



**Hello Dolly
...Bless
Your
Little
Heart!**

**A Spring Banquet
To Remember**



Hello Dolly! ...Bless Your Little Heart

"A friend loves at all times...."
Proverbs 17:17

Return to the days of girlhood when best friends were quiet, smiling, sympathetic and willing to cuddle on a dark night.

Celebrate **HELLO DOLLY** moments with a joyful Spring Banquet featuring 'ragged' and 'fancy' guests of honor.

Girls of all ages know that inside every dolly beats a heart of solid gold. God's pure love is first reflected in the lives of little girls as they learn to be tender hearted mamas to their dolly friends.

*Bring old friends back to life for one evening. **HELLO DOLLY...Bless Your Little Heart** is a guaranteed memory maker!*

Okay, we know your 'little girl' hearts are fluttering so what are you waiting for? Pull out your own doll collection and get started on the journey of a lifetime! We're here to help!



Let's Have A Party!



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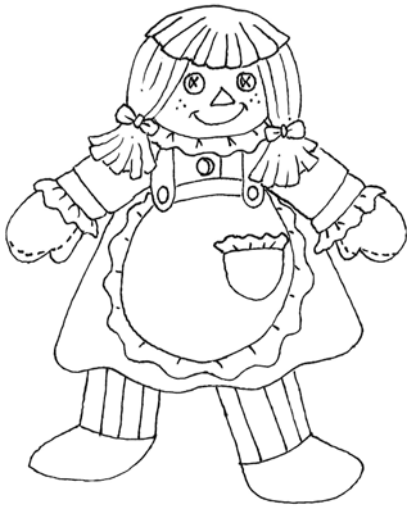
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Into The Doll House

*"A girl is Innocence playing in the mud,
Beauty standing on it's head,
Motherhood dragging a doll by the foot".*

Follow our tips and add your own creative touches to make your Spring Banquet a unique event that will be remembered for years. Manage basic arrangements and then have fun developing the delightfully feminine doll theme.

A Banquet

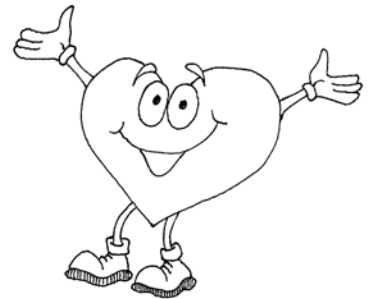
A banquet is a party with food as the main attraction. Add a short program, a speaker or entertainment. The occasion is enjoyable, comfortable and social. The most popular traditional spring banquet is the Mother and Daughter Banquet. There are other occasions when banquets are enjoyable. Ladies evenings, women's program, holiday gatherings, annual retreats, summer picnics and even father and child banquets.

An Informal Gathering

A party is a fun and games event where people mix for sparkling conversation, good food and laughter. Parties tend to be informal and hosts do not go to extra trouble to decorate.

While party games were once wildly popular, there are groups who do not enjoy a lot of organized activity. It should be a highly enjoyable experience. The activities should fit the needs of the guests.

Sometimes parties do not have to be planned at all. A larger party requires good planning to handle the program, publicity, decorating, welcoming, refreshments and clean up. Delicious refreshments are offered and you know you have a great party if you had a chance to create your own fun and remember the event fondly.



Pay Attention to Details

Often it is the smallest detail that makes the biggest impression. Wild flowers on a table, small table gifts for each guest, background music, greeters at the door and other thoughtful gestures make individuals feel welcome, special and pampered.

Practice Christian Hospitality

In the middle of a fun activity, people should be growing in their understanding of the Lord. Everyone should be giving affection and receiving love from other Christians in the family of God. Begin friendly conversations, avoid gossip or mean spirited comments.

Set Realistic Goals

What do you want to see happen during the two hours your guests are with you? Be specific! Plans in this workbook are complete. However, you may have more fun if you change details to fit your needs. Add creative ideas and change any activities as desired.

