

## Things to Celebrate at Home in May



Feeling bored? Here is a list of ideas of ways you can celebrate in May, while at home. You can make the celebration as elaborate or as simple as you want. Each day includes a Scripture passage that relates to the day's celebration.

### May 1 – May Day

In many ancient calendars, May 1 was the first day of summer. This was a cause for celebration. One of the more popular rituals was harvesting flowers and giving them to neighbors and strangers in cone-shaped baskets. The current tradition is observed by hanging a cone-shaped basket full of flowers or other gifts on the outside doorknob, then knocking or ringing the doorbell and running away.

Go outside and enjoy the beautiful spring flowers that are in your neighborhood. If you have flowers in your yard, pick some and leave them on a neighbor's doorstep. Don't have flowers? Try your hand at drawing flowers and make a card to leave on a neighbor's doorstep or mail it to a friend you haven't seen in a while.

Read Matthew 6:25-34 and Luke 12:22-31 about how God cares for the flowers and He will care for you too!

*Wishing You...*



## Happy Fitness Day

### May 2 – National Fitness Day (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May)

Celebrate by going for a walk in your neighborhood. Wave and smile at the people you see. Pray for your neighbors as you walk. If you hear a siren, pray for those who are impacted by whatever the emergency is. Can't go outside? Turn on some music and dance.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How is the Christian life like a race?



### **May 3 – National Two Different Colored Shoes Day**

Each year on May 3 it is National Two Different Colored Shoes Day. This is a day to stand out from the other 364 days of the year. Celebrate your uniqueness and put it on display on May 3rd. Wear two different colored shoes and see where they take you (probably just around your house). Most of us will be in our homes, so nobody we will see how silly we look.

Read Isaiah 52:7 and Romans 10:14-15. Do you have beautiful feet according to these verses?

### **May 4 – National Star Wars Day and National Weather Observers Day**

“May the Fourth Be with You” is a play on the repeated phrase in the movies “May the Force Be with You.” If you enjoy Star Wars, watch one of the movies. If Star Wars isn’t for you, take the time to look up at the stars in the night sky.

Take time to notice the weather. If possible, enjoy the weather outdoors. If it is raining, perhaps go outside and sing in the rain. Or after the rain, go enjoy yourself by splashing in some puddles.

God is Lord over all creation – the stars and the weather. Read Psalm 147.

### **May 5 – Cinco de Mayo & National Teacher Appreciation Day**

Today, in the United States, Cinco de Mayo is observed annually on May 5 as a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride. Make a Mexican dish for dinner tonight!



National Teacher Appreciation Day is celebrated on the Tuesday of the first full week in May. Who was your favorite teacher when you were a kid? If you are now homeschooling your kids or grandkids because they aren’t in school, you will have a new appreciation for teachers. Send a note or email to your kids’ teacher(s) thanking them. Pray for all the teachers. While appreciating teachers, think also of the teachers at the corps – Sunday school, Bible study, your Corps Officer/Pastor. Perhaps give them a call or send them a note and thank them for always being prepared to teach God’s Word.

Read Psalm 25:8-12. How does God instruct us?

### **May 6 – National Nurses Day & National Beverage Day**

Pray for the nurses (and doctors). If you know a nurse personally, send him or her a thank you card telling them how much they are appreciated.

Read Matthew 9:9-13 to read about Jesus being our Great Physician.

National Beverage Day is a day to sit back, relax and enjoy your favorite beverage. Perhaps try a new beverage. Check out a recipe for a new fruit smoothie drink.

### **May 7 – National Day of Prayer**

The National Day of Prayer is observed annually on the first Thursday in May. This day of observance, designated by the United States Congress, asks people “to turn to God in prayer and meditation.” The modern law formalizing the annual National Day of Prayer observance was enacted in 1952 and each year since, the President of the United States has signed a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.



Read 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Psalm 33:12-22, and then spend some extra time in prayer today. Who will you pray for today? Instead of just praying for the person, give them a call, and pray for them over the phone.

### **May 8 – National Have a Coke Day**

Each year on May 8, millions of people across the country celebrate National Have a Coke Day. As of 2013, Coke products can be found in over 200 countries around the world as consumers down more than 1.8 billion company beverage servings each day. Check out the internet for recipes using Coca-Cola.

Read John 4:1-24, 39-42 and read about the refreshing spiritual water Jesus offers (it is way better than Coca-Cola).

