

LEFTOVERS!

Flo Sharples, Innisfil, Ontario



Preparation: Invite the ladies to bring along an unfinished project from home, you will be amazed what will show up. Set up a display of these “homemade/unfinished projects”, have suitable music playing in the background.

Introduction: When I say the word ‘leftovers’ what comes to mind? Left over food, unfinished projects, leftover feelings from a variety of situations. This program is designed to motivate those in the group to complete unfinished projects.

Leftover Projects: How many of you have started projects but never completed? How long ago, 2, 5, 10 years? – give a few minutes for two or three ladies to “tell their tale” of their unfinished masterpiece! Perhaps some of ladies in your group may offer to complete someone else’s project!

Song: SASB 215/TB 669 *I’ve Felt a New and Loving Touch*

Prayer: Unfinished Things

*Today, Lord, I see my life like a highway,
I look back and, as far as memory can trace,
I see unfinished things thrown aside,
I have been a veritable litter-bug
in this respect;
The thrill of starting something fresh;
The enthusiasm for a new idea,
the joy of creating;
then the slackening interest as the new
venture palled.
Laying it aside; forgetting it for many days:
and finally throwing it away.
It’s not wrong, Lord, to have thrown so
much aside,
The fault was in beginning too much.
As a child it is good to try one’s skills:
but as adults we must discriminate.
If I accept this, I must relinquish that:
if I give to this, I must sacrifice that;
if I choose this, I must renounce that.*

I need wisdom, Master. I need Your help, Your guidance. For I have only one life to live, only so much time invested in the bank of life, and I want my life to count and to count for good; to accomplish something useful; to help bring in Your kingdom. Show me, then, what things are worthwhile, Lord, and help me do them with all my heart and mind. by Flora Larsson

Philippians 1:6

"... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Joshua 1:9

"Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid, for the Lord your God will go with you wherever you go"

Devotions: Be sensitive to people's feelings; some may prefer not to be part of this exercise – have some appropriate music playing in the background to set the mood.

Provide each person with a pencil and piece of paper. It is a confidential exercise between them and God. Request that they write down issues which have hindered their spiritual progress be it a hurt, a grudge, a sin, bad attitude, gossip, worry over this past year, or maybe more years. Some habit or care they want rid off. Some burden that they have carried that they don't need to carry any longer. His word says, "Casting all your care on Him, for He cares for you." When finished, ask that they make their way to the table, pause for a moment, let them tear up their piece of paper then drop into the box (box will be discarded), then return to their place.

Everyone needs God's continuing grace in their lives. Turning over a new leaf does not erase the guilt of the past it just helps to see the path ahead of you. Wishing your sins or attitudes, feelings were

gone doesn't help. It is the blood of Jesus that washes away the old sin and continually cleanses, giving sufficient grace to make a new start.

Often it is just in the act of actually doing something publicly that gives you the courage to put into action, an attempt to reach your goal.

Let us sit quietly, while the music plays, taking the time to look inside your own heart to see where you need to ask the Lord to help you make a fresh new start.

Choruses:

He, who began a good work in you.

He who began a good work in you.

Will be faithful to complete it,

He'll be faithful to complete it

He who started the work,

will be faithful to complete it in you.

Change my heart oh God, make it ever new.

*Change my heart oh God, may I be like You
You are the potter, I am the clay.*

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart oh God, make it ever new.

Change my heart oh God may I be like You.

Closing Prayer: *Lord, help us to be thankful for this new beginning and the possibility that this can be the "first day of the rest of our lives" for You. During this past year there have been many times and places where we have stumbled and fallen; we have faced problems too complex for us to handle. We have failed to receive all the blessings in Christ that could have been ours. We have not always looked to You for answers to our problems but today we desire to make a new start. We know that You will be in the future for all of us as you have been in the past. You will lead us into our tomorrows. Give us courage, sufficient to enable us to stand firm in our faith and spend each day with you. Amen*