

## Garden Party

Patsy Rowe

This is a program that can be done in late June or during the summer months. It can be used as a social event for women only, or extended to include families and friends.



### Pre-Arrangements:

- Send out invitations to a garden party.
- Have a B-B-Q, salads and dessert or provide dainty sandwiches, sweets and dessert
- If inviting family and friends, arrange for outdoor games and kid's songs

### Arrangements:

Set up patio tables with table cloths, fancy dishes and napkins  
Print off song sheets

### Introduction:

In days gone by, often families would have a social gathering in their garden. It was a time for kids to play, for men to talk business, and for women to share with one another about the challenges of home life. Today, the concept of a garden party is used when one's family and/or friends gather in a backyard or on a beach, often for a B.B.Q. Regardless of the format or the location, the aim of the event is to provide a time of fun and fellowship in a relaxed atmosphere.

### Song Suggestions:

*This is my Father's World*  
*I've found a friend in Jesus*  
*I come to the garden alone*



**Scripture Reading:** Luke 12: 22-31

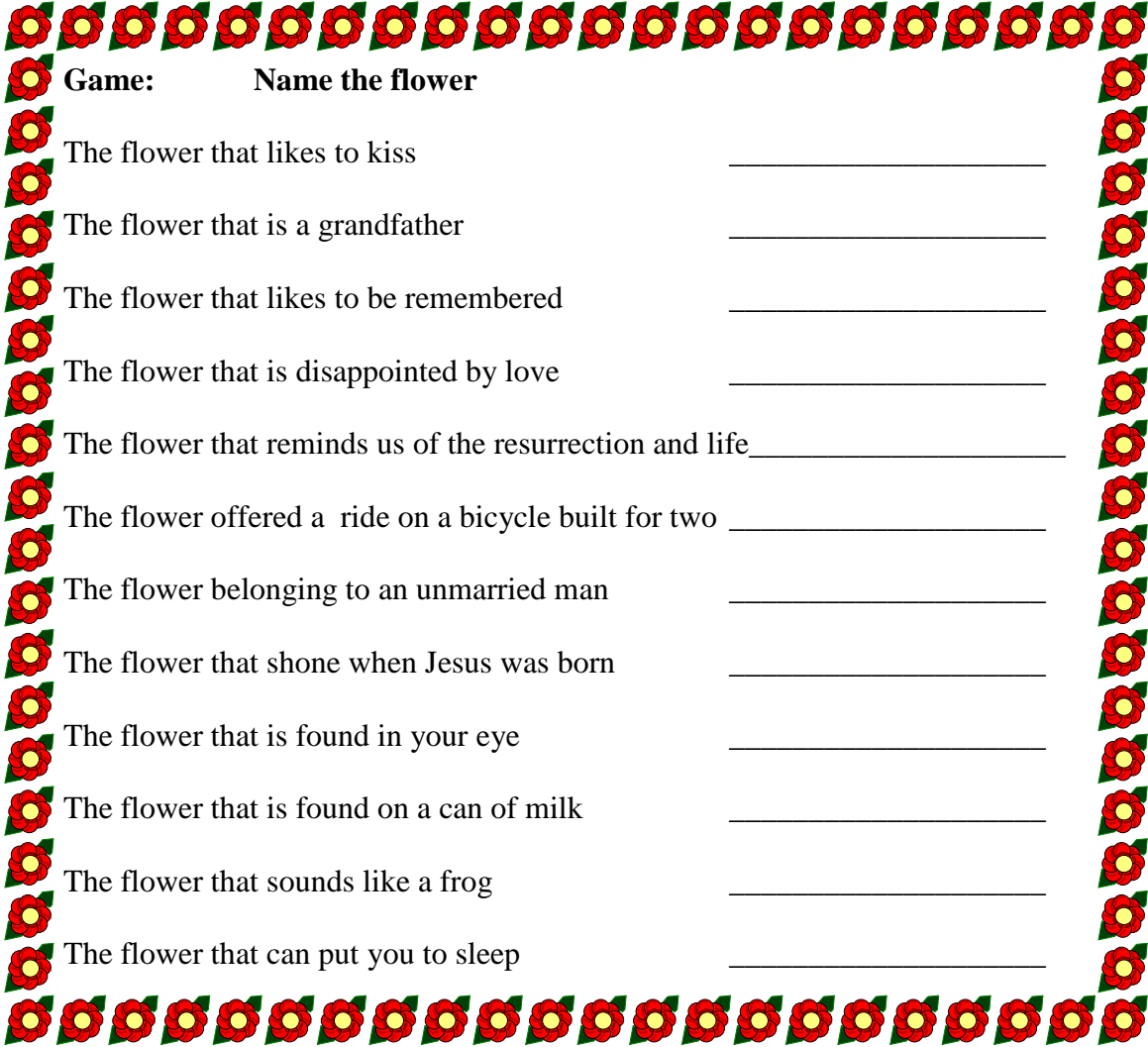
### Devotional: Life's Bouquet

Who amongst us has lived without worry or stress? To be alive is to have those experiences in life. Yet, in the midst of whatever life brings our way, we can find a place of calmness, peace and rest when we actively pursue it. Being in an outdoor setting often provides the avenue to de-stress. Sometimes, but not always, socializing can provide an avenue to de-stress. At other times, having fun and laughter can provide an avenue to de-stress. It is my hope that our time together today has provided an opportunity for you to step outside your everyday routine and to provide the relaxation that will enhance your well-being.

In Luke 12, in speaking to the disciples, Jesus gives us some key elements to remember when faced with stressful and worrisome experiences:

- V. 22 - *“Do not worry”* - This is easier said than done; yet Jesus wouldn't have said it if it were not possible to accomplish.