### **May 9 – Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Day**

The second Saturday in May is the largest one-day food drive in the nation. How is it possible? It occurs in more than 10,000 cities and towns, and the food is collected by those men and women carrying our mail across the country. As they deliver packages, bills and postcards, you get to do your part by filling their mailbag with non-perishable food donations. If they aren't doing this because of COVID-19, perhaps think about donating food to the local Salvation Army corps. Be sure to also pray for the mail carriers and delivery persons who are keeping you connected to the outside world.

Read John 6:1-15 about when Jesus miraculously fed a hungry crowd.

## May 10 – Mother’s Day & National Clean Up Your Room Day

What do you appreciate about your mother? If she is still alive, tell her. If you are a mom, what do you appreciate about being a mom? Let your kids know.



Read about a Bible mom. Check out our website for a Bible study on Jochebed (Moses’ mom) <https://usw-womensministries.org/jochebed-a-courageous-and-astute-mother/>

and a devotional about a less famous mom in the Bible, Rizpah <https://usw-womensministries.org/rizpah-a-mothers-heroic-love/>.

National Clean Up Your Room Day isn’t just for kids to clean their rooms. It is about picking up, straightening up and cleaning up. It is a day to do some serious spring cleaning and make your surroundings more pleasant. Clean out a cluttered closet and donate or throw away those things you are not using. Help your children make their beds, clean their rooms and eliminate the toys and clothing they have outgrown.

## May 11-17 - NATIONAL SALVATION ARMY WEEK – Second Full Week

Recognizing all the good that comes when volunteers and donors come together to benefit those in need, National Salvation Army Week is a celebration that spans more than six decades. The Salvation Army’s international and humanitarian movement provides disaster relief and services around the world. Pray for and thank all the people at the local Salvation Army for all they are doing to help those in need. If possible, volunteer at The Salvation Army this week.



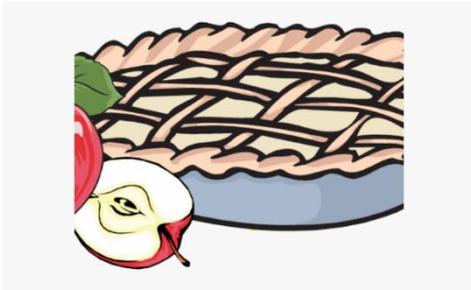
The Salvation Army’s motto is doing the most good. Read Galatians 6:9-10 and then decide how you can do the most good to someone today.

## May 12 – National Limerick Day

National Limerick Day celebrates the birthday of English artist, illustrator, author and poet Edward Lear (May 12, 1812 – Jan. 29, 1888), who is known mostly for his literary nonsense in poetry, prose and limericks. National Limerick Day also celebrates the limerick poem, which is a very short, humorous, nonsense poem. Within a limerick, there are five lines. The first two lines rhyme with the fifth line and the third- and fourth-line rhyme together. Celebrate by sitting down and writing a few limericks of your own

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon are the poetic books. Two of these books – Song of Solomon and Psalms – are written entirely in poetic form. Enjoy reading some of God’s poetry by reading your favorite Psalm. Need ideas? Read Psalm 1, 23 and 150.

### **May 13 - National Apple Pie Day & National Fruit Cocktail Day**



Celebrate by baking an apple pie. If you don't want to enjoy an apple pie, perhaps have some fruit cocktail instead.

Read Psalm 17:1-8; make it your prayer. Also read Galatians 5:22-23 and ask God to show you what fruit of His Spirit is lacking in your life.

### **May 14 - National Dance Like a Chicken Day!**

This day entertains from start to finish! Everyone has probably danced the "Chicken Dance" at least once in their lifetime. Celebrate by doing the chicken dance at home. Grab your family and have fun. If you are brave post pictures/videos to social media.

Read Psalm 30:11-12, Psalm 149:3-4 and Ecclesiastes 3:4. Yes, dancing is biblical! 😊 Get up and dance like a chicken or any other way.

### **May 15 - National Chocolate Chip Day**

Have you ever wondered if an ingredient would work in a recipe? It is hard to imagine where we would be without the invention of chocolate chips. In 1937, Ruth Graves Wakefield of Whitman Massachusetts must have been curious what a little bit of chocolate would add to her cookies. While working at the Toll House Inn, she added cut-up chunks of semi-sweet Nestle chocolate bar to a cookie recipe. The cookies were a huge success and in 1939 Wakefield signed an agreement with Nestle to add her recipe to the chocolate bar's packaging. In exchange for the recipe, Wakefield received a lifetime supply of chocolate. The Nestle brand Toll House cookies were named for the Inn. The imagination is the only thing limiting what recipes chocolate can be used in. Had Ruth Graves Wakefield never wondered what a few chopped up chunks of chocolate would be like in her baking, we wouldn't have chocolate chip cookies.

