

Pillows

Adapted from a program by A. Oliver
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Preparations: Display various types of pillows (be sure to use those mentioned “Pillow Personalities”)
Ask several ladies to bring their favorite pillow and tell its story

Introduction:

A pillow is generally regarded as a symbol of rest and tranquility, except of course when the younger members of the family are preparing for bed. Suddenly our favorite pillows become weapons of war and cushions of combat!

Many a well-planned vacation has been ruined for the hopeful tourist who finds to her dismay, that the pillow in the hotel is in no way comparable to the comfort of the one she left at home!

During some years, pillows have been used as souvenirs, and women enjoyed adorning the living room with these colorful reminders of memorable occasions.

During some years, scatter pillows have been given as gifts in colors depicting mood, décor or season; the brighter the better. In department stores, we see on display sets of these in contrasting or blending colors. The bedrooms of our homes are, to a greater extent than ever, being beautified by the addition of colorful pillows.

Of course, pillows are useful as well as decorative. In recent years, you can purchase a pillow depending on whether you sleep on your stomach, back, or side. The purchase of the right pillow helps with body alignment and can give you a good night’s sleep.

For hospital patients, their stay is made more comfortable when the pillow is ‘fluffed up’. Body alignment of the patient can be secured and maintained by the assistance of pillows; thus injured parts of the body can be elevated and the work of healing goes on more rapidly and comfortably.

Sitting up in bed can be very difficult without the support of a pillow. Labored breathing is much improved when a person is propped up with pillows.

At Halloween, the pillow has been known to shed its case temporarily for the annual collection of goodies by all the little witches and goblins who knock on doors.

While there are many uses for pillows, let’s think of them for a few moments as symbols of rest and tranquility.

Scripture: Mark 4: 35-41

Song Suggestions: (All songs are found in The Salvation Army Song Book)

Come, ye yourselves apart and rest awhile (564)
Give me a restful mind (574)
Let thy heart be at rest (739)
There is a place of quiet rest (973)
I've anchored my soul in the haven of rest (Chorus 187)
Sweet hour of prayer (633)

Prayer: Theme: Those who need rest due to sickness

Pillow Ponderings:

Pre-selected ladies, in turn, will bring their favorite pillows to the front and tell its story. They can add their pillows to the display table.

Pillow Personalities: (show an example of each type of pillow)



1. Decorative Pillow (use a decorative pillow)

This type is not for use—but only for show. It is easily soiled, not made for utility purposes—always in the public eye.

Personality: Some people can be so much like decorative pillows—sometimes all show. Their “religion” is a surface thing, hence they entirely miss the joy of real Christian service. They are so easily “soiled” for they must of necessity be at all times, the centre of attraction in a crowd. They are “touchy” and easily hurt or offended.

2. Floor Pillow (worn pillow covered by fancy case)

This type is thrown on the floor to be sit upon. It also contains the “big cover-up.” They look lovely, but when the cover is removed, one finds a soft pillow with the insides falling out. This type is of little value.



Personality: The “big cover-up” - this type of personality employs empty words and deeds to cover up an inner experience that is sadly lacking. While they seem very practical on the outside, to cover up the inner lack they resort to a fancy covering.

3. **Bedroom Pillow:** (Good pillow covered with a plain white case)



This type is so very ordinary in appearance, we would scarcely give it a second glance; but when the cover is removed, the pillow proves to be strong, reliable—ready to carry out the function for which it was intended.

Personality: This person is just the so called “ordinary” Christian. No fancy words or deeds, just faithfully working day by day without thought of commendation. Living to merit the approval of God is her joy and reward. Inside and out—a plain but thorough Christian.

Poem: *Be Still my Soul*

Patsy Rowe

Be still my soul, find rest in God
To met the needs of each new day;
I must not rush to get ahead
For if I try, I'll only delay.

Be still my soul, find rest in God
He comes to give me peace;
Let go, and let Him take control
For then my fears will cease.

Be still my soul, find rest in God.
He makes His presence known;
To show the way, to give me strength
For then I do not walk alone.



Devotions:

A two year old, when asked what a pillow meant to her, replied, “A pillow makes me dream.” My mind went back to God’s word and the story told in Genesis 28 when Jacob noticed the setting sun, and decided it was time to rest. He took the stones which he found in that place and used them for pillows. As he slept, he had a wonderful dream! God came to him with a promise, “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go” (Genesis 28: 15). In verse eighteen of the same chapter it tells us that Jacob used the stones which had formed his pillow for the purpose of building an altar. His pillow became an altar of prayer!

Is there a lesson for us in the events surrounding this part of Jacob’s journey? Why not turn our pillow into an altar? Are we not, in a special sense, alone with God and our thoughts when our head, at the end of a busy day, rests upon a pillow? In addition to making known our needs, our pillow could become the altar upon which we offer prayers of thanksgiving. Is it not true that it seems our days are often filled with a “hundred and one” things to be accomplished? Often we wish it were possible to have quietness, just a little while to be alone with our thoughts. Perhaps, in the quietness of the night, with your head resting on a

you can bring all the cares of the day and give thanks to God for the direction and strength He gives. The old hymn says, "O what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear" - we can give it over to God and find rest and tranquility. A pillow can become an altar!

Acrostic: P-I-L-L-O-W

- P—Prayer to God
- I—Involvement with God
- L—Love for God and mankind
- L—Learning God's will
- O—Obedience to God's will
- W—Witnessing to God's redeeming grace

Song: *What a friend we have in Jesus* (645 SA Songbook)

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Game:	Unscramble the Pillows or Cushions		
CAVERIDOT	_____	REMODOB	_____
NIP SICOHUN	_____	WORTH	_____
PODOTIHERC	_____	DOBY WILOPL	_____
SHERADET	_____	VATERL	_____
NOTUD	_____	FOSA HUNSICO	_____

Decorative, Pin Cushion, Orthopedic, Headrest, Donut, Bedroom, Throw, Body Pillow, Travel, Sofa Cushion.