

*That Thing Called Love #4*  
**Celebrations**

**Word**

**Scripture Reference**

Song of Solomon 3:6-11

**Discussion Questions**

1. What life events do you usually celebrate, and how do you commemorate them?
2. Celebrations speak of the joy and love in a relationship. Some people may think that celebrating is an obligation tied to a life event, but there is an important aspect of it that is very biblical. Read Song of Solomon 3:6-11. This passage describes the grand wedding celebration of King Solomon and his bride. Discuss why weddings are well-celebrated. Do you think the number of people invited, or the elaborate wedding ceremony and expensive reception matter? Why or why not?
3. What are the Bible principles why a relationship is celebrated? First is because there is divine appointment (v. 6). True celebration of any relationship is a celebration of God's appointment. Do you remember thanking God for bringing you and your spouse (or intended; friend) together? What are the indications in your marriage relationship (or friendship) that demonstrate that it was God indeed who brought you together? In your friendships or in courtship, can you tell that God is bringing the two of you together? What are some of the important signs in your relationship that confirm that you are God's will for each other?
4. Secondly, relationships are celebrated because there is support and strength in that relationship (v. 7-8). Solomon didn't come alone, but with a large entourage to protect his bride. She must have felt very safe with him. In your local culture, discuss the significance of a wedding entourage. Who do you have in your life to support and give strength to your relationships? In our Asian culture, family support is especially important to keep a marriage relationship strong. Discuss how you can develop a good and strong support from both sides of the family.
5. King Solomon made for himself a carriage made from the best materials he can provide (v. 9-10). It was not to flaunt how much he had, but to give assurance that he could indeed take care of his bride. Does supporting your partner have to be grand and expensive? What kind of provisions should a mate offer to his/her partner? Share with the group what little things you appreciate about your spouse, betrothed, or friend. Could you honestly say to your partner, "what would I do without you?"
6. Thirdly, there is reason to celebrate a relationship because there is approval (v. 11). The wedding crown mentioned in this verse is the crown of approval, a sign of blessing from the parents. Do you have approval of both you and your partner's parents in your marriage? If not, discuss how you can work on gaining it. If you are still in a courtship stage in your relationship, taking time to get to know the family is very important. Give suggestions on how a couple can get to know each other's family. What do you think could be the ramifications of not taking time to get to know your spouse's (or your affianced's) family?

**Walk**

Celebration is where a joyful spirit and love abounds. The Bible has given you principles or values that should be present in a celebration, especially in a wedding. It is the celebration of the divine appointment, a celebration of support and strength, and a celebration of approval. If you are already married, tell your husband/wife what you appreciate about him/her and take time to thank God for each other. If you are struggling in your marriage, take time to pray and ask God to give you wisdom to deal with the issues in your relationship. If you are in a friendship or courtship stage, seriously consider taking these principles as a guide to celebrate your relationship.

**Worship & Prayer**

Pray for...

- Wisdom and courage to uphold the sacredness of biblical marriage. Good testimonies of Christian marriages.
- Thanksgiving for the Cebu mission trip. Wisdom to prepare for Shanghai mission.
- For college students who are spiritually weak and weary to join the camp.
- Effectiveness of basketball leagues in building strong Christian camaraderie.
- Healing for Cecilio Lim, Victor, RY, SET, Rosa Gan, IB, Segundo Yu, Ed Lao.
- For Christians to be faithful in sharing the love of God to others around them.