

Feb. 13, 2018

MARDI JOIE

A.K.A. "Life is Good"

Would you like to liven up your February and that of your friends in a way that is quicker and cheaper than going to Florida? On the night of "Mardi Gras" (Feb. 13th), throw a "Mardi Joie" party (pronounced "Mardi Zhwah").

But make it genuine life. On Mardi Gras, there is a lot of death masquerading as life. The essence of Mardi Gras is pretense—dress up like someone or something you are not. Freak out. Go crazy. Forget your everyday life and get out into the party zone.

For Mardi Joie ("Tuesday Joy") you party as your authentic self and you thank God for whatever you think of when you say, "Life is good," harking back to Gen. 1.31, "God saw all that he had made—and it was very good!"

If you are contrasting your party with Mardi Gras, remember that you are celebrating the real world -- amazing animals, plants, landscapes, oceans, stars, colors, food, drink, and music, but none of the weird fake animals people dress up as for a Mardi Gras parade. Pack as much celebration of the real creation into one party as you can.

That's our challenge in this discussion group. If you were going to throw a "Mardi Joie" party in honor of the Creator, how would you do it?

SOME PARTY IDEAS AND INFO FOR STARTERS

Here are some raw materials you might include or adapt to create your own Mardi Joie, but don't be limited to these and don't turn the party into a "Bible study" or a teaching/preaching time. There are 364 other days for that. Mardi Joie is reserved for celebrating life.

Name of the party?	"Mardi Joie," or "Life is Good"
Focus of celebration	Babies born in last 12 months Weddings in last 12 months

	Spring coming soon New Christians in last 12 months The long lives of the elderly The liveliness of the kids The Giver of life Previous chapters of life Nature Pleasures of life—food, drink, music, laughter
Menu	“Life pizza” (a dessert pizza with fruit & frosting; Google “fruit pizza”) Punch suitable for toasts Favorite party foods brought by the guests, possibly representing their life experiences in some way
Dress	The authentic you (no masks, costumes, or pretense)
What to bring	Any party food or drink you most enjoy A “Show and Tell”—something you love about life (bragging on grand-kids is permitted; also YouTube links, photos, etc.)
Toast	“To life and its creator”
Verses (to use somewhere during the celebration, along with a toast)	God saw all that he had made—and it was very good! Gen. 1.31, NET I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of. Jn. 10.10, <i>The Message</i>
Translation	“Mardi Joie” is literally “Tuesday Joy” (better French would be “Mardi Joyeux” for “Happy/Joyful Tuesday,” but Mardi Joie rhymes with Mardi Gras). Mardi Gras means “Fat Tuesday,” the day when people were supposed to use up all the fat in their homes because fat (delicious comfort food) was to be avoided during Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras is the night to tank up, knowing that tomorrow the season of self-denial begins.
The meaning of the date	The date can fall anywhere from Feb. 3 to Mar. 9, depending on the date of Easter. In the northern hemisphere, this is too early for celebrations of spring, which occur on the spring equinox (usually Mar. 20) on many traditional calendars. It also has nothing to do with harvest, another time when many cultures celebrate creation. The idea for a creation celebration on Mardi Gras/Joie comes from a new “SYNC” (See Yourself iN Christ) calendar that divides the year into seven seasons. Mardi Gras/Joie falls on the final day of “Life Season,” which is all about God creating life. https://www.syncx.org/preview-annual-cycle
Attaching the “Life is good” party to other holidays	A. Chinese New Year is between January 21 and February 21. Conceptually it fits the celebration of life and creation. B. Persian New Year (Nowruz) is March 21 (spring equinox) is celebrated widely in the Middle East and Central Asia. This also fits conceptually though it is further from the date of Mardi Gras.