



## **Fifteen Ways to Celebrate Your Anniversary**

Jack's mother called us a day late to wish us a happy anniversary. Her mistake was puzzling; she's not the type to forget dates. But the more we thought about it, the more we realized that she had the right date and we had celebrated a day early. So we went out to eat and looked at our honeymoon sites again.

Our anniversary is, of course, a lot more than remembering a date. It is our time to affirm that God knew what he was doing when he placed us together. There is no end of the ways to celebrate our enthusiasm for this choice. Here are some of our brainstorming ideas. We've picked our favorite for our upcoming decade celebration, and maybe one of these ideas will be just perfect for you and your husband.

- Call your husband every hour on the hour with one reason why you are glad you married him.
- Write thank you notes to people who throughout your years together have had a positive influence on your marriage. This will also be a review for both of you of special events in your lives. Karen introduced us; so on our fifth anniversary Jack sent her flowers.
- Go out for an anniversary breakfast instead of dinner. It is cheaper and often the morning gives a unique perspective to your relationship.
- Decide together on a service project that might be an anniversary gift to the Lord. Make your prayer commitment to this project on your special date. For example, you might spend a week of vacation working on a short-term missionary project or you might volunteer to work the phones every Tuesday night at a crisis hotline.
- Plan to replay some of your favorite premarital dates, adjusting the details to fit your current situation. One of our most memorable was at the city airport where we watched the planes land and take off. Jack packed a wonderful picnic with linen napkins and carved pineapple halves filled with fruit salad.
- Rent a clown to arrive at his work place and present him with a bouquet of balloons- one for every year. Marlene was on the receiving end of this idea two years ago and thoroughly enjoyed her mixture of embarrassment and delight.
- Invite the friends who attended your wedding to come for potluck. Or, if you've moved, invite as many new friends to a potluck as years you have been married. The invitation might read. "If we had known you then, you would have been invited, so..."



- Work together on an evaluation of your marriage. List and discuss the opportunities and threats that are part of your life now and will be in the future if things continue pretty much the way they are now. Then suggest changes you might make (retirement, change or loss of job) change of church family) consider the opportunities and threats for each. Consider working toward one or more of the opportunities, and perhaps eliminating any of the serious threats.
- Rent a billboard on the way to his job and send him a huge message. We were driving on the toll way and saw a huge cloth banner tied to an overpass. "Peggy, lets stay in love forever." We're sure there is some law against hanging signs on toll ways, but we were delighted and hoped Peggy was too.
- Collect some of those "perfect" greeting cards. Start a week before your Anniversary and send them to him one at a time so the last card arrives on the actual day.
- Read the Song of Solomon aloud to each other, and add your own personalized message as you go along.
- Attend a marriage enrichment weekend.
- Plant love notes all over the house in places where he will eventually find them, but perhaps not all on your anniversary. Marlene does this when she goes away on business trips, and on her phone calls home, she'll tell Jack where the next one is. He's got a weakness for chocolate, so there is usually a candy bar with each note.
- Buy a trophy inscribed, best husband ever, because...
- Plan not to plan. Get dressed up, cook dinner together, light the candles, and talk through the meal. Don't forget to farm out the kids and take the phone off the hook. Happy Anniversary

Marlene LeFever and Jack Risley

