

ANGLICAN YOUTH MINISTRIES

PEACE
LOVE
LOVE

TAKE THE LEAD

leaders
can c

LEADER'S GUIDE

introduction

Welcome to *Take the Lead: Leaders can C*. Focusing on the heart of leadership, *Take the Lead* is a training resource to start your teenagers on their Christian leadership journey. The third in the series, *Leaders can C* is the next step in training for older teens or young adults that have a leadership role.

This **Leader's Guide** works in tandem with a **Participant's Workbook**. Together these resources are designed to teach youth leaders some basic leadership principles.

In this course there are four sessions:

- » Leaders Can Connect
- » Leaders Can Collaborate
- » Leaders Can Coordinate
- » Leaders Can Celebrate

Even though the sessions in this Leader's Guide are written like a script, feel free to personalise the content. You'll be more effective that way!

The **Leader's Guide** contains outlines for each session including group activities, videos and questions. Everything you need for each session is detailed at the beginning of each outline. There is also an optional extra Bible reading guide at the end of each session that you can either incorporate into the session or photocopy to give out to the young people to do the readings during the week. Each session takes 30-60 minutes depending on how much time you give to discussion/activities. You could either do all four sessions as a leadership training day or you could do it as part of a leader's meeting/home group and do one session each time you meet.

I hope you and your group will find this material helpful as you seek to grow your leaders!

Dion Fasi, AYM Youth Ministry Consultant, Auckland

MORE IN THE 'TAKE THE LEAD' SERIES:

LEADERS HAVE I'S: Leaders Have Influence, Integrity, Initiative, Imagination
LEADERS NEED TO P: Leaders Need to Pray, Prepare, Persevere & Play

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PREPARING FOR THE COURSE

- » **Print the Participant’s Workbooks** - these are located on a disc at the back of this Leaders Guide.
*Note: Throughout the sessions there are several words in **ORANGE CAPITAL LETTERS**. These words are the answers for the ‘fill-in-the-blanks’ sections found in the workbook. If you would prefer to provide full notes (rather than filling in the blanks) there is an alternative workbook provided on the CD.*
- » **For Session 1: ‘Leaders Can Connect’** there are a selection of photos on the CD that need to be printed out for use in that session.
- » **For Session 2: ‘Leaders Can Collaborate’** search online for an appropriate personality test (see recommended tests in session 2 of this guide). Print them out.
- » **For Session 3: ‘Leaders Can Coordinate’** print out copies of the Pre-Event Coordination Sheet and Run-sheet for each of your groups (provided on the CD).
- » **For ‘Session 4: Leaders Can Celebrate’** download & embed the video into the supplied PowerPoint file (also located on the disc). The video for this session is available on the “Anglican Youth Ministries” YouTube Channel, in the “Leaders Can C” playlist: bit.ly/2a5lvJD
For instructions on embedding videos, see aym.org.nz/embeddingvideos
- » **Decide how you want to use or incorporate the Bible readings.** You could use them as an introduction to your teaching session, readings for your youth leaders to do during the week after your session, examples of the attribute you’re teaching, and/or part of your prayer time together.
- » **Pray that God will use the course to grow the gift of leadership around you.**
- » **You may wish to plan ways to draw your church’s attention to the course,** and its participants e.g. through photos, testimonies, a presentation of certificates at the end of the course.

1

leaders can connect

What you need for this session:

- » Projector and laptop
- » Workbooks and pens
- » Print-outs of photos from CD (one set of photos per small group)
- » Balls of wool or string
- » Tennis balls

SLIDE 2: LEADERS CAN CONNECT

This session is called 'Leaders Can Connect'.

SLIDE 3

Leadership is about **PEOPLE** and so a huge part of being a leader is building and maintaining good **RELATIONSHIPS**. Good leaders seek to connect with the people in their group, not so the leader can get them to do or be what he/she wants them to, but simply because the leader recognizes the **VALUE** and **WORTH** of people.

At its essence, connection is about sharing **COMMON GROUND** with someone.



