

**Christmas Preparation Party-Women's Ministry Event**  
**Adapted from program by Dannyelle Nicolle (www.lifeisaparty.ca)**

A wonderful sweet evening for ladies to come, relax and have fun! In addition to the sweetness and fun, ladies will be able to take a home a couple of handmade Christmas gifts for giving.

**Décor:** The room and set up can be themed around holiday candy. Make Christmas Candy Trees for a fun decoration. Decorate a Christmas Tree in candy cane red and white. Cover tables with red tablecloths. Have Christmas music playing in background.

**Instructions for Christmas Candy Trees.**

Roll a piece of bristol board into a narrow cone and staple it. A trick to get a nice even bottom is to make a make-shift compass with a piece of string and pencil. Hold it at the top of the cone and draw a line around the bottom. After you trim it place masking tape over the seam. Attach candy using a glue gun. Trees could be marshmallow, jellybeans, sugar coated gumdrops or any other festive candy. One tip is to attach candy with the cone laying down on the table, especially with the heavier candy. These will add a fun sweet touch to the festive décor.



**Food:** Set up a hot chocolate buffet and serve donuts. Have several flavors of hot chocolate available. These can be purchased at the Bulk Barn or grocery store. These could include regular hot chocolate, white hot chocolate, mint hot chocolate and candy cane hot chocolate. Place the various flavors in glass jars or canisters and decorate them with candy striped ribbon and some simple labels. Use white mugs to serve hot chocolate and tie a red ribbon on the handle to make them a little more festive. Have several fun add-ons for the hot chocolate such as milk which could be served in an old milk bottle. You could also have different sprinkles, caramel sauce, marshmallows and whipped cream for toppings. Cover the whip cream container in wrapping paper to tie into the décor.



Another fun option is to have chocolate dipped spoons for stirring. You could have a variety of white mint chocolate, dark chocolate and milk chocolate.

**Instructions for dipped spoons:** Melt the white mint chocolate, you can add a little Crisco to make the consistency more runny. Coat the spoons. While the chocolate is still wet sprinkle the tips with broken candy cane pieces. For the milk and dark chocolate do the same without adding the candy cane. You could add sugar in red and white to add a sparkle if you wish. After the chocolate is set wrap in clear cellophane and tie with a piece of red ribbon. You could place them in small tin buckets or mugs on the table.

In addition to hot chocolate you could offer bottled water and cover the label in wrapping paper to add a festive touch.

**Donuts:** Have a variety of flavors of donuts. Beautifully display donuts on white plates with a label identifying the kind. This will certainly be a treat for most everyone! To tie in with the candy trees you could also make a donut tree. This could be made by inserting toothpicks into a Styrofoam cone and sticking a donut (timbit) on.

**Activities:** Here are three activities you could do at this event. If it is a larger group you could break ladies into three groups and have them move from station to station.

### **Cookies in a Jar**

Provide a jar or mason jar for each lady. Line all the ingredients up in order with amounts printed up on large easy to read labels with the correct measurement. Recipe for Cookies in a Jar can be found at this link.

<http://christmas.organizedhome.com/recipes/gifts-in-a-jar/m-and-m-cookies>

A simple trick is to have home-made rolled paper funnels to help get the ingredients into the jars neatly. After they have their jars layered have a decorating area. Provide printed cooking instructions, ribbons and wrapping paper.

### **Sugar Cookie Decorating**

Purchase or have someone bake a supply of Christmas shaped sugar cookies. Give ladies a handout with the recipe if homemade and tips on decorating. Invite a local decorator if possible. Check with bakery department at the local grocery store. Provide various colors of icing and embellishments for decorating. Provide sheets of wax paper to lay cookies on for drying. When they are set at the end of the evening provide a cellophane bag for gift giving.



### **Handmade Gift Tags**

Provide a variety of Christmas paper, paper punches and paper cutter, special scissors, markers and embellishments. Also if anyone does scrapbooking they may have Christmas stamps that you could use. You could invite them to lead this activity. These could be tags to go with the two gifts (Cookies in a Jar and Sugar Cookies) they make at the event.

Other activities could be Christmas Card Making, Christmas Tree Ornament Craft or Bow Demonstration and Making.

### **Devotional Thought:**

Read the Christmas Story from the Bible as a reminder that amidst all the preparations of the Season, to remember the true reason we celebrate.