

God's Laundry Mat

Adapted from a program by Lee Ann Thompson
Central Territory USA



Theme Verse: "He cleanses us, washes us with the water of his Word, without stain, no wrinkles." Ephesians 5:26-27

Nametags and/or invitations: Use clothespins with nametag or card with information about the event attached between pins.

Decorations: Have a selection of empty laundry detergent and stain remover containers on display. Set up an ironing board with baskets of folded and unfolded laundry around it. Set tables using linen table clothes if possible. Options for center pieces could be small empty plastic laundry detergent containers filled with an arrangement of flowers. Or you could use small baskets that look similar to a laundry basket (can be purchased at most any dollar store) and have facecloth, socks, dish cloth and any other small piece of clean laundry in basket and coming out over sides to look like a basket of unfolded laundry.

Laundry Games:

Sock Game-Have two piles of mixed up pairs of socks. Divide the group into two teams and see which team can pair the socks the fastest.

Clothespin Game-Place clothespins on a wire hanger. See who can take off the most clothespins using only one hand while holding the ones they are removing.

Clothes Line Game-Hang up two clothes lines in the room. Place one laundry basket full of clothes and clothespins under each clothes line. Divide the group into two teams. The first member must hang up all of the clothes in their basket. The second member takes them down and returns them to the basket. This is repeated until one team is declared the winner.

Songs:

SASB 306/TB 328 What can wash away my sins?

SASB 417/TB 608 Have you been to Jesus...?

Laundry Hints/Tips

*Attach a stain stick to the inside top of the bathroom hamper. Rub the stick on any stains as you put the clothes in the hamper. If clothes don't get washed immediately, they're already pretreated.

*Before you wash shorts and blouses, button alternate buttons starting with the third one from the top. Arms won't tangle in the wash and damp shirts can be slipped right onto hangers. If you machine-dry a shirt, hang it immediately and give it a shot of spray starch on the collar and cuffs to make it look presentable.

*Add a dry bath towel to a load of damp clothes and they will dry much faster. If you've forgotten a load in the dryer and the wrinkles are set in, throw a damp towel in with the load and put it through a cycle again, setting the machine to warm rather than hot. If that doesn't do the job, use a pressing cloth dampened with diluted white distilled vinegar.

*Clean your favorite baseball cap without destroying its shape by placing it on the top rack of the dishwasher.

Run it through a complete cycle and allow it to dry thoroughly before wearing.

Guests: Invite someone from an appliance shop to talk on washers/dryers like what tips to keep in mind when purchasing a new one. Or invite someone from a demo booth to do a demonstration using laundry detergent.

Devotional Object Lesson:

Take a piece of white clothing and stain it with red fruit punch or spaghetti sauce in front of the group. Use an instant stain remover pen to remove the stain. Explain how God can spiritually do the same for us. He can instantly remove the stains of our sins as soon as we seek forgiveness. We need to allow God to apply His stain remover of forgiveness to our lives. Isaiah 1:18 says, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow". God cleanses us and washes us as white as snow. To God it doesn't matter how great the sin or how long it has been, God who is powerful can cleanse you and make you pure. God made the ultimate sacrifice for us and our sins by sacrificing His Son Jesus Christ on the cross. The ultimate price for our sins has been paid and by God's grace we can be clean and have our sins removed.

Refreshments: All of the refreshments for the meeting/event could be light in color making them simple and clean just like you want your laundry. Some suggestions are: Serve chicken or tuna salad on crustless white bread, potato chips with sour cream dip, white meringue cookies, white chocolate covered pretzels, angel food cake and dream whip.