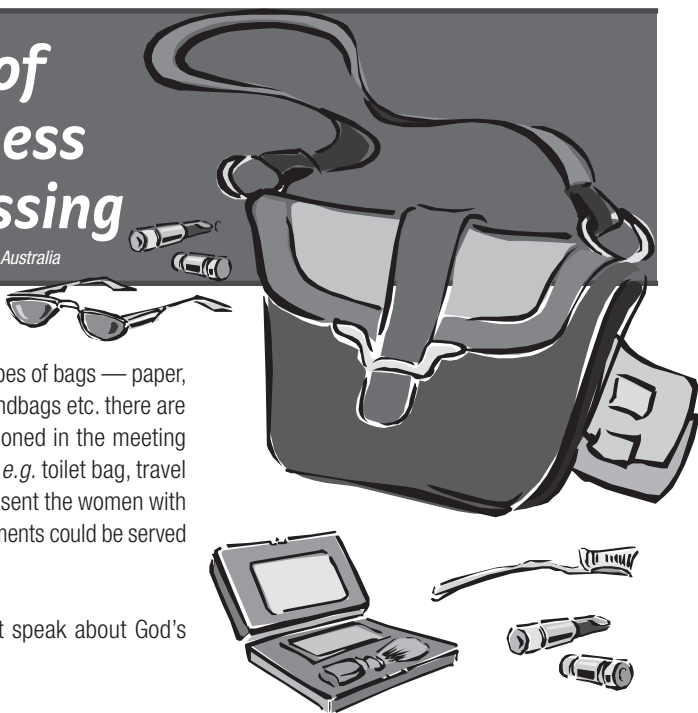


# God of Goodness and Blessing

Jan Condon, Sydney, Australia



## Preparation

Have a display of different types of bags — paper, sandwich, gift, cosmetic, handbags etc. there are many. As each bag is mentioned in the meeting outline, have one on display *e.g.* toilet bag, travel bag etc. You may wish to present the women with a small gift in a bag. Refreshments could be served in a small snack bag.

**Songs:** Choose songs that speak about God's blessings or goodness

**Toilet bag game:** provide a couple of cheap toilet rolls and ask everyone to take as many sheets as they will need; but at least three. Do not say any more at this stage. When everyone has their paper, ask them to share one thing about themselves for each piece of paper taken.

## Cosmetic Bag

**Lips:** use only the lipstick of truth, sometimes expensive, always becoming.

**Eyes:** drops of compassion used daily, eye shadow of understanding gives depth and beauty.

**Cheeks:** tint softly with the rouge of dreams to give radiance to complexion.

**Voice:** tune regularly with prayer. It will then be melodious.

**Nails:** manicure carefully with readiness and buff with enthusiasm.

**Hands:** rub in the cream of gentleness and keep handy the gloves of goodwill.

**Powder:** humility is the best. It covers all blemishes of the ego.

**Sweets Bag:** This will take you back a decade or two!!

Delivered to the door each morning

*milk bottles*

May rescue you from drowning

*life savers*

This will keep the doctor away but you may need the dentist

*toffee apple*

You need these to make sauce for the lamb

*mint leaves*

Sometimes wobbly on their feet

*jelly babies*

Where money is made?

*the mint*

What we call the smart ones

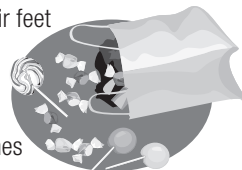
*smarties*

This sweet is right on target

*bull's eye*

Look in the hive to find this one

*honeycomb*





**Travel bag:** Ask someone to share about a holiday or special trip they have taken – sing songs to see from other countries.

**Travel bag:** Food from different countries. Ask the ladies which country these foods come from.

Spaghetti	(Italy)
Goulash	(Hungary)
Schnitzel	(Austria)
Curry	(India)
Smorgasbord	(Sweden)
Haggis	(Scotland)
Waffles	(USA)
Pizza	(Italy)
Pumpkin pie	(USA)
Sauerkraut	(Germany)
Moussaka	(Greece)
Escargots	(France)
Paella	(Spain)
Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding	(England)
Sukiyaki	(Japan)
Leeks	(Wales)
Fried Rice	(China)
Chili con Carne	(Mexico)

## Shopping Bag

“I went shopping and I bought ....” Choose a letter from the alphabet and a list of stores and all answers must begin with the chosen letter — e.g. the chosen letter is P — all answers must begin with P, then list different types of stores e.g.

Supermarket, post office, chemist, electrical etc and products from these stores starting with the chosen letter.

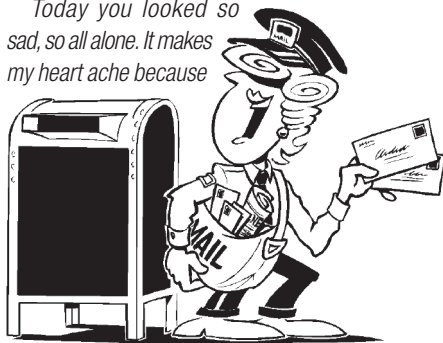
**Mail bag:** Print letter from God on note paper and put in an envelope addressed to each member — tell them they must not open it until they get home.

*Dear Friend,*

*I just had to send a note to tell you how much I love you and care about you. I saw you yesterday as you were walking with your friends. I waited all day hoping you would want to talk with me also. As evening drew near, I gave you a sunset to close your day and a cool breeze to rest you. And I waited, but you never came. It hurt me, but I still love you because I am your friend.*

*I saw you fall asleep last night and longed to touch your brow. So I spilled moonlight on your pillow and your face. Again I waited, wanting to rush down so that we could talk. I have so many gifts for you. But you wakened late the next day and rushed off to work. My tears were in the rain.*

*Today you looked so sad, so all alone. It makes my heart ache because*



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*I understand. My friends let me down and hurt me so many times too. But I love you. Oh, if you would only listen to me. I really love you. I try to tell you in the blue sky and in the quiet green grass. I whisper it in the leaves on the trees and breathe it in the colours of the flowers. I shout it to you in the mountain streams and give the birds love songs to sing. I clothe you with warm sunshine and perfume the air with nature's scents. My love for you is deeper than the oceans and bigger than the biggest want or need in your heart.*



*If only you knew how much I want to help you. I want you to meet my Father. He wants to help you too. My Father is that way, you know. Just call Me, ask Me, talk with Me.*

*Please, please, don't forget Me. I have so much to share with you.*

*But I won't hassle you any further. You are free to call me. It's up to you. I'll wait because I love you.*

*Your friend, Jesus*

**Devotions:** Choose one of the following.

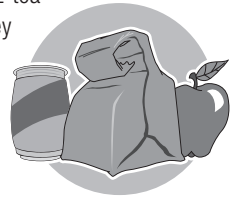
**Cleaning Bag:** have cleaning items in bag and show for each line of devotions — enlarge on points

- Wash away the grit of selfishness (choose a detergent or washing powder)
- Sweep away the cobwebs of pride (broom or brush) Throwaway the rags of regret (rags)
- Wipe away the dust of idleness (duster) Burn out the rust of neglect (rust remover)
- Destroy petty grievances (your suggestion) Psalm 51 "Create within me a clean heart O God"

**Lunch bag:** use the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand

**My bag of goodies:** prepare a short talk on Psalm 145 based on the blessings/good things God provides.

**Extra:** Give each lady 2 tea bags to take home so they can share a cuppa with their neighbour in need or to invite someone to your ladies meeting or to church.



*"In Your presence is fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand are pleasures forever more." Psalm 16:11*

*The goodness of God endures eternally.*