

Hospitality or Pineapple Theme – Be Our Guest

DEVOTIONAL/LESSON STARTERS & WORKSHOP IDEAS

Add in your own points, illustrations, explanations, and relating Bible verses.

An Open Door Policy

- Allowing people inside your circle
 - EXPANDING your circle of friends
 - “A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24
 - EXPANDING your circle of prayer
 - “ Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:19, 20
 - EXPANDING your circle of witness
 - “And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled”. Luke 14:23

Pineapple Upside-down Christians

- How can you be hospitable when you feel like your home and life is upside-down?
 - We have all been there. Messy house, kids crying, dishes piled up, nothing ready for dinner, too many errands to run, too many events to attend, relationships in turmoil, Bible reading sliding off your plate.
 - Maybe you see all those pretty well maintained homes on Instagram or Pinterest and you feel defeated when you look up and see what is around you and facing you for the day.

- “Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate.” Psalm 143:4
- Turn yourself right side up!
 - Read your Bible. So simple but one of the best ways to see past your circumstances. (Psalm 94:19; Psalm 119:16)
 - Rely on the Lord’s strength. (Philippians 4:13)
 - Begin looking outward. (Acts 20:35)
 - Develop a compassion like Jesus. (Mark 6:34) Get “moved” and start seeing the need of people’s souls.
- Set out your pineapples - Work on doing those compassionate and hospitable deeds one at a time.

Offer a Chair

- Really see the need of salvation and the souls of others.
- Witness to others with a hospitable attitude.
- Don't let them miss the banquet (Heaven) because you didn't invite them.
- Learn to care for the reality of eternity.
- Parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14)

Pulling out a Chair for Hurt and Needy Christians

- How do we treat other Christians?
- Romans 12:13
- Matthew 25:35-46
 - We see in verse 40 that Jesus is talking about how we treat the “brethren”.
 - He is talking about His disciples here, not the needy of the world (although we should always help and serve the needy anywhere) but this verse is really focusing on the disciples of Jesus.
- How do we treat other Christians, especially when they hurt?
- Do we have a "you made your bed now sleep in it" mentality towards other Christians?

- What about Christians that go through divorce or something like that? How do you treat them?
- It doesn't mean you condone divorce (or whatever it is) by helping that person and being a friend and someone to lean on. It's a difficult time for them.
- Don't shun another Christian woman because they go through something you think you never would.
- That's when they need the prayer and support and even friendship of a strong Christian woman and friend.
- Pulling out a chair requires an action on our part. We physically have to grab the chair to move it.
- What have we moved for other Christians?
- How often do we reach out in love?
- What obstacles and burdens do we help them bear?

Open the Door Already!

- Ever not want to open the door?
 - Maybe you aren't up for company.
 - Maybe your house is messy.
 - Or maybe you know who it is that rang the doorbell!
- Open your heart to love other people.
- Venture out and speak to people.
- Get to know other people.
- Don't stay shut up in your own little cocoon. Faith is an outward thing. Our job as Christians is to show love.
- Allow your faith to show through your life.
- "... Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in,...." Luke 14:23
- OPEN THE DOOR with hospitality because you might miss a blessing.
- OPEN THE DOOR with hospitality because you might miss an opportunity to be a blessing.
- OPEN THE DOOR with hospitality because you might miss some spiritual growth that you need.
- OPEN THE DOOR with hospitality because you might miss helping someone else with their spiritual growth.

- OPEN THE DOOR with hospitality because it may be the only doorway (or opportunity) someone may have to see their need of Jesus.

Feeding the Hungry at Heart

- There are so many lonely and needy people in the world and within our church circles.
- Just look around at the women you know and the women in your church.
- Many times we don't even see it in other women but they may be having a hard time at home, hiding hurt, and pain.
- "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:" Matthew 25:35
- Sometimes people, even Christian women that you may know, are starving for care, love, and attention.
 - Start praying for other people
 - Begin building friendships

Snug as a Bug in a Rug

- How comfortable are you with how you welcome people in your life?
- How is your witness for the Lord?
- What rug are you putting out for company?
 - WELCOME MAT (Show the love of Christ and using Christian hospitality one to another)
 - DOOR MAT (Allow others to step on your feelings, etc.)
 - EXERCISE MAT (Show and exercise your faith)
 - BATH MAT (Soak up the bad things or the good)
 - Prone to negativity?
 - Prone to joy?
 - PRAYER MAT (Pray consistently)
 - CHAIR MAT (Stand up to the tough stuff)
 - If you work in an office or have an office at home, you might have one of these. Chair mats are put under a desk chair to keep the floor from getting

ruined. It needs to take the all the rolling and scraping and walking over that it can handle.

- What about you?
 - Don't allow little things to bring you down to the point that you can't function.
 - Rely on God's strength.
 - Know the Bible to get you through life.
 - Hebrews 12:1, 2
- Are you comfortable (as a bug in a rug) with where you are where offering Christian hospitality is concerned?
- What is lying at your front door?

