

Cups and Saucers Adapted from a program by J. Kerr
Women's Quarterly Programme, Oct –Dec, 1968
Canada & Bermuda Territory



Pre- Arrangements:

- The week previous to the meeting, announce that each member is to bring a special cup and saucer.
- For the tea time, each member uses the cup she brought to the meeting.
- Print off the large tea cups with each phrase used in the devotional

Arrangements:

- Set up tables in a formal fashion
- Have dainty sandwiches and sweets for refreshments
- Set out a selection of herbal/flavored teas, as well as the regular brand

Online Resource: <http://www.inspirationalarchive.com/texts/topics/trials/teacup.shtml>

Song: *There is Sunshine in My Soul Today* (The Salvation Army Songbook 387)

Sharing our own Tea Cup Stories:

Ask women to tell a story of her cup and saucer

Chorus: *Overflowing, overflowing, my cup is overflowing*

Devotional:

The Bible makes numerous references to the word 'cup'. However, the first cup we read about in the Bible is the Pharaoh's cup; this was in connection with Joseph's dream (Genesis 40: 11). Pharaoh's cup was considered so important that each cup bearer was appointed to look after it for a period of three months. The cup bearer was to taste all that went into it before it reached the King's table.

There are also Biblical allusions to figurative cups. I want to share with you three of these symbolic cups mentioned in the Bible:

1. **Cup of Gratitude**— This is the cup which overflows, which we have just sang together. The psalmist said, "*My cup overflows*" (Psalm 23: 5, NIV). Why? Because of the presence of God who brings peace and joy.

2. **Cup of Sorrow**— All of us no doubt have known what it is like to drink of this cup. We remember Christ's words in the Garden of Gethsemane when He said, "*My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will*" (Matthew 26: 39 NIV). Because Jesus drank of this cup, He is able to understand our sorrows and can bring comfort.
3. **Cup of Salvation**— David speaks of taking the cup of salvation. He said, "*I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord*" (Psalm 116: 13). David's words calls us to recognize that his only hope was in the Lord and to respond by calling upon His name.

Story of the Tea Cup:

<http://www.inspirationalarchive.com/texts/topics/trials/teacup.shtml>
Submitted by Cathy Pinto

This story of the tea cup reminds us that when we allow God to form us, He can also transform us into beautiful vessels fit for His use.



The Tea-cup

There was a couple who used to go to England to shop in the beautiful store. This was their 25th wedding anniversary. They both liked antiques and pottery and especially tea-cups. They said, "May we see that? We've never seen one quite so beautiful."

As the lady handed it to them, suddenly the tea-cup spoke, "You don't understand." It said, "I have not always been a tea-cup. There was a time when I was red clay. My master took me and rolled me and patted me over and over and I yelled out, "Let me alone," but he only smiled, "Not yet!"

"Then I was placed on a spinning wheel and suddenly I was spun around and around and around. 'Stop it! I'm getting dizzy!' I screamed. But the master only nodded and said, 'Not yet.'

Then he put me in the oven. I never felt such heat. I yelled and knocked at the door. I could see him through the opening and I could read his lips as he shook his head, 'Not yet'.

"Finally, the door opened, he put me on the shelf, and I began to cool. And he brushed and painted me all over. The fumes were horrible. I thought I would gag. 'Stop it, Stop it!!' I cried. He only nodded, 'Not yet!'.

Then suddenly he put me back in to the oven, not like the first one. This was twice as hot and I knew I would suffocate. I begged. I pleaded. I screamed. I cried. I would never make it. I was ready to give up. But the door opened and he took me out and placed me on the shelf.

An hour later he handed me a mirror and said 'Look at yourself.' And I did. I said, 'That's not me; that couldn't be me. It's beautiful. I'm beautiful.'

