

Back to School Party Theme

Back to the swing of things!

If you follow along, you may remember my post recently how I talk about themes being overdone in women's ministry, and I think that is true, but everyone once in a while I do think it is okay to go in party mode.

Many of you have written to me about that post, and yes, I do think that themes are overdone to the most part, but I am just saying that they are a *tool*, and you just can't use the same tool *all* the time. Sometimes things require other tools to enhance and really make something work.

Hope all that makes sense. I've had several women's leader friends tell me that they would like to do a real "party" type thing when everyone comes back together, and some of my friends are thinking about doing "Back to School" themes in either August or September (Lord willing) for their church women's groups. So, I'm pulling a theme out of the vault for you all today. Just please, weigh all your options and just pick a few things to really make your event shine, because in the end we are all aiming at glorifying God in what we do.

I think when everyone comes back together for their women's ministry activities after sheltering from the Covid-19 virus, that we might just all need a *party*. How about you? I'm thinking it may be good to raise spirits and encourage each other, so if a theme works for you, then go for it! Just make your goal connection and encouragement and not *entertainment* and I think you will be okay.

Alright, are you ready for a theme out of the vault? And we are talking, wayyy out of the vault, because I first put this up in 2007.



Back to School Event Concept

—Originally posted as “Head of the Class” in 2007

—Last updated June 2020

The event themes on the website can be used for showers, parties, women's ministry retreats and activities, or church functions. Each theme will have one or several possible spiritual applications. *I* give you *lots* of info and ideas—*You* pick just a *few* to enhance your event. More ideas can be used for showers and parties, but *less is always more* for ministry events.

Theme Title Ideas

- ABC (baby shower)
- B is for Baby (baby shower)
- Head of the Class
- A Well Taught Woman in Christ
- A Wise Woman
- Back to Basics
- Back To School
- Back To the Book
- Elementary (basics)
- Get On the Bus!
- God's Teaching Me Everyday
- Live and Learn
- Learning At the Feet of Jesus
- Making the Grade
- Road to Success
- Sitting at the Feet of Jesus
- Study To Show Thyself Approved
- The Educated Christian
- The Pursuit of Knowledge
- Teach Me Thy Ways
- What To Know

Spiritual and General Applications

- Focus on getting back to the basics in our Christian lives.
- Focus on learning to study the Word of God.
- Focus on getting to know our “Teacher” (Jesus)
- Focus on learning and education.

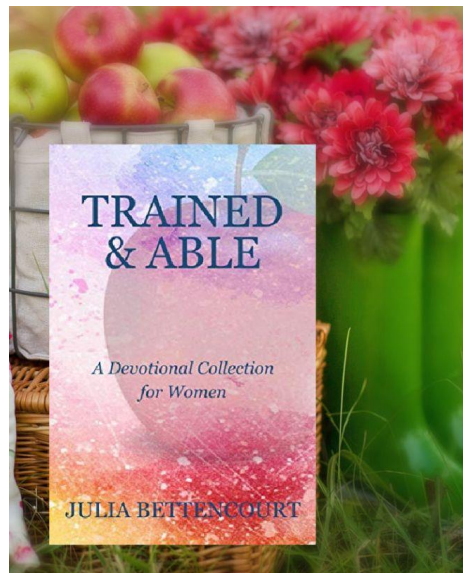
Theme Verse Suggestions

“Study to show thyself approved unto God...” 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

“To know wisdom and instruction...” Proverbs 1:2a (KJV)

Devotional and Workshop Ideas

- Back to School Devotional Starter
<https://www.juliabettencourt.com/womens-ministry/devotional-helps/Back-to-School-Ready-devotional-starter.pdf>
- Back to School Ready Devotional Starter
<https://www.juliabettencourt.com/womens-ministry/devotional-helps/back-to-school-devotional-ideas.pdf>
- My "Back to School for the Christian" Devotional originally written for this theme is in the Trained & Able Devotional Collection available on Amazon.



Find my Author Page on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/author/juliabettencourt>

Simple Decorating

- Decorate using school supplies.
- Use items such as apples, globes, book stacks, backpacks, crayons, scissors, containers of pencils, glue bottles, etc.
- Use wall items such as bulletin boards, charts, large calendar, school signs.
- See your local party store for school cut outs such as school buses, apples, etc.
- Check your Dollar Tree stores as they now carry a lot of teacher supplies.

- Use baskets of crayons and school supplies.
- Use desk name plates.
- Make word strips with verses printed on them.
- Use small white boards or small chalkboards with verses on them.
- Want simple and minimal event decorating?
 - Use several school objects on a large tray.
 - Tray a stack of books, school bell, pencils, pens, glue, mini globe, and an apple.
 - For a baby shower, use toy blocks or baby learning books propped open.