Work With A Team

Choose a small leadership team to complete advance arrangements. The team may be as few as two or as large as ten or more.

Divide tasks between team members and trust them to finish their tasks. While leadership may be divided, one person should be in charge to keep the whole affair moving smoothly.





Organize

Follow our suggestions adding your own creativity at the beginning of the planning process. Write down exactly what will happen and when jobs must be completed. Do not leave organization to the last minute.

Purchase Supplies As Needed

Decide what the banquet budget is and stay within the limit. Keep expense records. Use the church tax exemption number.

Practice A Positive Approach

Maintain a light and happy atmosphere during the planning process. If your attitude is right the rest of your team will catch the spirit. After all, this is a party!

Pray!

Pray for the event, the team and the guests. Pray as a team. Take each detail before the Lord and then-Relax!

Set Up

Provide adequate time to set up tables, decorations, props, food and other items necessary for the event. Reserve the church for the entire day and there may be situations when room arrangements must take place a day before the party.



Say Thank You

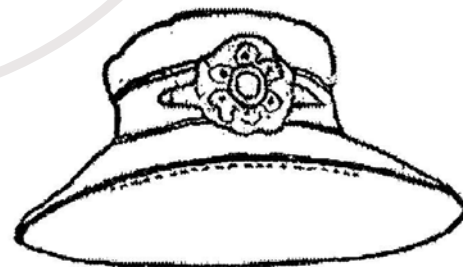
The behind-the-scenes team is the core of this event. Take time to write thank you notes, call and give small thank you gifts. Recognize your team publically at the banquet.

Clean Up

When the event is over, clean up begins. The party is not complete until the church is in order. Encourage the team to remove their props immediately. Stay to help with kitchen clean up.

NOTES:

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Speaking Of...

A Delightful Speaker

“Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional.”

Invite A Speaker

By all means invite a special guest to share inspirational thoughts. When scheduling a speaker, consider reducing program segments we provide that are best performed by the guests themselves. The speaker should conclude the evening festivities.

The Perfect Person

A good speaker makes a faith connection with the specific group. Choose the speaker from a list of possibilities suggested by friends, relatives, pastor, other churches, community groups or national organizations.

Consider The Cost

Ask the speaker if she has a set fee. If not, give a generous monetary gift including traveling costs. Think about the time they invest in preparation, travel and presentation.



Specific Instructions

Send a letter, make a telephone call and stay in contact through the internet. Include information like highway directions, arrival time and place, group size, time limit, lodging information and other personal details.

Tell the speaker the type of program and details of what you would like their speech to include. Continue to make contact periodically until the speaker leaves home to travel to the event.

Care And Feeding

Be aware that it is disquieting for a speaker to enter a room of strangers, be expected to speak about personal and spiritual issues and leave still feeling as if everyone is a stranger.

Assign a pre-arranged hostess "friend" to handle introductions, sit and converse with the guest at dinner to give the speaker a sense of belonging.

The banquet budget should include payment of all expenses from the time the speaker leaves home until she returns. If more meals are required, host or pay accordingly.

After The Banquet

Pay promptly. Stay with the speaker until they leave to return to their home. Thank that person from your heart and always follow up with a handwritten thank you note!



Tell Everyone....

Publicize!

**"Little girls love dolls. They just don't love doll clothes.
We've got four thousand dolls
and ain't one of them got a stitch of clothes on."
-Jeff Foxworthy**



Because you make the effort preparing a lovely event, filled with fun, fellowship and fantastic food, go the extra mile to publicize. Let's face it, you need enthusiastic guests so do your best to convince them it will be a unique experience in fine dining and entertainment.

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It's All About The Details

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Invitations, posters, registration forms, programs, handouts and centerpieces should all relate to your theme. Use the same colors, scripture, picture or logo on every piece of publicity.

Invite Every Gal!