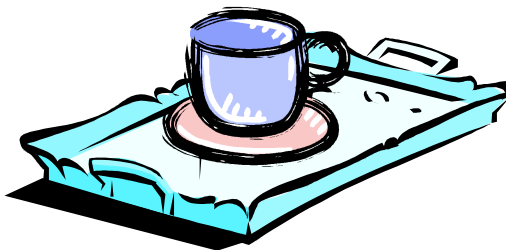
"I want you to remember, then,' he said, 'I know it hurts to be rolled and patted, but if I just had left you alone, you'd have dried up. I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you would have crumbled. I know it hurts and it was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I hadn't put you there, you would have cracked. I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn't done that, you never would have hardened. You would not have had any colour in your life, and if I hadn't put you back in that second oven, you wouldn't survive for long because the hardness would not have held. Now you are a finished product. You are what I had in mind when I first began with you." God knows what He's doing [for all of us]. He is the potter, and we are His clay. He will mould us and make us, so that we may be made into a flawless piece of work to fulfill His good, pleasing and perfect will.

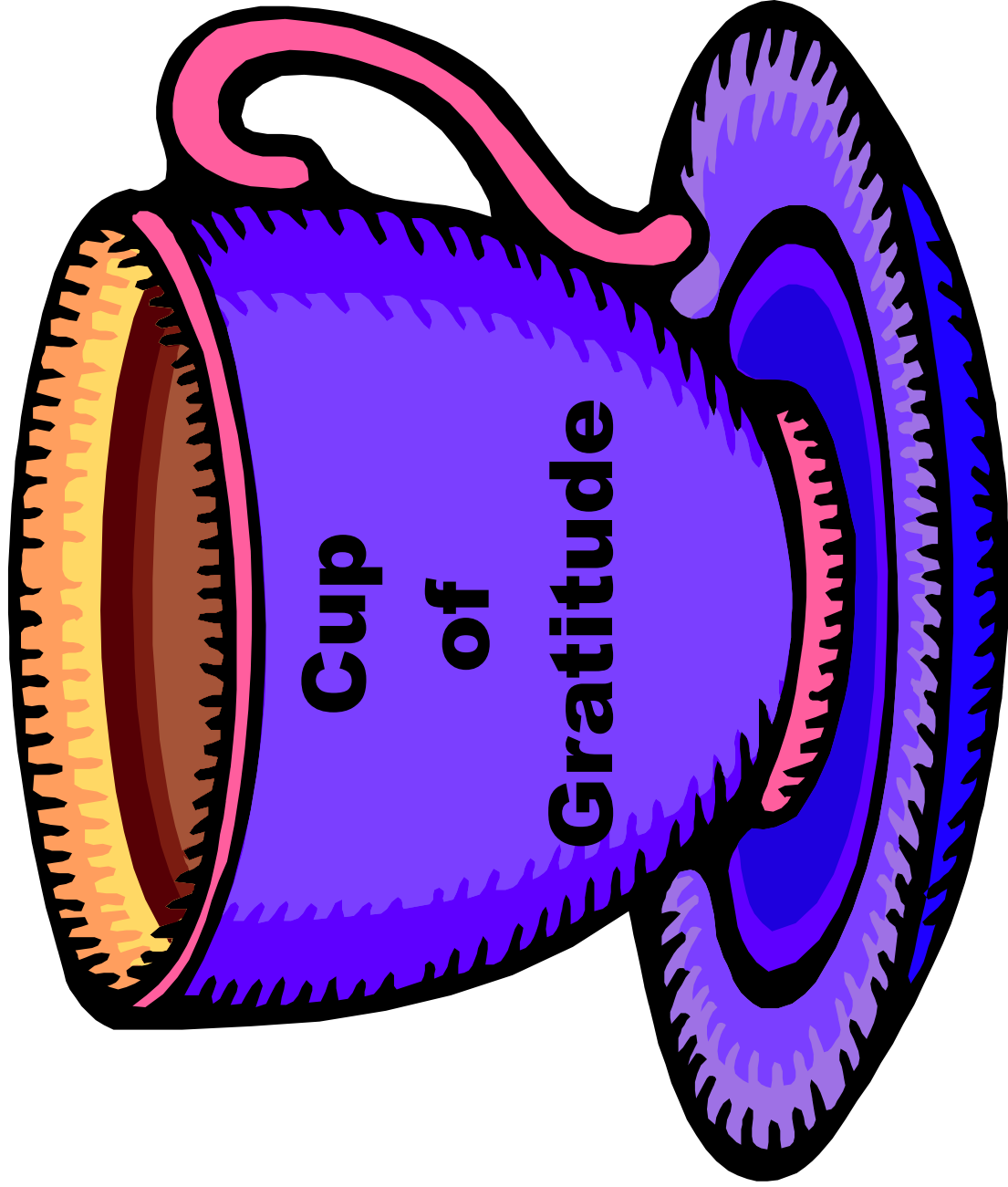
Game: Tea Bag Relay

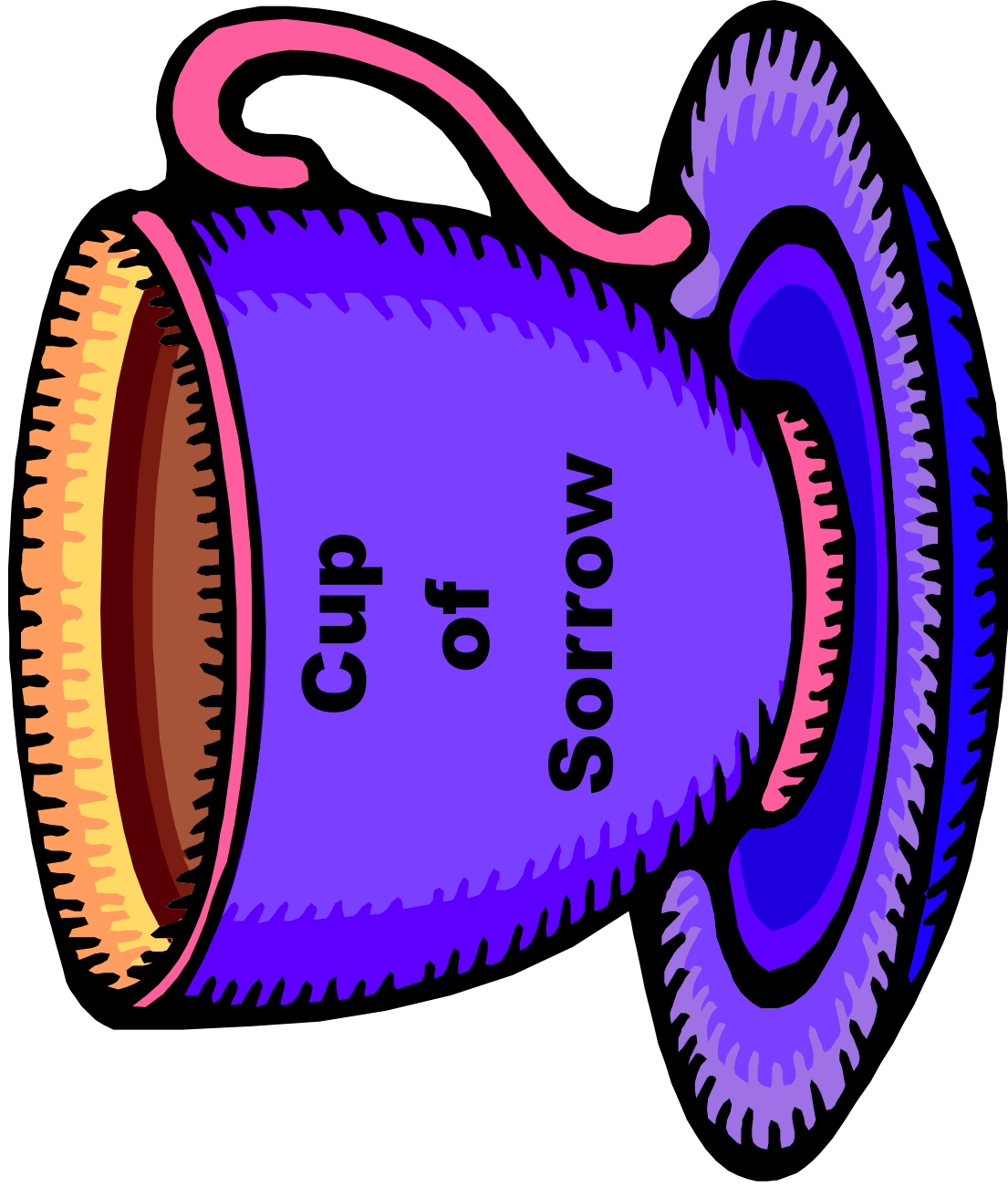
Divide women into two lines; give each one a tea bag on a string
When her turn comes, she is to place the string between her teeth,
race to the tea cup and drop the teabag into the cup, using only her teeth.
If successful, she removes the teabag and returns to the end of the line.
If she misses, she must return to the beginning and do it again.