WORKBOOK ACTIVITY:

Write down the following things in the spaces provided:

- » Countries you've visited (not counting NZ)
- » The number of siblings you have
- » Your favourite fruit
- » Your favourite colour
- » The month you were born
- » Your biggest fear
- » Bones in your body you have broken
- » Instruments you play
- » Sports you play
- » Pets you have
- » Your favourite potato chip flavour
- » 5 bands/musicians/singers I like
- » The primary school(s) you attended
- » Your favourite fast food place



Have someone share one of their answers to the above, and ask the rest of the group to put their hands up if they have an answer that is the same (e.g. their favourite fruit is watermelon, so anyone else with watermelon should put their hand up). The person who shared their answer should hold the end piece of their ball of wool and then pass the ball of wool to someone who put their hand up so that it begins to unravel. That person then also holds the string of wool and passes the ball to another person with their hand up, and so on until all those with the same answer are connected by the string. Now the person left holding the ball of wool shares an answer and likewise passes it on to anyone with the same answer. People may end up holding multiple pieces of the string. Keep going until you have everyone linked together across/around the circle by various pieces of wool.

We see in this exercise that there are various things that we have in common with the other people in this group. *[In the event that anyone is not linked at all by the end (ie they don't have any common answers with anyone in the group), debrief by asking them how it feels to be excluded by this exercise.]*

We discover this common ground as we spend time getting to know them and talking with them. We also create common ground as we share experiences with someone.



WORKBOOK QUESTION:

What does connection feel like?



Give the group the photos from Appendix 1. Discuss how the people in each picture might be experiencing connection in that setting. Have each person choose which they personally think best illustrates connection.

As we seek to connect with people, we may find that there are barriers to connection.



WORKBOOK QUESTION:

What are some barriers to connection?

SLIDE 4

Because of these barriers, connecting with people often requires **PERSEVERANCE** as it can take a long time for some of these barriers to come down. It may require **COURAGE** on the leader's part as when we offer connection we become vulnerable to feelings of rejection or awkwardness if it isn't received easily.

While perseverance and courage may be needed, we can also think about how the way we try and connect might work either for or against us.



Have them get into pairs, face each other and talk for 1 minute while maintaining eye contact (you might like to give them a topic).



Who found that uncomfortable?

Who found that it got less uncomfortable by the end of the minute?



Now have them switch partners. Instruct them to stand side by side and talk to each other for another minute (no eye contact necessary).



Who found that more comfortable?

Did anyone find it less comfortable? Why?



Now have them switch partners again. Give each pair a tennis ball and instruct them to talk for a minute while throwing the ball to each other.



Who found that the most comfortable scenario? Why?

We see in that activity that the setting for the conversation affected how comfortable it was. Inviting someone to have seat with you so you can talk to them side by side instead of standing face to face can often be more comfortable as it takes the pressure off the conversation and makes breaks/silences in the conversation less awkward. Similarly, inviting someone to do a task with you such as doing the dishes or packing up the chairs at the end of youth group can be a good way to connect with the young people in your group in a more comfortable way.

SLIDE 5

At the same time as we seek to connect with the individuals in our youth group, we also want to help the young people build connections with each other. The best youth groups feel like a **FAMILY**. Good leaders seek to **STRENGTHEN** the existing relationships within the group and try to connect individuals who are on the **FRINGE**. While it is natural that within a group there will be certain sub-groups of people who connect with each other more than the rest of the group, leaders need to also work to help those connections not be too **EXCLUSIVE** or 'cliquey'.



Separate into groups of around 3-5 people. Nominate one person in each group to be the 'Outsider' (you may want to be careful who you choose and try to select someone who seems reasonably secure and confident). Instruct the groups to have a conversation for the next couple of minutes (you could give them a set topic to talk about). The Outsider is to try and join in on the conversation but the group is to exclude and ignore them.

After the couple of minutes, stop and ask the Outsiders to share how it felt to be excluded.

SLIDE 6

Sadly, this scenario happens often within groups. It is our job as youth leaders to **NOTICE** people who seem on the outside and to try to **INTEGRATE** them into the group.



Are there any young people in your youth group who seem to be on the 'fringe'?

What could you do to help make your youth group more inclusive? Think in regards to new people, people who lack social skills, and people who are different on the surface eg girls in a group that is mostly boys, a Pakeha child in a group that is predominantly Polynesian (or vice versa).

What could we do to strengthen connections within our youth group in general? Think both in terms of leaders connecting with the young people, and the young people connecting with each other.

What might we need to change about our programme/format/environment/practice if we were to make connection one of our main goals as a group?

SLIDE 7

Connection builds a bridge between people that allows information, ideas and intimacy to cross.

bible readings: connect

EXODUS 33:7-11

Moses had a connection with God that no one else in his time had - he spoke with the Lord face to face like a person speaks to their friend.