Icebreakers

Discussion Starter Questions

- *Who was your favorite teacher in school?*
- *What did you like about your favorite teacher?*
- *How did your favorite teacher impact you?*
- *What is the biggest lesson you ever learned?*
- *What was your favorite class/subject in school?*
- *What was your favorite thing to do at recess when you were in school?*

Music

- Sing some songs that you sang in grade school such as "She'll Be Coming Around the Mountain", "Oh, Susanna", etc.
- Sing some chorus' such as "The B-I-B-L-E" and "The Crayon Box Song" or other children's Bible songs
- Sing the hymn, *Sitting at the Feet of Jesus*

Favor Ideas

- Any school supply such as pens, ruler, etc. with your theme or verse attached
- Bookmarks
- Pocket calendar
- Small journals
- Small pretty spiral notebooks for taking notes
- Apples
 - Wash and shine!
 - Add a cute tag in the shape of a leaf.
- Filled Lunch Bag
 - Use small size lunch bags and fill with a few candies, pen, mini notebook, or other small items.
- Filled Pencil Case
 - You can usually get the inexpensive ones for 1.00 or less.
 - Fill with a few candies, pen, mini notebook, or other small items.

Door Prizes

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Use brown lunch bags for gift bags | • Pen/pencil set |
| • Backpack | • Notebook/journal |
| • Christian book | • Date book |
| • Bible book cover | • Dictionary |
| • Study Bible | |

Just for Fun

Chalk Talk

If you know of someone that does chalk talk speaking, have them do a session with your ladies' group.

Classroom Helper Chart

Fill in names from your group with a job for the evening such as serving coffee, passing out handouts, taking attendance, refreshment duty, etc.

Show and Tell

Have everyone bring in their high school or college yearbooks or old school photos for a sharing time.

Shoe Box Outreach Project

Make up shoe boxes or baskets full of school supplies for your church children's Sunday School teachers. Collect supplies such as stickers, tape, colored pencils, markers, etc. Add anything you might think would enhance their teaching.

Backpack Outreach Project

Make up some backpacks of blessings. If you know of some children in your church or community or even some missionary kids that you could help out, purchase backpacks and fill with school supplies for them. This can be an expensive project since you are purchasing the backpack, so narrow it down to one or two children that really could use the help.

College Send-off Project

Give a college student a good send-off. Collect an offering or use funds from your women's group to purchase gift cards for the new college students in your church. College students will appreciate being able to purchase a cup of coffee or grabbing a hamburger when they can't afford it.

- coffee shop cards
- fast food gift certificates
- bookstore gift cards

Baby Shower

Have everyone bring one baby book gift along with their shower gift.

Homework Ideas

Prayer Homework

- Give out index cards with prayer requests from your church
- Give out index cards with a church staff name on each card.
- Give out index cards with individual names from your group.

Memory

- Give out verses to memorize for next meeting time.
- Give out something specific like first 15 books of the Bible or the 12 disciples names, etc.

Study Work

- Give out a study sheet of questions from a particular passage or Bible topic.
- Assign a passage or book of the Bible to read.

School Schedule of Event Ideas

Orientation

Greet everyone and let them know that you'll be going "Back to School" for the night. Give any instructions or announcements.

Spelling

Give a spelling pop quiz or have a game time with a spelling bee and use hard to spell words or names from the Bible such as the following.

- Nebuchadnezzar

- Bildad the Shuhite
- Malachi
- Ahemilech
- apostle
- resurrection
- propitiation
- Mahershalalhashbaz (longest word in the Bible!! [Isaiah 8:1](#))
- Chushanrishathaim (second longest word in the Bible!! [Judges 3:8](#))
- You could also have a general spelling bee. You'll find a list of [100 Most Often Misspelled Words in English here](#). (Your Dictionary Website)

Art

Have a craft project and make sure you have all supplies needed on hand.

Music

Have someone teach a new chorus or have some hymn histories of various hymns typed out for your ladies to take home.

Math

Give a math pop quiz (with easy equations or have a game time with a quiz of biblical number questions.

Science

Share something special or something unique about one of God's creations. or spotlight the days of creation (Genesis 1,2)

Geography

Have a Missionary display featuring the missionaries that your church supports.

- Use maps, a globe, missionary cards, etc.
- Have someone read a few highlights from recent missionary letters.

- Do a power point presentation of one or some of your church missionaries.

Reading

This would be your devotional time. Make sure you “read” from your Bible.

Food and Serving

- Have a “School Cafeteria” line.
- Use milk and cookies for a snack.
- Serve sliced apples and caramel dip.
- Serve sack lunches.
- ABC Cookies. Make cookies and put a letter on each.
- Use white board word strips or chalkboard labels, or mini chalkboards to label food.

Let me know if you have a Back-to-School party with your women’s ministry groups. I love hearing what your churches are doing.

Creative blessings,

Julia

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