

## Little Ladies Night Out "SUPER SLEUTH MYSTERY NIGHT"

Little Ladies Night Out is an outreach event that is hosted three times a year. The girls from our church are given flyers in sealed envelopes that they can take to school and pass out to the other girls in their class. The girls who participate are between the ages of 4 and 11.

### **Evening Outline:** *(times are approximates – but try to stick to schedule)*

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 6:00 – 6:30pm | Arrival/Registration<br>- “spy books” to be handed out to all the girls<br>- watch movie related to theme “Nancy Drew”                           |
| 6:30 – 7:00pm | Activity #1 – Group #1 (craft), Group #2 (CSI Lab)   |
| 7:00 – 7:30pm | Activity #2 – Group #2 (craft), Group #1 (CSI Lab))  |
| 7:30 – 8:00pm | Both groups – Activity #3 & Snack  |
| 8:00 – 8:30pm | Devotional (sanctuary)   |
| 8:30pm        | Announcements & Dismissal (Posters of next event to be handed out)<br><b>Children are not to leave the building without a parent or guardian</b> |
| 8:45pm        | Clean Up   |

### **Arrival:** *(6:00 – 6:30pm)*

All the children will be dropped off in the Fellowship Room. It was decided that all children need to have an emergency contact form filled out in order to participate in the evening. Those children who do not come with an invitation/emergency contact form filled out, a parent will be asked to fill one out before leaving. For safety and security reasons, a child **cannot** stay unless an emergency form is completed by the parent or guardian. While children are waiting for others to arrive, they will watch a movie related to the theme of the evening. Helpers are needed for “crowd control.”

### **Opening:** *(6:25pm) Leadership: One Volunteer*

Before the girls are divided into two groups, the “mystery” for the evening will be disclosed. “CJ’s” (Christ Jesus) body is missing. To build on the mystery do not reveal to them that CJ stands for Christ Jesus. The grave is empty and there is no body there. Who stole the body? Why did someone steal the body and where is the body now? These are questions the girls will need to solve based on the “clues” they will receive throughout the night.

### **Group Activities:** *(6:30 – 8:00pm)*

Children will be divided into two or three groups. All three activities will run simultaneously and the groups will be on a rotation basis. Each activity will be approximately ½ hour long.

| ACTIVITY         | LEADERSHIP                  | ROOM SUGGESTIONS    |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Registration     | Two Volunteers              | Foyer/Hallway       |
| Opening          | All other available leaders | Fellowship Room     |
| Activity – Games | Two Volunteers              | Gymnasium (CSI Lab) |
| Activity – Craft | One Volunteer               | Classroom           |
| Activity & Snack | One Volunteer               | Fellowship Room     |
| Devotional Time  | Major Denise Walker         | Sanctuary           |

**Activity #1 (Crafts):** Leadership: One Volunteer

This activity will consist of the girls decorating their “spy journals” with stick-on shapes and letters.

Once the girls are finished decorating their journals they will then sit and listen to a “detective” who has interviewed/interrogated possible suspects about the disappearance of “CJ’s” body. The detective shares about who saw CJ last: Jo, the grave owner, CJ’s Mom (whose finger prints were on a flower vase), Maggie (who’s finger prints were also found at the grave site), Pete, CJ’s best buddy (his footprint was found), security guards and the cemetery gardener who is missing. Mention that it has also been reported that angels were seen in the area. Through his/her talk the detective will give the girls 3 clues to help them in solving this mystery.



**Activity #2 (CSI Lab):** Leadership: Two Volunteers Needed

This room could be set up as a CSI lab. This activity will consist of the girls deciphering what items are “hidden” in boxes. It is more of a CSI investigation type of games to get the girls to put their “investigating caps” on. We had boxes with a hole cut in each of them and filled them with stuff like macaroni, cooked spaghetti, Jell-O, dried beans, sand, etc.. The girls reached in through the holes and had to feel around for a clue, something relating to CJ’s death, i.e. a nail, a piece of wood, hammer, whip (shoe lace), rock, sponge, etc.



Once the girls have completed these tasks they will then sit and listen to the coroner/medical

examiner who confirmed that “CJ” was definitely dead. The coroner describe the wounds that CJ had. Tell about his cuts and bruises, his badly beat up back, a stab wound in his side, and that his hands and feet had holes all they way through them. The coroner talk should provide the girls with three more keys pieces of evidence “clues” that prove his/her claim (suggestions: grave clothes, pictures of nail holes and spear).



**Activity #3 (Snack):** Leadership: One Volunteer

This activity will combine snack along with the discovery activity. The children will gather in the fellowship room for snack time and while they are eating their snack they will hear about the things that “CJ” said to his friends that gave clues that he knew he was going to die yet his friends didn’t understand what he was saying. Talk about the last supper, the last meal CJ had with his friends tying it into snack. Confirm that he was dead, that his body had been wrapped and placed in a tomb.



Snack will consist of: water, grapes (wine) & crackers (bread) and maybe cheese.

**Devotional:** (8:15- 8:30pm) Leadership: Guest: Major Denise Walker

For this event the devotional time will take place in the sanctuary. On a power point screen have a picture of Jesus outside the open tomb. Cover this picture with boxes that have question marks on them. Confirm that CJ is dead and that security guards were on duty guarding his tomb. CJ’s body is really gone and there are theories as to what happened. One is that the guards fell asleep and someone stole the body. The other is that his body was never there. Using the clues from each of the activities work together to



“solve” the mystery. As the clues are shared and discussed with the group remove one question mark box at a time until the picture of Jesus is revealed on the power point. Up until this point the children will not have realized that CJ’s body that they have been looking for is that of Jesus Christ. Share with them about what happened to Jesus Christ. Why did he die and why that is important to us. Explain God’s plan to the girls and provide them with an opportunity to invite Jesus Christ into their life (see the two-sided “I Solved the Mystery” Cards which could be used as part of your decision time). Once devotional time is finished – announcements will be made and children will be dismissed.

**Other Areas Of Consideration:**

Since all leaders are involved in leading an activity, parent volunteers will be needed for “crowd control”. Basically, to “shepherd” the girls around from activity to activity, bathroom, discipline etc... In order for any parent to volunteer, they will need to have a police check done before hand. If a parent volunteers to help, this information needs to be relayed to them.

**Volunteers:** more volunteers are needed

Make a list of all volunteers and determine how many more will be needed to host this event.

**Website Resources:** key search words “mystery dinner games”, “mystery dinner party”, mystery dinner ideas”

<http://www.dinnerandmurder.com/>

<http://www.tailormademysteries.com/>

<http://www.host-a-murder.com/>

<http://www.acemurdermystery.com/>

<http://www.nightofmystery.com/?gclid=CJ7miqPjt5kCFSQhDQod0HSy4w>

\*\* <http://www.murderandmysterygames.com/> \*\*\* (Sherlock Holmes)

<http://www.itsmurder.com/>

<http://www.murdermystery.com.au/>

<http://www.hostapartygame.com/>

<http://www.djmcadam.com/mystery-dinner.html>

<http://www.merrimysteries.com/tmm/myst.htm?gclid=CMrz8r7Kt5kCFQENDQodlg4jug>

<http://www.murder-mystery-game.com/>

(Submitted by Lisa Graham, Children & Youth Ministries Director, Cobourg, ONCE Division.)



## **I've solved the mystery...**

I want to be a friend of God and I'm glad He made it possible!

I believe Jesus died to pay the penalty for my sins, and I ask him to forgive me.

I believe He sent His Holy Spirit to help me live a better life.

I promise to trust God, and do my best to love others and the world around me.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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