Spend some time connecting with God - talking to him as well as being still and listening for what he might be saying to you.

COLOSSIANS 4:6

Conversation is a big part of connection.

Ask the Lord to fill your heart with his love and joy so that it will flow out in the way you talk with others. Make it your goal today to add value to every conversation you have.

HEBREWS 13:2

The writer to the Hebrews encourages them in this verse to be welcoming to strangers.

Ask God to give you opportunities to meet new people as you go about your day. Also spend some time praying for the young people in your youth group who don't seem to be as well connected as they could be, that the Holy Spirit would help make your group an inviting and inclusive community of people that is easy for newcomers to find friendship and fellowship.

JOHN 4:1-26

In this story Jesus meets a woman and connects with her through conversation. In the cultural context of the day it would have been very unusual for a man to speak to a woman, and especially to one from Samaria who had been married five times.

What does this show us about Jesus' heart to connect with people, and how does it challenge us to follow his example?

2

leaders can collaborate

What you need for this session:

- » Projector and laptop
- » Workbooks, pens and Bibles
- » Jelly Bellies or other lollies that have a variety of flavours (have them out at the beginning of the session for people to eat during it)
- » Lightweight tent pole (fold up plastic one with elastic inside it) a few meters long, or hula hoops
- » Personality test (see note under the Workbook Activity on page 10)

SLIDE 8: LEADERS CAN COLLABORATE



(For this activity you can use a lightweight tent pole like the fold-up plastic ones you get in a two person tent, or alternatively you can use a hula hoop.)

PART 1: Place the tent pole on the ground and get everyone to line up evenly on either side of it with even numbers on each side. Facing each other, instruct the group to hold out one hand as if they were going to shake hands with someone on the other side, but to only extend their index finger, so they are effectively pointing at about waist level. Tell them that you are going to place the pole on top of their fingers, and the challenge is that together they must lower the pole to the ground. However every member of the group must keep their index finger straight (ie don't bend it or hook it around the pole, and everyone's finger must maintain contact with the pole at all times. (This will sound easy however because the pole is so light and because they must maintain contact with the pole, it is much harder than expected. Often the opposite will happen—because they are pushing upwards to maintain contact with the pole, they will start to lift it up instead of lowering it down! If this happens and they end up with the pole raised, or if they are really struggling to lower it, you might want to stop them and have them reset and have another go.) Works with groups of up to around 10. An alternative for smaller groups (or to divide your group into smaller ones) is to have them stand in a circle and place a hula hoop on their fingers instead.



PART 2: Now have them do it in reverse. Get them to crouch down with their fingers close to the ground. This time when you place the tent pole/ hula hoop on their fingers their challenge is to raise it up and stop at waist height. (Again this sounds easy however what often happens is they push it straight up very rapidly and it ends up well above head height!)



What happened in that activity?

How did it make you feel?

(If they struggled to make it work) Who felt like it was someone else's fault that it wasn't working?

Was there anyone on the team that showed leadership during that challenge?

Was there anyone on the team that encouraged people?

What did this activity teach you about teamwork?

SLIDE 9

Leaders need to be able to work alone, however they also need to be able to work as a **TEAM**.

As Christians, God has designed us to **NEED** each other. Every person has both strengths and weaknesses. They have been given different gifts and abilities and personality traits, and collaboration is about **SHARING** those things. Others need what we have, and we need what others have, so collaboration involves both using our gifts and valuing what has been given to others. It is a bit like mixing different flavoured lollies to create new flavours. When we collaborate we can often **ACHIEVE** more together than we would as individuals.



WORKBOOK QUESTIONS:

Have you ever been part of a team that didn't work together well?

What stops people from collaborating with others?

SLIDE 10

Two of the biggest barriers to collaboration are **PRIDE** and **INSECURITY**. Sometimes our strengths can cause us to be proud and think we don't need the help of others. At other times we can be so aware of our weaknesses that we don't think we have anything of value to offer. In both of these scenarios we have missed the truth of the Scriptures that affirm that we all have been given gifts from God and that we all need others. Pride and insecurity both come from **COMPARING** ourselves to others in an unhealthy way.



Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

How does this passage challenge our pride?

How does this passage challenge our insecurity?

SLIDE 11

Your **PERSONALITY** plays a big part in collaboration. Different personality types tend to **ACT** and **REACT** in different ways. Some people are naturally easy-going while others are naturally energetic. Some are more sensitive than others, some are wittier than others, and some are louder than others. Knowing who you are, and getting to know who the others on your team are will help you work together in a way that is healthy and productive.



