

New and Used

Adapted for Cedar Springs

Ideas: New and Used

Reaching out into our communities is a key to extending God's Kingdom, strengthening Christian fellowship, and building new relationships with others. These new and used ideas can be adapted to your local setting and create a relaxed atmosphere for reaching out to non-Church women.



Theme: Fresh Start

This could start with a fashion show by Cotton Ginny Ladies (or choice of a local ladies clothing store) with clothing modelled in regular and plus sizes and a representative from the store as the commentator. A guest speaker and soloist could share the theme of "A fresh start with God". Dessert could be apple crisp with whipped cream. An excellent way to kick off the program year in September.

Possible Scripture to develop this theme: Psalms 40:1-3, or 2 Samuel 22:21 from the Message, "God made my life complete when I placed all the pieces before him. When I cleaned up my act, He gave me a fresh start. Indeed, I've kept alert to God's ways; I haven't taken God for granted. Every day I review the ways he works. I try not to miss a trick. I feel put back together, and I'm watching my step. God rewrote the text of my life when I opened the book of my heart to his eyes."

Theme: Season of Colour (Fall)

This could feature a colour consultant as guest for a personal colour consultation. Getting to know the colours that suit you can be very helpful when coordinating your wardrobe. If a professional is not available maybe some

of your members are gifted in coordinating and choosing the right colours. The television show "What Not to Wear" could provide some useful tips. A Fall Fashion Show would be a great way to end the evening.

Another idea could be "What's new in home decorating". There are many decorating books with simple and easy to use ideas which will assist in developing this program. There are many ways to re-decorate a room with little cost if you have the ideas. Yard sales are a good source for picking up inexpensive household items to complete the effect.

Another focus could be "harvest decorating", giving some new ideas for centrepieces, table favours, colour coordinating of a thanksgiving table or creating a harvest door hanger. Creating an outside display indicating our thankfulness to God for His abundance is attractive, and one way to stimulate a conversation with our neighbour about His goodness.

Conclude with a devotional on Psalms 27:4 "One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple". Fall is a beautiful time to reflect on the beauty of our Lord.

Theme: Trade Show

Instead of a traditional sale, try a mini-trade show. Give ladies from craft groups, Christian book companies, Avon, Tupperware, Pampered Chef, etc., the opportunity to show and sell their products. You might even rent tables to participants. Serve lunch for a cost. The funds could be used for Child Sponsorship or Territorial Project. This exposes new people to your church and opens doors to chat about the opportunities The Salvation Army provides for outreach into our world.

Create a display and information centre about The Salvation Army and the opportunities to reach out to a hurting world through Child Sponsorship, Territorial Women's Ministries Project, Partners in Mission and Home Missions.



Consider a devotional, highlighting the fact that everyone can make a contribution towards helping our world to be a better place by helping those in need. Possible Scripture 1 Corinthians 12:1-20.

Theme: Salute to Veterans

Invite Veterans to a meeting, if possible have them led into the room by a piper. Share in reflective moments with *O Canada* and *The Last Post*. Have a time of fun and fellowship enjoying a sing-along (*White Cliffs of Dover*, *Pack Up Your Troubles*, etc). With many troops serving our country, an evening of this type helps focus on the needs of soldiers and their families. Close the evening with a time of silent

prayer for those who have a family member serving in the armed forces. A devotional message could remind those in attendance that even though we enjoy freedom in our country, there are spiritual battles that continue to challenge us. But the battle is the Lord's! Reflect on 2 Chronicles 20:15-17. Serve refreshments.

Theme: Victorian Tea and Sale

Have a Victorian Christmas tea. Decorate with Victorian boxes draped with beads and holly as centre pieces. Using fancy china, serve scones, jam and cream, squares and sandwiches with tea. Display a Christmas tree, set up a children's corner to include a fireplace, rocking chair and nativity scene. The children in attendance would be interested to hear a lady dressed in a Victorian outfit telling the Christmas story.

Theme: Oh Those Feet

Invite a foot care specialist to speak on some of the simple things that can be done to care for our feet. Or have a local shoe store display what is new for the season in footwear. Devotional speaker could speak on the topic "On Walking the Walk". Use 2 John 6 "And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands. As you have heard from the beginning, His command is that you walk in love".

Theme: Cultural Christmas Sampler

Set up the room with lighted candles (unscented) to create a Christmas ambience and serve warm apple cider as the ladies arrive. Invite ladies from other countries that attend the group to dress in costume and bring a sample of their traditional food. Arrange the different foods on decorated tables so ladies can browse, chat and eat. Add a seasonal touch to the evening by playing Christmas music. Display a number of Christmas candles.