

# GUM - GUM and MORE GUM

Ann Cople, Toronto, Ontario

## Preparation

Create a display using different varieties of gum. As the ladies are welcomed invite them to choose their favorite gum or try a new type of gum from the display (to be chewed later!)

There are many references to the song made famous by Lonnie Donegan (April 29 1931 — November 3, 2002) — “Does your chewing gum lose its flavour on the bed-post overnight” on the Internet. This song, with words and music can be downloaded from the internet and would certainly, for many, bring back memories of the late fifties when it was a “big hit”. You may be able to obtain a “live” recording to play and even sing-along to!



## Introduction

Invite ladies to share a humorous story (of gum etc.) they experienced/participated in as a young person — be honest!

### Question: What is in Chewing Gum?

**Answer:** Originally, chewing gum was made from the latex sap of the sapodilla tree (native to Central America). This sap was called chicle, sometimes beeswax or paraffin wax is used as a gum base. After World War II, chemists learned to make synthetic rubber, which came to replace most natural rubber in chewing gum (e.g., polyethylene and polyvinyl acetate).

## Brief History

Ancient Greeks chewed Mastiche - chewing

gum made from resin of the Mastic tree.  
Another nation chewed chicle - which is the sap from a sapodilla tree.

Early American Indians - chewed gum from spruce sap and beeswax.

1848 - the first commercial gum was sold — called State of Maine Pure Spruce Gum

1850 - the selling of flavored paraffin gums

1869 - first patented gum

1874 - first gum machine

1880 - gum invented to be able to chew for longer periods.

1888 - Tutti-Frutti gum sold in vending machines, New York Subway.

1899 - Dentyne gum invented by a druggist.

1906 - first Bubble gum

1928 - first pink Double Bubble Gum

## Gum Helps

- Ice helps to harden gum and makes it easier to remove
- Chewing gum after a meal helps to prevent heartburn
- Chewing sugarless gum has been shown to prevent tooth decay and reduce cavity and odor-causing bacteria in the mouth. Some studies have shown chewing gum to be related to improved memory. The basic concept is that people who chew gum are able to recall words faster than non-chewers!

his projects until he found just the right piece to make Megan's box — a gorgeous plank of mahogany that he had originally purchased to repair a drawer front on his wife's favorite dresser. He had made a mistake and marred the beautiful piece of expensive wood and it had become a castoff. As he fingered the marred wood, Henry had a wonderful idea for a spiritual teaching moment. After he lovingly made a beautiful box, he carefully placed a note to Megan in the bottom of it: "This box has been made from a special piece of wood I intended to use to make something for your



## The Bubble Gum Box Story

*Adapted from "Seasons of Life" Central Territory, U.S.A.*

My friend Henry, a talented woodworker, has a decades-old tradition in his family. The grandfather makes a special wooden bubble gum box for each grandchild when they reach school age. As his first granddaughter was approaching that magic age, Henry searched through the pile of wood he kept for

grandmother, but I made a mistake and damaged it, so I put it aside. I thought I might be able to redeem this special piece of wood to make your box. I trimmed it, sanded it and made it into something beautiful. But it's not perfect — you can still see a small spot where I couldn't trim away the entire mistake. The same is true in our lives," the note continued. "Sin damaged us so we couldn't be what

God intended us to be, but God didn't leave us there. He redeemed us and fashioned us into something beautiful. Sometimes we still have the marks of our past sins, but God will forgive them and make something beautiful out of our lives." Henry ended the note with a reminder that every time Megan looked at her box, she should not only remember how much her grandfather loves her, but how much more God loves her.

What a precious reminder of God's infinite grace. No matter what mistakes we've made in the past, no matter how marred and distressed the wood of our lives may have become, we can be redeemed by our Heavenly Father through the blood of Jesus. He uses His Holy Spirit in our lives to trim away the ugliness, to sand the rough spots and make us beautiful. We're not perfect, but that's okay, because we've been made perfect in God's sight through His undeserved and bountiful grace. Besides, His view of us is the only one that really matters!

**Chorus:** *I'm So Glad I'm A  
Part Of The Family Of God*

### **Bubble Gum Trivia**

An accountant who worked for a chewing gum company invented bubble gum in 1928. The new gum sold out in a single afternoon. He was promoted and taught the company's salesmen how to blow bubbles for sales demonstrations. *True*

One of California's most unusual tourist at-

tractions is Bubble Gum Alley. For over 40 years, gum chewers have added their wads to the walls along both sides of an alley in San Luis Obispo. *True*



Cows and other cud-chewing animals, like giraffes, just love gum. Many farmers and zoos keep it in stock for their animals so they don't get bored and chew on things that would be harmful to them. *False*

In Singapore, it's illegal to chew gum. You can spend up to a year in jail or pay high fines if you are caught. *True*

In Sweden, a gum made from the spruce tree resin was thought to cure many diseases.

*True*

Early New England loggers made small hollow boxes from blocks of wood and filled them with the fragrant spruce gum for their families. *True*



**Song:** SASB 308/TB 70, *Amazing Grace*

### **Scriptural Thoughts**

“You are like salt for everyone on earth. But if salt no longer tastes like salt, how can it make food salty? All it is good for is to be thrown out and walked on. You are like light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, and no one would light

a lamp and put it under a clay pot. A lamp is placed on a lamp stand, where it can give light to everyone in the house”. Matthew 5: 13-14 (Contemporary English)

**Our world** — God’s Creation — man His crowning Glory. We have been created in God’s image for the single purpose of bringing glory to Him in a dark world. Our days should be filled with a passion to live out our faith in a way that our Father is glorified.

**You and me** — God’s plan for relationship. Our life in Christ is about relationship. God’s plan for relationship unfolds in Salvation. The entire gospel comes to a focus in John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life”. We have the promise of life everlasting while at the same time the experience of an abundant life in the here and now.

**Today** — God’s flavor. We are to spread the flavour of God through living as bright lights. Just as the light from a city can not be hid we cannot hide our light. The flavour of love, kindness, gentleness, longsuffering, peace, self control must be the flavor of our Christian walk. Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:13-14 challenges us to live every day spreading His flavour in a dark world.

**Closing Song:** *Shine Jesus, Shine*

**Benediction and Refreshments**