WORKBOOK ACTIVITY:

Personality Test. *[There are a variety of personality tests that you can do, and that are easy to find online. The Myers-Brigg's test is the most comprehensive but it takes a quite a lot of time to complete and go through. However there is a very quick Simpsons version that uses just four questions to give you the Myers-Briggs letters and a corresponding Simpsons character. A medium length option that works well is the Lion/Otter/Golden Retriever/Beaver test.]*

In order to work together as a team we need to be aware of these different personality types so we can understand each other. Some of the things we find frustrating about others are simply because we are wired differently. Often the other personality types that you find the most frustrating are the ones you need to have around the most in order to balance yours.



Have everyone stand up. Instruct them to choose one other person in the group without telling anyone who they choose. This person is their 'assassin'. Instruct them to choose a second person (not saying who it is). This person is their 'bodyguard'. Tell them that when you say 'Go' they must all move around so that their bodyguard is always between them and their assassin.

After they have done this for a while, pause the game and remove one person. Ask them now if anyone would be 'assassinated' as a result ie the person you removed was their bodyguard (if no one had them as their bodyguard, remove another person). Now remove any who have been assassinated as a result and see who that affects.

SLIDE 12

This activity illustrates that our actions **AFFECT** the people around us. Good collaboration requires us to **OFFER** our strengths while also **RECOGNIZING** and working on our weaknesses. It will also require us to show others **GRACE** and forgive them when they let us down.

Added to your personality are the different gifts, abilities and skills you have. These include things you've learnt or trained in, as well as spiritual gifts that God has given you.



WORKBOOK ACTIVITY:

Circle the different skills and gifts you think you might have. Write in any others you are aware of that aren't listed.

- | | |
|---|--|
| » Music/singing | » Organisation |
| » Discernment (sensing good and evil) | » Facilitating discussions |
| » Preaching/teaching | » Sports |
| » Understanding the Bible | » Drama |
| » Prophecy (hearing messages from God and sharing them) | » Counselling |
| » Dance | » Speaking in tongues (a language the Holy Spirit has given you without you learning it and that you may not understand) |
| » Wisdom (knowing what is right to do in a situation) | » Faith |
| » Leading games | » Computer skills |
| » Generosity | » Good with technology |
| » Praying for others | » Physical strength |
| » Hospitality | » Decorating walls/rooms etc |
| » Cooking/baking | » Practical 'handyman' skills |
| » Healing | » Photography |
| » Designing posters/flyers etc | » First aid |
| » Serving others | » Humour |
| » Writing | » Doing make up/hair/nails |

Share what you have circled with the person next to you.



Read Romans 12:4-8

Spend some time praying as a group, that God will help you work together in humility and grace.

SLIDE 13

***You are needed way more than you realize,
and you need others way more than you realize.***

bible readings: collaborate

ROMANS 12:3-8

In this passage Paul challenges us not to be proud but to use our gifts to bless others.

Spend some time thanking God for the talents, gifts and skills he's given you, as well as thanking him for those he's given to others.

EXODUS 31:1-11

God gave Bezalel and Oholiab practical, creative abilities to help build the tent which would house his presence.

Sometimes we find leadership easy, and sometimes leadership requires us to be courageous and do difficult things. But regardless of the situation it is always important to set aside time for preparation and for God. Ask God to help you manage your time well, so that you can feel prepared and so that you can dedicate what you do to God.

ACTS 6:1-7

The apostles realized that it wasn't good for them to do everything and so they selected others to help them. The result was that the word of God spread and the number of disciples increased. When we collaborate as God designed us to it causes the Kingdom to expand.

Pray that God would help people find their place in the Body of Christ and that his Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven.

ECCLESIASTES 4:1-4

This passage is often read at weddings as it speaks of the benefit of having someone else to partner with in life. It doesn't just apply to getting married though... it's true for every area of life.

Spend some time thanking God for the people he's placed in your life. Pray that God would bless them greatly and that you would be a good friend/co-worker/family member etc. to them.

3

leaders can coordinate

What you need for this session:

- » Projector and laptop
- » Workbooks and pens
- » Tennis balls for juggling
- » Print-outs of blank Pre-event Coordination Sheet and Run-sheet (1 per team)

SLIDE 14: LEADERS CAN COORDINATE



Juggling Competition: See who can juggle two tennis balls for the longest (give a prize to the winner). Now see if anyone can juggle three balls for more than ten seconds (give a prize to anyone who can).