- V. 23 - *“Life is much more important”* - Jesus said that is it more important than food or clothes— two very important things, especially in the Western hemisphere, where both are found in abundance and where everyone often eats to excess and has more clothes than one can wear out.
- V. 24 - *“God feeds them!”* - These words seem to come in response to the unuttered question, “If we are not to worry about either of these things, especially the food which we need for survival, then who will provide for us?”
- V. 25 - *“Can any of you live a bit longer by worrying about it?”* Jesus asked a thought provoking, yet practical question for his listeners to ponder. Yet, it's really a rhetorical question, for there is only one answer - “No”. As a matter of fact, health experts will tell us that worry will do the opposite—it will shorten our life.
- V. 28 - *“It is God who clothes the wild grass”* - Jesus recognizes and responds as the disciples' asked question about the provision of clothing as well as food. He reassures them that God is the provider of all things and will provide for them just as he provides for the natural world.
- V. 28 - *“How little faith you have”* - Jesus reminds them that to be concerned about these things is really an extension of our question about God's ability to provide for us.
- V. 29 - *“So don't be all upset”* - Don't stress yourselves out, even though these things are important to you.
- V. 30 - *“Your Father knows that you need these things.”* - God is aware of what you need to survive and thrive in this world.
- V. 31 - *“Be concerned with his Kingdom, and He will provide you with these things”*  
 In other words, “Get your priorities right. Kingdom business comes first; when this is your primary concern, God will ensure that the necessities are provided for you.”

So, when we set God first in our life, and when we move toward accomplishing his will, life's bouquet of joys and sorrows, its struggles and worries, are tempered by the assurance that God knows what we need. Let us trust in Him to provide for us.



