telling others. Learn more: chronic-joy.org/friend-raising.
- Share a prayer request, celebrate with praises, and pray for others (chronic-joy.org/prayer-requests).

Visit **chronic-joy.org** for more resources.

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SMALL STEPS TOWARD DEEP JOY

Why small steps? Because each step (a shared post, a handwritten note, a praise, or a monthly gift)cultivates an awareness of God's rich and steady goodness, bolsters our courage muscle, and sparks celebration in our hearts. Write your three steps in the monthly boxes below and watch the joy of the Lord grow deep and wide.

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER

BONUS: To help with accountability, find a Celebration Buddy with whom you exchange (regular) texts, sharing moments you're choosing to celebrate.

chronic-joy.org/printables

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