Send invitations. If a community wide event is desired, place posters in local restaurants, business, offices. Insert invitations in the weekly worship folder and in the monthly newsletter.

Don't forget...One of the best places to put posters is in the Ladies Room at church and in community businesses. If a local business hesitates to put another poster in their window, suggest their ladies' room as a great "out of the way" place!



Create Buzz!

Involve lots of people in the planning stages. They don't have to be on the team but delegate tasks or small parts. Ask as many people as possible to participate in the formal program.

No memorization! The benefit? Everyone who is involved will attend and will be more likely to talk about the event and invite others. Many hands make light work. Cut stress with more help.

There's Even More Fun!

Let guests know prizes will be awarded for various games. Enjoy the company of friends.

Be Creative!

If the banquet is around a holiday like Mother's Day, advertise the event to men of the church that this is a great Mother's Day gift they can give their wives and mothers. Find creative ways to make your banquet a "gift" to the women and girls who attend.

Heart Jewelry ~ Just For Fun!

In addition to asking guests to bring a favorite doll, ask them to wear **HEART JEWELRY**. They may own lovely Heart pins, necklaces, bracelets or earrings! Add this touch of whimsy to the evening and watch conversation flow!

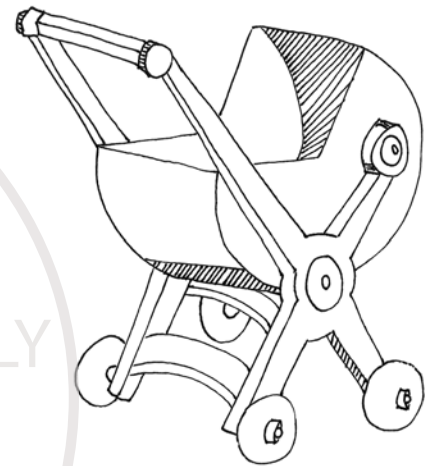


Decorating...

Creating The Doll's House

"Treasure the times of your life."

Create a simple, yet nostalgic room filled with dolls and doll accessories. As guests enter the party, they should immediately see and feel the theme. Discuss decoration at the beginning of the planning process. Follow our suggestions or invent your own **HELLO DOLLY** ambiance.



Our tips are meant to spark your own creativity. Read and follow directions but use items that are available locally. Not every decoration listed must be used.

Choose the best and leave the rest!

How Complicated Is This Going To Be?

This event can be as simple or involved as desired. If there are folks in your church who love to decorate, give them the responsibility to turn the room into a work of art. If no one comes forward, decorate simply at each table.

What Should Be Decorated?

Decorate tables with centerpieces and theme related items. Consider decorating the ticket table, entry door, stage area and each corner of the room.



Tasteful Elegance

Remember that less is more. Do not clutter any area with an overabundance of doll decor. Choose a few lovely dolls and accessories to make the tables and stage come to life.

HELLO DOLLY...Bless Your Little Heart is a banquet event based on the nostalgia girls of all ages feel when they think of their precious dolls from past and present. There is nothing quite so precious as a little girl's first doll. Decorate to reflect that sweet remembrance of girlhood with tasteful elegance.

Decorate With Dolls

Everything in the room, from table decorations to displays to staging should revolve around the doll theme. Because so many gals are involved, each event will look different depending upon the dolls that are loaned for display.

The most fun is when guests arrive and the theme comes to life when everyone sees the types of dolls owned by their friends and neighbors. "Oo's" and "ahh's" will be your reward as people move from place to place around the room to view the dolls and accessories.

DOLLS: Part of the advertising is to ask guests to bring one special doll with them for display. The dolls may be baby dolls, rag dolls, ceramic, porcelain, collectible or any style available. Dolls may be ancient, just plain old, well worn or new and pristine. The dolls may be worth lots of money or worth nothing except in the hearts of the owners.

Check out: www.paradisegalleries.com to see some amazing dolls! It may be fun to purchase several dolls as the focus of the decorations.