**Game: Name the flower**

The flower that likes to kiss \_\_\_\_\_

The flower that is a grandfather \_\_\_\_\_

The flower that likes to be remembered \_\_\_\_\_

The flower that is disappointed by love \_\_\_\_\_

The flower that reminds us of the resurrection and life \_\_\_\_\_

The flower offered a ride on a bicycle built for two \_\_\_\_\_

The flower belonging to an unmarried man \_\_\_\_\_

The flower that shone when Jesus was born \_\_\_\_\_

The flower that is found in your eye \_\_\_\_\_

The flower that is found on a can of milk \_\_\_\_\_

The flower that sounds like a frog \_\_\_\_\_

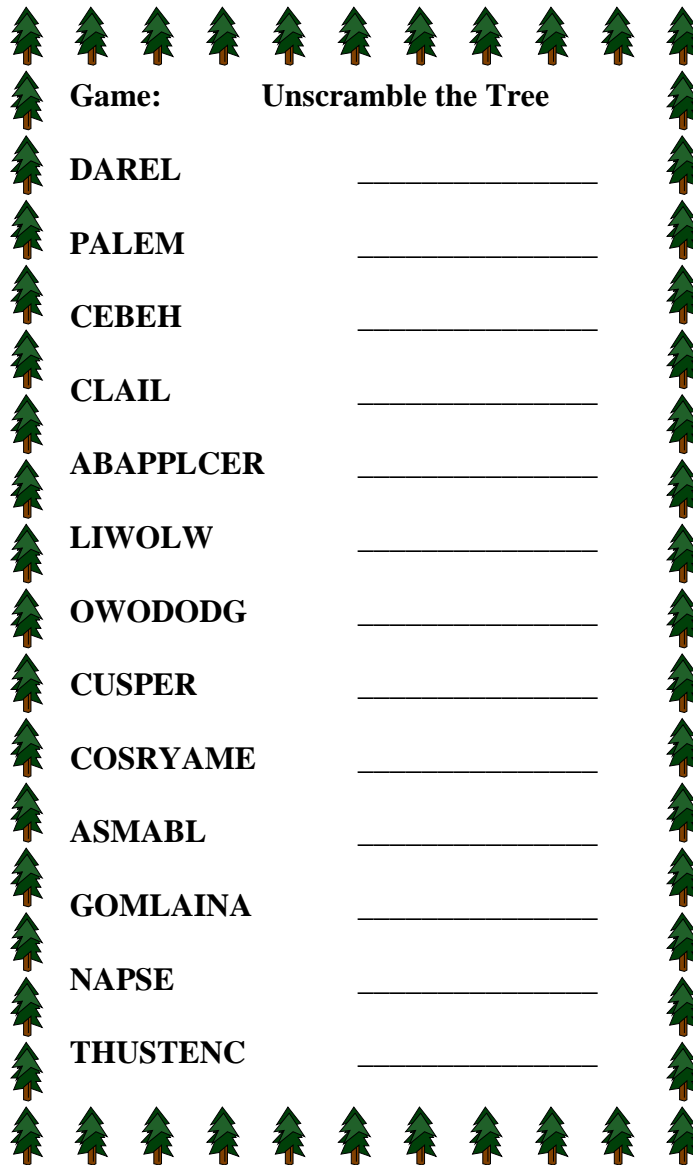
The flower that can put you to sleep \_\_\_\_\_

Tulips, Poppy, Forget-me-not, Bleeding Heart, Lily, Daisy, Bachelor's Button, Star of Bethlehem, Carnation, Crocus. Lavender

**Game: Garden Party**

Objective: Using the words 'Garden Party', how many other words can you make?

Materials: Pen and paper


**Game: Unscramble the Tree**

**DAREL** \_\_\_\_\_

**PALEM** \_\_\_\_\_

**CEBEH** \_\_\_\_\_

**CLAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**ABAPPLCER** \_\_\_\_\_

**LIWOLW** \_\_\_\_\_

**OWODODG** \_\_\_\_\_

**CUSPER** \_\_\_\_\_

**COSRYAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ASMABL** \_\_\_\_\_

**GOMLAINA** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAPSE** \_\_\_\_\_

**THUSTENC** \_\_\_\_\_

Alder, Beech, Crabapple, Dogwood, Sycamore, Magnolia,  
 Chestnut, Maple, Lilac, Willow, Spruce, Balsam, Aspen, Cactus

**Game: Things found in a Garden**

Objective: Using the clue, list the things found in a garden



**Things Found In A Garden**

Instruction: Using the clue, list the things found in a garden

I pollinate the flowers                    ---

I can be a nuisance for some of your plants                    ---

I like to taste you                    -----

I often come to the surface early in the morning                    ----

I can sing for you                    ----

I am needed to have a garden                    ----

I look beautiful and can give off a wonderful smell                    -----

I grow and you mow me                    ----

I provide shade                    ----

I taste great and can reduce your grocery bill                    -----

I hop around the yard                    ----



- Bee   Bug   Mosquito   Ant   Worm   Bird   Soil  
Flower   Grass   Tree   Vegetable   Frog   Children