

Leaves

Patsy Rowe



Preparation: Display various types of tree leaves
Scripture can be printed on various paper leaves

Game: Identify the Leaf

- Prior to the program, gather various types of leaves
- Give out pen and paper numbered according to the amount of sample leaves you have collected.
- As you hold up each type of leaf, have each woman write down the tree from which the leaf comes.
- The woman with the most correct can be given a small prize

Another option: If you are unable to collect various types of leaves, use pictures instead.

Game: Pin the leaf on the tree (pin the tail on the donkey)



Objective: Person who pins the leaf nearest to the center of the tree, wins the prize.

Items needed: Picture of tree, blind fold, several paper leaves.

Game: Have you ever...

Objective: To think about the various experiences in life

Directions: Lady with the most points wins 'the most experienced lady prize';
Lady with least points wins the 'newbie to life prize'.

Have you ever:					
2 points	Had a car accident	_____	10 points	Had a baby	_____
1 points	Had a broken shoe heel	_____	5 points	Lost your purse	_____
6 points	Broken your leg	_____	9 points	Got a driving ticket	_____
7 points	Been stranded at the airport	_____	4 points	Lost your glasses	_____
3 points	Burned your baking	_____	8 points	Been to England	_____
Total Points _____					

Scripture Reading: *Ecclesiastes 3: 1-14—A Time for Everything

*Leader can read verse 1, followed by others reading verses 2-8 (a verse written on each leaf) followed by the leader reading verses 9-14.

Devotional: The Leaves of Life

One of the frustrating things about raking leaves is that it seems to be a waste of time and energy. After spending time raking and making the lawn look good, the wind blows and, guess what, down come more leaves. Of course, one way to get around this frustration is to wait until all the leaves are off the tree before you begin raking; but that can take weeks, perhaps even months—and you know how messy and slippery leaves can be, especially after a rainfall. So then, for the benefit of having a nice looking yard, one must ‘suck up’ the frustration and get on with the task of raking.



What about the experiences that happen in life? Can we see the similarity to the leaves falling off the tree? How much energy do we spend trying to clean up things that happen in our lives? Doesn't it sometimes cause us to feel that it is a waste of time and energy because we know that just when we have tidied up one mess, there is something else bound to happen that will need our utmost attention? Of course, we could take the attitude: I'll wait until all the experiences happen and then do something about making my life look a little tidier; but even this does not work because one ignored experience piled upon another only makes our lives look as bad as the yard does when the leaves are full of rain and are starting to decay. So then, what must one do to have a better life? Must we always ‘suck up’ the frustrations and get on with the task of working to make our lives better?

1. We can be pro-active by controlling our own life experience, so that what happens to us is somewhat controlled by the experiences of our own choosing. At the same time, we must remain fully aware that we do not live in this world alone; so then, the actions of others will always have some impact on us.
2. We can be reactive in engaging in our life experiences so that whatever happens will not get the best of us. While things happen that are not of our choosing, how we react to them is of our choosing.
3. We can trust in God and, believing that He is in control of all things, we can have a sense of peace. This doesn't mean we take a fatalist stance in living: since God is in control, there is nothing I can do to make a difference. Rather, it means that we have the awareness that we are not going through this life alone and have someone greater than ourselves to whom we can trust to help us get through unfavorable experiences.

Each of these answers is an equally important response to the question: What must one do to have a better life? We want to be engaged in living, not just in existing for however many years that we live. The reality is: if we are a living being, life will be filled with challenges as well as opportunities. We can either be a victim of circumstance or we can choose to make the most of whatever it brings our way. Just like raking leaves, let us ask ourselves: Do we want to let our leaves of life lie and rot, or do we want to put in the effort to clean them up, having a sense of accomplishment and personal input into living? I don't know what your choice is, but I choose to make my life colorful by being engaged in living.

Song Suggestions:

Eternal God, unchanging (Salvation Army Songbook 6)
Joyful, joyful we adore thee (Salvation Army Songbook 10)
This is my Father's World (Salvation Army Songbook 42)
Praise and Thanksgiving, Father we offer (Salvation Army Songbook 927)

Poem: Lord, Color My Life Patsy Rowe

Leaves

Green, red, yellow and orange
Changing in the Autumn
Falling to the ground



Love

Hesed, eros, philia and agape
Unchanging all year long
Lifting me up to the heavens



God

Faithful, righteous, just and holy
Source of all things created
Giving color to my life