Project Party Tips

These are things that I've learned over the years by holding different crafting project nights with various groups of ladies and friends.

- Choose an easy project or a few small projects with only a few steps.

- Try the projects out ahead of your party. Time how long it takes and try it a few times.

- Use budget friendly projects for groups. Obviously it's easier to handle financially, but also, nobody wants to mess up something that is expensive with a group of onlookers. Don't allow that to even be something that *could* happen.

- Set up plenty of workspace for your projects. Make sure you have enough seating and elbow room for everyone you expect to attend.

- Use plastic tablecloths, plastic drop cloths, or whatever needed for protection of your work surface.

- If it is a messy project, have everyone bring an apron or a big shirt to wear.

- Avoid any projects that stain clothing, hands, or surfaces, such as dyes. Dying isn't a good group project unless it's done outside and people are warned to wear clothes they don't mind staining. Extremely messy projects don't do well for group projects in general. Reserve those type of projects to yourself or maybe one or two of your close friends.

- Provide plastic gloves for anything that might be rough on the hands or for painting projects.

- Have all the supplies needed to complete your project on hand.

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- Have all the tools needed to complete your project on hand. If it's a crafting project, have scissors, glue guns, or whatever is needed.

- Have electrical outlets nearby for any tool or small appliance that you will be using.

- Have trash bags handy for quick clean up when you are finished with your project(s).

- If you serve food or drinks, keep it away from the workspace and away from peoples phones, I-Pads, or any electronic devices.

- Send personal invites with rsvp's. It's so much easier to prepare if you know exactly how many guests to anticipate.

- Include on your invite any supplies or tools that you want your guests to bring with them such as scissors, apron, etc.

- Include on your invite if you are charging a fee to cover the basic supplies. Include the amount and how your invitees can pay and to whom they can pay their fee.

- If this is for a women's ministry activity and you want to share a devotional during your project night, have everyone stop working and even go into another room to share your devotional thoughts. Some people get overwhelmed when trying out new projects or delving into new skills. Give their minds a minute to relax away from the project itself to share your devotional message.

- Before your party--research, research, and research some more to find the best and most feasible project(s) possible for the people you are inviting. Think about the specific people that you will invite. Do projects that you think would best fit their personalities and their skills as a whole.

Don't forget to have fun and relax with your friends at your project party. It's hard to get any pleasure out of a project if it seems like work. Not everyone is going to have the same skills or creativity so everyone's final project is going to look different no matter what type of project you choose. The point is to enjoy each other and the creative process.