There aren't mistakes with God. He can use everything for His good. Read Romans 8:28-30.



### **May 16 - Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day**

Our neighbor's are precious, and it is important to show them gratitude at every opportunity. This day is a reminder that we are all neighbors, and that we should treat each other with love and respect. Celebrate National Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day by displaying acts of kindness to your neighbors, friends and anyone who crosses in your path.

Read Luke 10:25-37 for what Jesus says about being a neighbor.

### **May 17 – National Graduation Tassel Day**

National Graduation Tassel Day celebrates the accomplishments of every graduate! This year graduations are all up in the air with social distancing. Will there be graduation ceremonies, or will everyone simply receive their diplomas in the mail? Pray for High School and College graduates that you know. Pray also for those students who are graduating from elementary school to middle school, middle school to high school.



Celebrate also by remembering your own graduation day whether from High School or college. Dig out pictures if you can. Do you still have your tassel?

Read Proverbs 4, which is great wisdom to guide our path (for all of us – not just graduates).

### **May 18 – National Visit Your Relatives Day**

National Visit Your Relatives Day reminds us to stop for a moment, take some much-needed time and visit those relatives we care about and have not seen for a while. A visit can be a phone call or a face-to-face live chat on the computer.



### **May 19 – National Devil's Food Cake Day**

Devil's Food cake is a heavenly chocolate cake. It differs from a regular chocolate cake by its darker color and tends to be more moist and airy. Devil's Food cake recipes use hot or boiling water as the primary liquid. Cocoa is typically utilized in the batter, as opposed to chocolate, and coffee can be added for a distinctive flavor. A delicious chocolate frosting usually accompanies the cake. Celebrate by enjoying some devil's food cake.

Read Psalm 19:10 and Psalm 119:103. What is sweeter than honey (or chocolate)?

### **May 20 – National Be a Millionaire Day**

Very few of us haven't imagined what it would be like to be a millionaire. If you happen to be one of the few, National Be a Millionaire Day is for you. And for those of us who like to imagine spending millions. National Be a Millionaire Day is also a day to start taking steps to turn dreams into reality by making plans for your future.

Read Luke 12:13-21 for what Jesus taught about the accumulating of wealth.

### **May 21 – National Waitstaff Day**

This day was created to show appreciation to and thank all waitstaff for making our dining experiences enjoyable ones. Pray for all the waitstaff who have been laid off their jobs while restaurants are closed for dining. Do you know a restaurant employee? Pray for them. Send them a card or note of encouragement. When restaurants re-open, be sure to tip your waitstaff!

Read John 13:1-17 and see how Jesus demonstrated a servant's heart. Who can you serve today?

### **May 22 – National Solitaire Day**

What a perfect game to celebrate while we hunker down at home, for many of us, alone. This card game that has been around for more than 200 years. Also known as Klondike, the classic version of the game uses a standard deck of 52 playing cards. The object of the game is to clear the board by creating a stack of cards from low to high in each suit. If the player completes each suit, the game of Solitaire is won. Play solitaire either on your computer, phone or with actual cards. Solitaire is a game you play alone. Being at home you might be feeling alone and lonely. Read these verses to remind you that you are never alone: Deuteronomy 31:6, 8, Joshua 1:5, 9; Psalm 27:10, Psalm 94:14, Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 28:20, John 14:18.

### **May 23 – National Lucky Penny Day**

*"See a penny, pick it up... All day long you'll have good luck."*

When you are out and about, look on the ground for pennies. It just might be your lucky day! Years ago, a penny was able to buy something. Today, due to inflation, the penny does not buy much of anything. How many pennies can you find in your house? Roll all your pennies in wrappers. When the banks reopen deposit all your pennies. You will be surprised at how much it adds up to.



As Christians, we don't believe in luck. Luck is left up to chance or coincidence. Our life is not a matter of luck, but of a good God who is in control. Read the book of Ruth (it is only 4 chapters) and see how many times you notice things that appear to be "coincidences" but are actually God orchestrating things for His purpose.

