

And God Created Lavender

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Decorations

Use lavender coloured shower curtain to drape over white tablecloths with napkins and candles to match. Adding lavender coloured candles (unscented) will give your room a lovely touch.

Prepare

Invite the ladies the week before to wear something in the shade of lavender.

Program ideas

- Word scramble
- Make lavender sachets for H.L. sale, or as gifts
- Make dried flower cards using lavender

Song: SASB 306/TB 328, *What Can Wash Away My Sins* (note the word cleansing)

The Gift of Lavender

- Some people believe that the lavender we know is the same as the “hyssop” of the Bible. Psalm 51:7 says, “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”
- The ancient Romans used lavender as a perfume for the bath. It seems that the plant derived its name from the Latin lavare, to wash
- There are many uses for lavender besides bathing and perfuming. For example, to keep away mosquitoes, use lavender oil on ankles and wrists.
- Lavender is used to freshen linen closets. It repels moths and other insects, who do not like its powerful aroma.
- Lavender is used to help us relax. The



soothing scent of a lavender sachet under your pillow is said to help you sleep. Fussy babies and tired moms find a lavender scented bath calming and relaxing (according to an old apothecary book, it even makes the lions and tigers in the zoo docile!) Lavender oil is useful for massage as well.

- Lavender has disinfectant qualities — for example, you can gargle with it if you have a sore throat.
- Lavender is very attractive to bees, so it provides a good source of honey.
- You can use small bags of dried lavender instead of dryer sheets — it freshens clothing AND prevents static cling!
- Queen Elizabeth I used lavender tea for her migraines. Lavender has healing qualities.

So we see that lavender is a wonderful creation of God, which can be used for our good in many ways.

Word Search: And God Created Lavender

See page 44, photocopy and give to ladies.

Choruses

- *He's Able, He's Able I Know He's Able*
- SASB 46(Chorus section), *Now The Fruit Of The Spirit*

Devotional: Lavender Words for a Sick Woman

Cleansing and Healing — Text: Luke 8:43-48

There was a woman who had suffered for 12 years with a discharge of blood. She is not named in the Bible, but I'd like to call her "Rose". She was weak and tired due to her illness and found each day filled with loneliness. In those days, it was believed that ill health was a sign of sin. People often wondered what she had done to be sick for so long. She wasn't allowed to worship at the Temple, because she was ceremonially unclean. Rose had spent her money paying doctors seeking a cure but there was no success.

When Rose knew Jesus was in town, she saw her chance. She wouldn't speak to Him because she was tired of rejection, rather she quietly mingled in with the crowd, working her way closer to the Teacher. When she reached Him, she bent down a little lower — not hard when you are bent over anyway — and touched the edge of His robe. Immediately, Rose felt better. Filled with joy, she straightened up with the thought of heading home when suddenly she heard Jesus ask, "Who touched me?"

The "duh-ciples", (as Liz Curtis Higgs calls them) not understanding as usual, say — look at the crowds, Jesus! Anybody could have touched you! Jesus says, no, somebody

touched Me — somebody has tapped into My power.

Rose comes forward, trembling. Has she done wrong? Will the Teacher be angry?

What does Jesus say to her? "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace".

He calls her daughter — she has been so lonely and isolated; she hasn't been part of the community for 12 long years — and now she is family again!

He assures her that her faith has made her well — she is no longer ill. She has been made whole, cleansed of her disease. Here Jesus displays love for her and encourages her to live in peace.

If you wanted to press the point, you could say that Jesus' words that day were like lavender for that woman! Lavender — cleansing and healing, settling and soothing. "Daughter, you took a risk trusting me, and now you're healed and whole. Live well, live blessed! (Message) The words Rose heard that day changed her life forever. The touch of the Lord upon our lives enables us to live in peace.

Chorus: *Create In Me
A Clean Heart, O God*



Closing Prayer

Refreshments

Perhaps try some lavender tea! It tastes bitter and perfume-y. Have some available for brave testers! A more palate-pleasing treat is crackers spread with lavender honey.

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ANTISEPTIC
BATH
BLESSING
CALMING
CLEANSING
FLOWERS

HEALING
HERB
HYSSOP
LAVENDER
MEDICINAL
PERFUME

PURPLE
REPELLENT
SCENT
SOOTHING
SWEET
USEFUL

A J C N L T X P O C K F L M Q
V N K A N H E Z R L R L U G T
G B T E L R L H T E E O F Z E
T N C I F M R I P A D W E U C
P S I U S K I E N N N E S R N
C O M H N E L N G S E R U B G
X E S D T L P Z G I V S Q N D
W P J S E O K T W N A N I I O
H O L N Y C O R I G L S H W L
O Y T E N H Q S A C S W E E T
L A N I C I D E M E L P R U P
H E A L I N G B L E U A B R K
F U H W V B M B A P Z S H X C
P E B O S V K T V T R K N M D
E W S Q D U U L B H H L Z F B