SLIDE 15

This session is called 'Leaders Can Coordinate'. Coordination is about **ORGANIZING** and **MANAGING** a project and it can involve 'juggling' a variety of people, equipment and resources. It's a bit like baking... you've got a variety of ingredients that you need to combine in the right quantities in the right order for the right amount of time. As the coordinator of an event or program you will need to identify what needs to be done, who will be doing it, and when it needs to be done by. You will then need to oversee it to make sure it gets done.



WORKBOOK QUESTIONS:

Have you ever had to coordinate a project? What was your experience like i.e. what did you enjoy about it and what did you find difficult about it?

Have you ever been involved with an event or project that was not well coordinated? What was that experience like ie what effect did it have on the event and those involved?

SLIDE 16

Coordinating an event well will require you to **PLAN**, **DELEGATE** and then **OVERSEE** your team, both leading up to the event and then at the actual event itself.

A good practice is to draw up a plan for what needs to be done before the event, as well as a run-sheet for the actual event. Here's an example for someone coordinating a ten-pin bowling night:

SLIDE 17

In this plan we see that the leader has identified the various things that need to be done beforehand, assigned those things to the different team members, and informed them of the time-frame they have to complete those tasks. The leader may then want to check up on each of the team members during the week to confirm that their delegated tasks have been completed.

The leader also draws up a run-sheet for the actual event:

SLIDE 18

We see in this run-sheet that similar to the pre-event coordination the leader has identified the various things that need to be done during the event, assigned those things to the different team members, and informed them of the time that these tasks need to be done. The leader may also need to oversee these tasks on the night, reminding team members when it's time to do what they've been delegated.



Separate into teams of 3-4. As a team, imagine that you are in charge of running an event for the youth group at church next Friday. Together, do the pre-event coordination and run-sheet for this.

[Have someone from each team report back to the wider group what their team came up with, and to go through their coordination plan. You could make this activity real i.e. they will actually go ahead and run the event for youth group next week. If you do this it would be good to debrief it with them after the event by asking them what they learnt about coordination and whether there is anything they could do better next time.]

SLIDE 19

***A good leader aims to oversee everything
and overlook nothing.***

bible readings: coordinate

NEHEMIAH 7:1-3

Nehemiah had the huge job of repairing Jerusalem's walls. In this passage we see a good example of someone coordinating people to do different tasks and giving them instructions on what to do.

EZRA 3:1-9

Jeshua and Zerubbabel led the people in rebuilding the altar.

Identify the different groups, tasks and resources they had to coordinate.

PROVERBS 31:10-31

This description of a wife of noble character shows someone who oversees many different projects and tasks. She makes sure everything is done and she has servants and family members to coordinate.

While this is quite specific to that culture and time, what characteristics can you learn from her and apply to your own life?

PSALM 37:5

God is always available to help and strengthen us to carry out the task we are given. Spend some time praying about any current or upcoming things you need to coordinate.

Ask God to help you manage them well and that you will achieve what you set out to do.

4

leaders can celebrate

What you need for this session:

- » Projector, laptop and sound
- » Piece of coloured paper/cardboard with the word 'Blessed' written on it (or use a whiteboard)
- » Different coloured post-it notes
- » Party poppers, hooters, and silly string
- » Balloons, streamers (optional)
- » Sparkling grape/apple juice (optional)
- » Workbooks, pens, Bibles

(For this session you could dress the room beforehand with balloons and streamers as you might for a birthday party)

SLIDE 20: LEADERS CAN CELEBRATE

This session is called 'Leaders Can Celebrate'. Let's have a look at a video clip of gridiron players celebrating their touchdowns.

VIDEO CLIP: NFL CELEBRATIONS

SLIDE 21

As leaders it's important to celebrate success, no matter how big or small those successes seem. It's important because celebration encourages, inspires and motivates both the leadership team and the people in your group. As Christian leaders celebration also gives God the glory and thanks that he deserves, and helps you and your group remember that he is with you and is at work. When we make it a habit of looking for things to celebrate we create an environment where **FAITH** and **EXPECTANCY** can flourish. When we don't celebrate well we can end up becoming **NEGATIVE** and **PESSIMISTIC**.