The Art of Christian Hospitality

- *Southern Hospitality* is kind of an institution. We all know what it means when we say those two words. What exactly comes to mind?
 - Charm
 - Politeness and Manners
 - An offer of sweet tea or some good food (maybe some grits?)
- I'm pretty sure that the Proverbs 31 woman must have been *Southern* then. Have you read through that chapter lately?
- I think *Southern Hospitality* all boils down to making people feel comfortable and seeing to people's needs. You don't have to live in the South to do that!
- Christian hospitality is more than just being charming and polite.
- Christian hospitality is much deeper.
- We are told to be hospitable as Christians.
 - "Use hospitality one to another without grudging." 1 Peter 4:9
 - "Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality." Romans 12:13
 - "Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Hebrews 13:1, 2

- I think it's time we all give a dose of *Christian Charm* and *Christian Hospitality* to the world.
- People felt at ease with Jesus everywhere He went.
 - People followed Him.
 - People sat down to listen to Him.
 - People even allowed Him to feed them.
- Jesus is the great example of having a hospitable heart.
- How will we ever win people to Christ by being inhospitable people?

The Impressing Pineapple

- When pineapples made their way to America, they were first used as status symbols and only were able to be purchased by rich men.
- They were set out to impress the guests.
- Pineapples were a rarity back in colonial times, so it was an impressive fruit to say the least.
- I'm still impressed by pineapples. They are so regal with their golden color and regal crown on top their heads.
- When pineapples are ripe, they are sweet!
- They smell good. They look good. They taste good.
- When Christian women are at their best for the Lord, they are sweet too!
 - Sweet words (Proverbs 16:24; Proverbs 12:18)
 - Sweet deeds (Ephesians 4:32; Ephesians 5:2)
- How do you choose the perfect pineapple?
 - By looking at it? It's color.
 - By smelling it. Inhaling the aroma.
 - And when you bring it home, finally to taste it. That's the final proof.
- If someone had to breathe in and smell your attitude, look at your golden deeds, and taste the words coming out of your mouth----would they put you back?
- How impressive a Christian are you?
 - Not in a vain way, but really, how strong in the faith are you?
 - How much of a Bible student are you?

- How much do you love the Lord?
- And how much do you love others the way the Lord intended?
- The world can be an impressive place. New technologies and ways of doing things are happening all the time.
- Christians should be impressive too. We should be able to move mountains with our faith. We should be able to pray in agreement over things and accomplish much for the Lord.
- The disciples turned the world upside for Christ.
- We still have the same God. He hasn't changed.
- Let's get a little impressive! Let's change the world!
 - We can only do it through Christ. (Philippians 4:8)
 - We have to show the love of Christ (John 13:35)
 - We have to encourage others to show the love of Christ (Hebrews 10:24, 25)
 - We have to spread the Gospel of Christ. (Mark 16:15)

The Life Giving Home

- How do you show hospitality in your home?
 - To your spouse
 - To your children
 - To your extended family
 - To your friends
 - To your guests
- How do you encourage the Word of God in your home?
 - Write it on the walls! (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)
 - Personal devotions
 - Family devotions
- How do you encourage prayer in your home?
 - Personal prayer
 - Family prayer (before meals, bedtime, etc.)

I shared this next one with someone on the CLM Facebook group in a post, but I thought I'd put it here in case you are wanting something to go with a Southern Hospitality theme.

Remaining Hospitable (in Southern Speak)

- Watch out for becoming UPPITY - Don't let pride sneak in even when the devil says you are all that PEACHES AND CREAM.
- Be careful not to be PERSNICKETY - Don't think you are too good to love other people. Sharing your love for Christ is what matters in life. It shows your Southern hospitality.
- Stop having CONNIIPTIONS - Don't be a fighter. Especially don't fight with your sisters in Christ (You know--those BUTTERCUPS and HONEYCHILDS)
- Avoid being all CATTYWAMPUS - Just walk the straight paths. Follow the Lord.
- And look forward to going YONDER - Hey, that's where I'm going someday----Way over Yonder!! (When the Roll is Called up Yonder I'll be there)

I also shared the following one on the CLM Facebook Group for someone too who wanted a "Come as You Are" Theme. I thought that it goes with hospitality so I added this one in too.

Come as You Are

- Parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:16-24)
 - The master told the servant to tell the people to "Come".
 - I'm sure you know the story. They all had excuses.
 - Then in verse 21 the master tells the servant to tell the poor, maimed, halt, and blind to come.
 - We can come to Jesus just as we are. He will take us no matter how broken we are.
- Following Christ. (Mark 1:16-20)
 - Jesus told his would-be disciples to follow Him.
 - Jesus told them to "come" and they did. Simon, Andrew, James, and John all dropped their fishing nets and followed Jesus right away.
 - They went just as they were.
 - They were all fishermen.
 - The two were casting their nets fishing and the other two were fixing their nets.

- They followed Jesus there and then.
- (Yeah, I probably would have wanted to take a shower first)
- Christ loves us and takes us so willingly.
 - John 3:16 (“loved the world”)
 - Everybody...red, yellow, black, white, broken, maimed, hurt, and unloved.....fishermen, and everyone else!

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