Dolls only!
No Stuffed Animals!



Doll Accessories



There are many traditional doll accessories that delight the hearts of doll lovers. Choose a variety of items that reflect the fun that accompanies the doll: cribs, high chairs, small dishes, tables and chairs, doll trunks, coat hangers, miniature clothing.

Place donated accessories on tables in corners of the banquet room. Cover each display table with matching tablecloths. The tablecloths should be one color so that the items stand out and not the background. Set up the loaned dolls in between the accessories to make a pleasant scene.

DOLL HOUSES: If doll houses are available, a few strategically placed houses will thrill the crowd!

Tables

Count the number of tables that need centerpieces. Ask for smaller dolls that may be incorporated into a centerpiece at each table. Each table theme will be a bit different depending upon the dolls at that table. Consider colors and themes based on the dolls.

COLOR: Because there will be dolls and accessories with a rainbow of color, tie the look together by using a theme color. All table covers should be uniform in color. Use a pale pink or yellow. White works well to feature any doll design on the table. Printed programs should be placed on each plate in the same color and if ribbons are attached, same color.

CONFETTI: Sprinkle confetti hearts on each table. No matter what theme color is chosen, use red hearts to mimic Raggedy Ann's Red 'I Love You' heart.

Make each table centerpiece interesting by adding small touches. Each table should feature on doll, a lit candle, doll accessories, children's books or other unique items as available. Add one or two helium filled balloons in the theme color to the center of each table.



NO TABLE CLUTTER! Use items sparingly. Guests may wander from table to table to see everything. Don't try to do it all on each table!

Stage/Display

If your banquet space has a stage (or central location), consider decorating it to look like an old fashioned attic. Place an old trunk center stage and overflow it with old quilts, beautiful dolls, toys and old rocking chairs, etc. Anything that reminds the guests of girlhood and dolls can be placed in the 'attic' scene.

Light the 'attic' with small floor lights so the light shines upward behind the trunk and beside it. Antique items will sparkle with interesting lighting. Have fun with this project.

Background Music

Quiet music is best while guests gather and enjoy conversation. Choose CD's that feature children's music, classical music or easy listening.

Music from 'Mary Poppins' is really fun! Christian instrumental sound great too. At some point, feature Broadway's version of "Hello Dolly"!

If local talent is available, ask a pianist, guitarist, harpist or other talented musician to provide live music through the dinner hour.

Paper Dolls

Display Paper Dolls as available. There are many varieties. Paper Doll collections make nice party gifts.

Check out: Dover Publications at www.doverpublications.com They offer a wide selection of Paper Dolls. From Shirley Temple to "Gone With The Wind" costumes to brides, this company is perfect in price and delivery. They also offer small sticker paper doll books that are perfect for the littlest girls in the group. (Aiko from Japan, Amanda Dresses Up, Anastasia from Russia and more-tiny sticker paper dolls at @ \$1.50 per book.)



Art Supplies, Decorations, Small Gifts

Check out craft shops, party stores, discount stores and rummage shops. Make table decorations, programs and table gifts. Check the internet for affordable items.

Door Prizes: Ask businesses and restaurants to donate gifts or gift cards. Buy small items like picture frames, note holders, lamps, cosmetic bags, pill organizers, tea cups, key chains, potted plants, candles, little dolls and costume jewelry.

Find inexpensive items that appeal to the feminine eye. Gifts are not necessary but often make the event special for those who attend.

If children are present, include charming toy gifts. The HELLO DOLLY theme just 'begs' for gifts like paper dolls, small dolls, tea sets and books about dolls.

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Catalog Stuff

Check out S&S Arts and Crafts web site: www.ssw.com for art supplies at a great price.