### **May 24 – National Scavenger Hunt Day**

A scavenger hunt is a game where teams are challenged to "scavenge" for a list of odd items. Some scavenger hunts add riddles to each item increasing the difficulty of the game. Go on a good old-fashioned scavenger hunt. There are home scavenger hunts available on-line. Need ideas? Choose a color and see how many things you can find of that color. This would work great as you take a walk in the neighborhood. How about an A-Z scavenger hunt? Can you find something in your home that begins with each letter of the alphabet? Do a Bible scavenger hunt! Pick a Bible word and search out all the references to that word (use a concordance or an on-line Bible tool such as <https://www.biblegateway.com/>). Read the following verses about seeking God: 1 Chronicles 16:11, Psalm 9:10, Psalm 34:4, Psalm 37:4, Psalm 63:1, Isaiah 55:6, Jeremiah 29:13, Matthew 7:7, Luke 19:10, Hebrews 11:10.



### **May 25 – Memorial Day**

Memorial Day, a United States Federal holiday, is observed each year on the last Monday in May. This day is in honor and remembrance of all men and woman who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Memorial Day is also a day to remember all loved ones that have passed away. Think about friends and families who have served in the armed services. Remember those who gave their life. Pray for those who are alive and actively serving.

Read Psalm 136. This is a psalm of remembrance of what God had done for the people of Israel. What is your song of remembrance? What has God done in your life personally (perhaps during this time of quarantine and COVID-19 crisis) that you can thank Him for?

### **May 26 – National Paper Airplane Day**

Flying paper planes is an inexpensive, healthy, and stimulating form of entertainment. So, put down your smartphones and get outside for some primitive fun – even if for only a few hours one day of the year. Challenge those in your home to see whose paper airplane can fly the farthest.

The Bible doesn't talk about planes, but it does talk about soaring. Read Isaiah 40:27-31.

### **May 27 – National Cellophane Tape Day & Senior Health and Fitness Day**

It is hard to imagine where we would be without this invention. How would we wrap our Christmas and birthday gifts? This everyday household and office item, which is also known as invisible tape or Scotch Tape, was invented by Richard Gurley Drew (June 22, 1899 – December 14, 1980). Using any wrapping paper, you have on hand and cellophane tape, what can you create?

No mention of tape in the Bible, but Proverbs 18:24b says that ***there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*** Jesus is with us always and He will never leave us. Read the following verses that speak of the Lord's presence sticking with us: Deuteronomy 31:8, Isaiah 43:1-2, Matthew 28:20, John 14:18, Hebrews 13:5

National Senior Health and Fitness Day is celebrated the last Wednesday in May. Put on your sneakers and get moving. Not a senior? Pray for senior citizens in your family, the corps family and in your neighborhood. Read the following verses that speak of old age: Deuteronomy 32:7, Job 12:12, Psalm 71:8, Psalm 92:12-15, Isaiah 46:4.



### **May 28 – National Hamburger Day**

This day celebrates a summer-time grilling favorite. National Hamburger Day is part of National Hamburger Month.

Read Psalm 34:1-8. How have you tasted and experienced the Lord's goodness lately?

### **May 29 – National Paperclip Day**

Yes, even the paperclip has its own day of honor. It is about that well-known piece of curved wire that keeps our papers together and helps keep us organized. How long of a paperclip chain can you create? What other things can you create with a paperclip?

Look at your paperclip chain and how they are linked together. Read Ecclesiastes 4:8-12. Pray for those friends who are part of your chain that helps hold your life together. Give them a call or mail them a card thanking them for the friendship they provide in your life.

### **May 30 – National Creativity Day**

Unleash your imagination. Whether you are an artist, writer, musician, filmmaker, blogger, photographer, graphic artist, or any of 100 other creative personalities, the world is going to celebrate you and your creative pursuit. And you absolutely deserve it! Other than nature, everything within sight originated with a creative thought from someone like you! Read Genesis 1-2 to read about our creative God. Celebrate today by doing something creative.

### **May 31- National Smile Day**

It is a day that encourages everyone to wear their best smile! Smiles are powerful! They not only create engagement between two people but the more a person smiles, the healthier their brain can be. Smiling has a direct link to our brain and can help to reduce stress. There is so much a smile can do. Just one smile can brighten someone's day. It can also improve your day. Smiles are infectious. A healthy smile can develop confidence and generate a new outlook on the world. Share your smile and how a smile improves your day.



Read what God's word has to say about smiling: Psalm 126:2-3, Proverbs 15:13-15, 30, Proverbs 17:22.

National Day Information taken from: <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/may/>