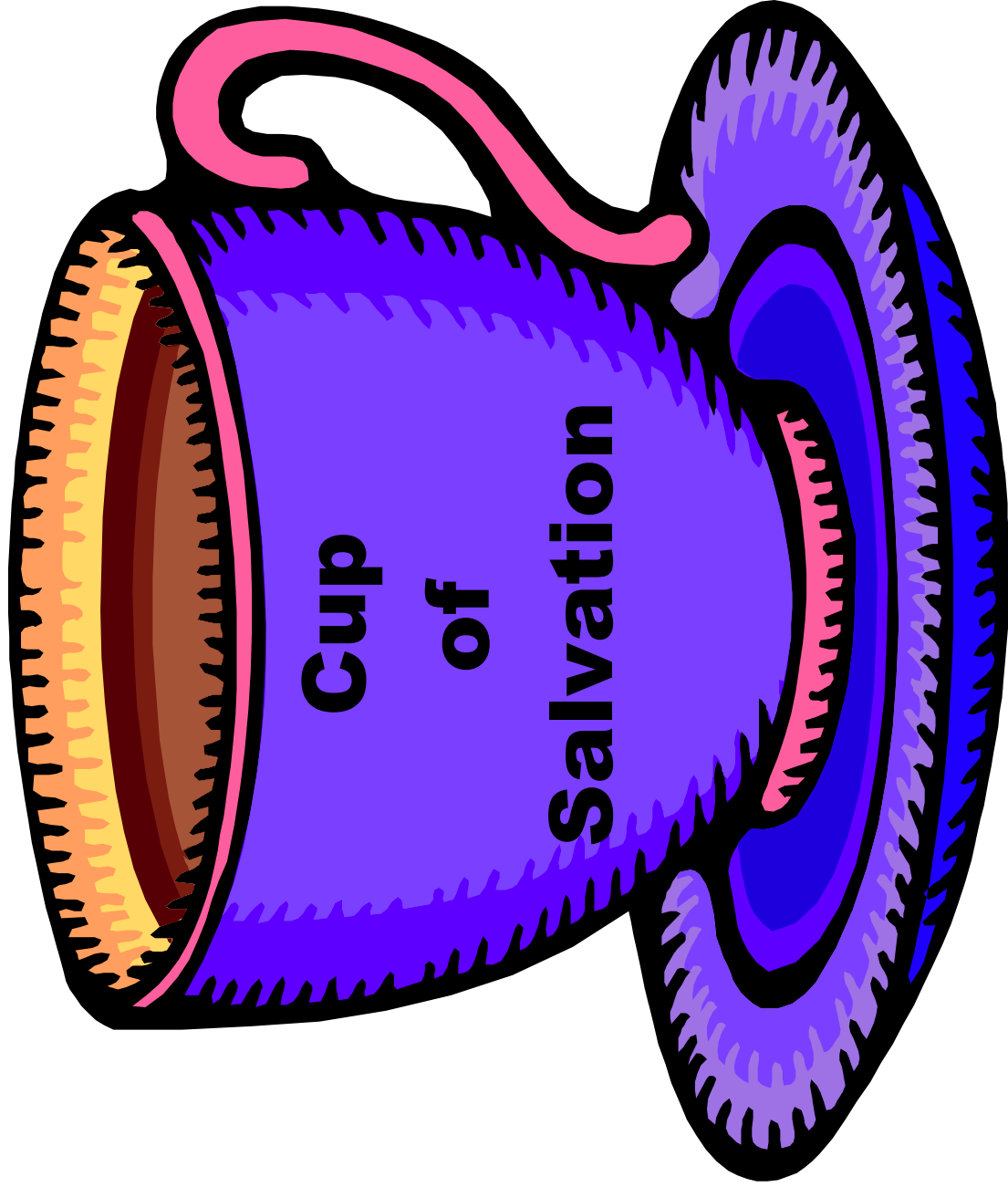
The first team to get all their teabags in the cup is the winner.
A small prize may be given to each member of the team.

Game: Place the Cup and Saucer on the tray – see pictures at end of program
(Played like pin the tail on the donkey)









**Cup
of
Salvation**