Think about your culture (it could be general 'kiwi' culture, or a specific ethnic culture you identify with).

What kinds of things are celebrated in that culture, and how are they celebrated?



WORKBOOK ACTIVITY:

Tick any of the following statements that are true for you:

- » *I tend to see and focus on what is wrong with people more than what is right.*
- » *I feel awkward and/or arrogant celebrating my own achievements.*
- » *I enjoy celebrating other people's achievements.*
- » *I can usually find the 'silver lining' in a bad situation.*



What sometimes stops us from celebrating?

SLIDE 22

Sometimes our **PERSPECTIVE** stops us from celebrating. If we are used to thinking negatively then we need to challenge ourselves to focus on what is good and practice making celebration a habit. For a lot of us, the problem with our perspective is in how we define success. For example if you consider a successful youth group to be one that has 50 young people attending, you may struggle to celebrate the good things that are happening in your group of 15. As leaders it is good to have a big vision and to dream about what could be, but we also need to have our eyes open to see and celebrate everything that God is doing in our midst and have a range of things that we consider to be a success.



Write a list of 20 things that as a team you can be looking out for in your youth ministry.

While our inner perspective is the most important thing, because of our upbringing, culture or personality we may struggle to celebrate outwardly. However, just as in any leadership characteristic, we shouldn't let those things restrict us and so we may need to push through the natural awkwardness we feel in order for the group we are leading to be blessed.



Hand out party poppers, hooters and silly string. Have each member think of something good about themselves, or something they've achieved that they are proud of.

Then instruct the group to take turns sharing, and each time after a person shares the rest of the group is to celebrate as wildly as they can.



WORKBOOK QUESTION

How could you help create a culture of celebration in your youth group? Think both in terms of celebrating people for who they are and what they do, as well as celebrating God and acknowledging all that he does for us.

Here are some ideas:

- » Include a testimony time in your regular youth program and encourage people to share with everyone what good things happened during their week.
- » Put a calendar on the wall of your youth group room where people can write their birthdays. Whenever someone has had a birthday in the time since youth group last met, give them some chocolate and have everyone write in a card what they love about that person (or go around the circle and get them to say it person).
- » Give regular reports back to the wider church about the good things that have been happening at youth group. You may be able to put this in the church newsletter or ask your vicar if you can have a monthly slot in the Sunday service to share this from the front during the notices.
- » When you notice growth or good behaviour in the young people try and compliment them to their parents. It'll make the parents proud and when their child finds out Mum/Dad got a text from one of the youth leaders saying how helpful/polite/compassionate etc they are it can have a big impact on their self-esteem.
- » Have regular de-brief times as a leadership team where you share highlights and celebrate what God is doing at youth group. You may need to also share lowlights and problems that need to be addressed but try and both start and finish your de-briefs with what is good so that the negatives are outweighed by the positives.
- » At the end of each term give out awards for things like 'The Most Helpful Person' or 'Mr/Mrs Positivity'. You could do the same as a leadership team.
- » As a team challenge each other to be the most positive person in the team so that celebration becomes part of your lifestyle.

SLIDE 23

Celebration elevates your enthusiasm and escalates your expectation!



On a piece of coloured paper/cardboard write the word 'Blessed' and stick it to the wall. Then get the group to write on post it notes all the things they want to celebrate about youth group and stick them on the wall around it.

Spend some time as a group thanking God for all these things. You could then invite everyone to think about what they could celebrate about each other and then write those things on post it notes and stick them on each other!

After they have finished sticking the post it notes on each other, read a selection of them out loud. Then spend some time praying as a group giving thanks for God's blessings. Finish by giving each person a glass of sparkling juice and make a toast! You could also have party food and music.

bible readings: celebrate

PSALM 100:1-5

This Psalm is a prayer of thanksgiving and celebration.

Spend some time thanking God for all that he has done.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

Here Paul tells us to rejoice always and to give thanks in all circumstances.

Consider the different situations you are going through and identify what you can be thankful for in each of those situations regardless of how good or bad the circumstances are.

Make a choice to celebrate who God is for you in the good times and the bad times.

LUKE 15:1-31

The biggest thing to celebrate is when people turn to God in repentance.

Spend some time praying that God would help more people find Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, and thank him for your own salvation and for all those you know who follow him too.

JOHN 1:47

Jesus meets Nathaniel for the first time and he greets him with a compliment.

Make it your goal to celebrate the good things about people today... brag about them and thank them for being who they are.