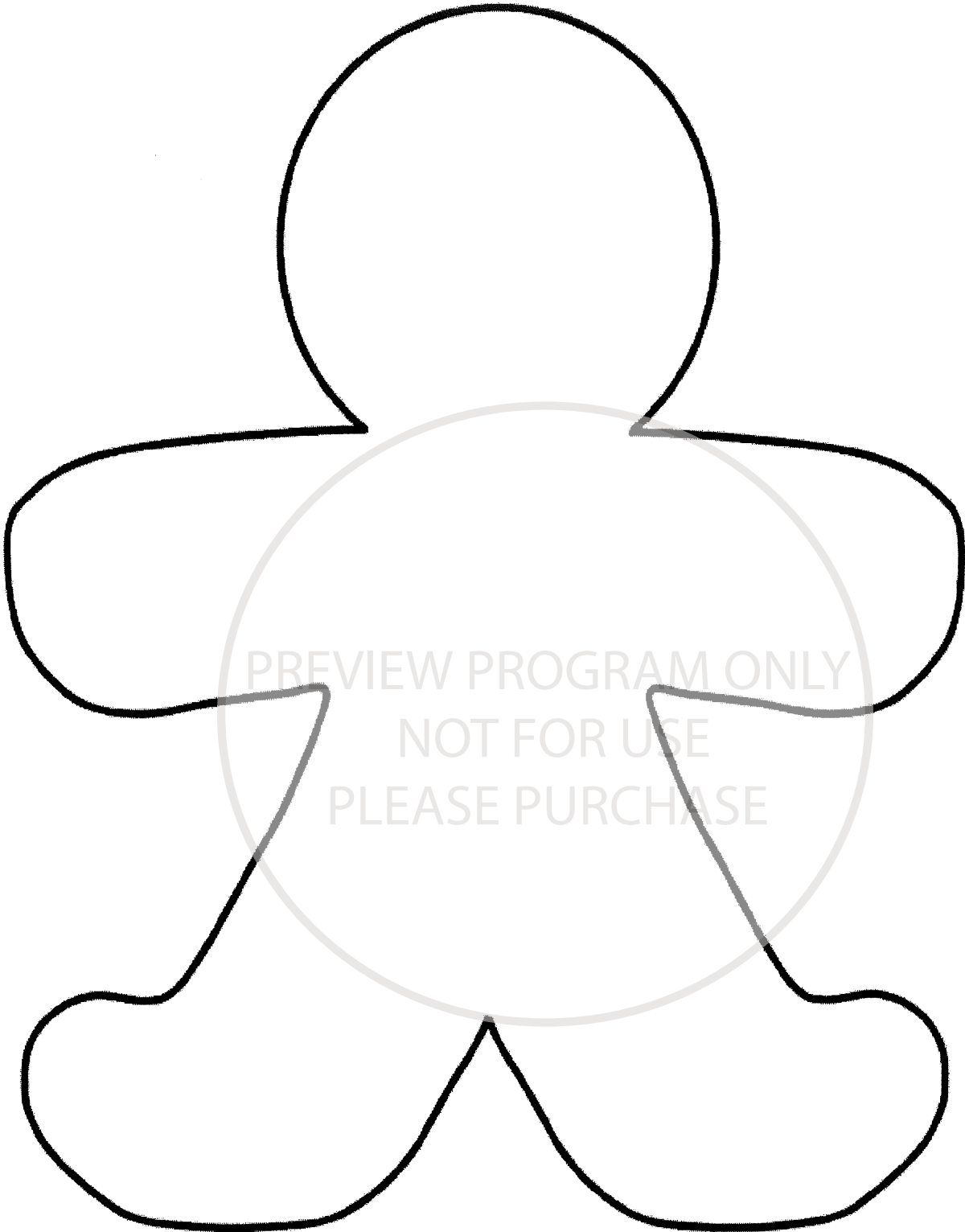
Oriental Trading Company offers a wide variety of appropriate decorations and gift items. See their website at: www.orientaltrading.com

Dover Publications is the perfect spot to browse for paper dolls: www.doverpublications.com

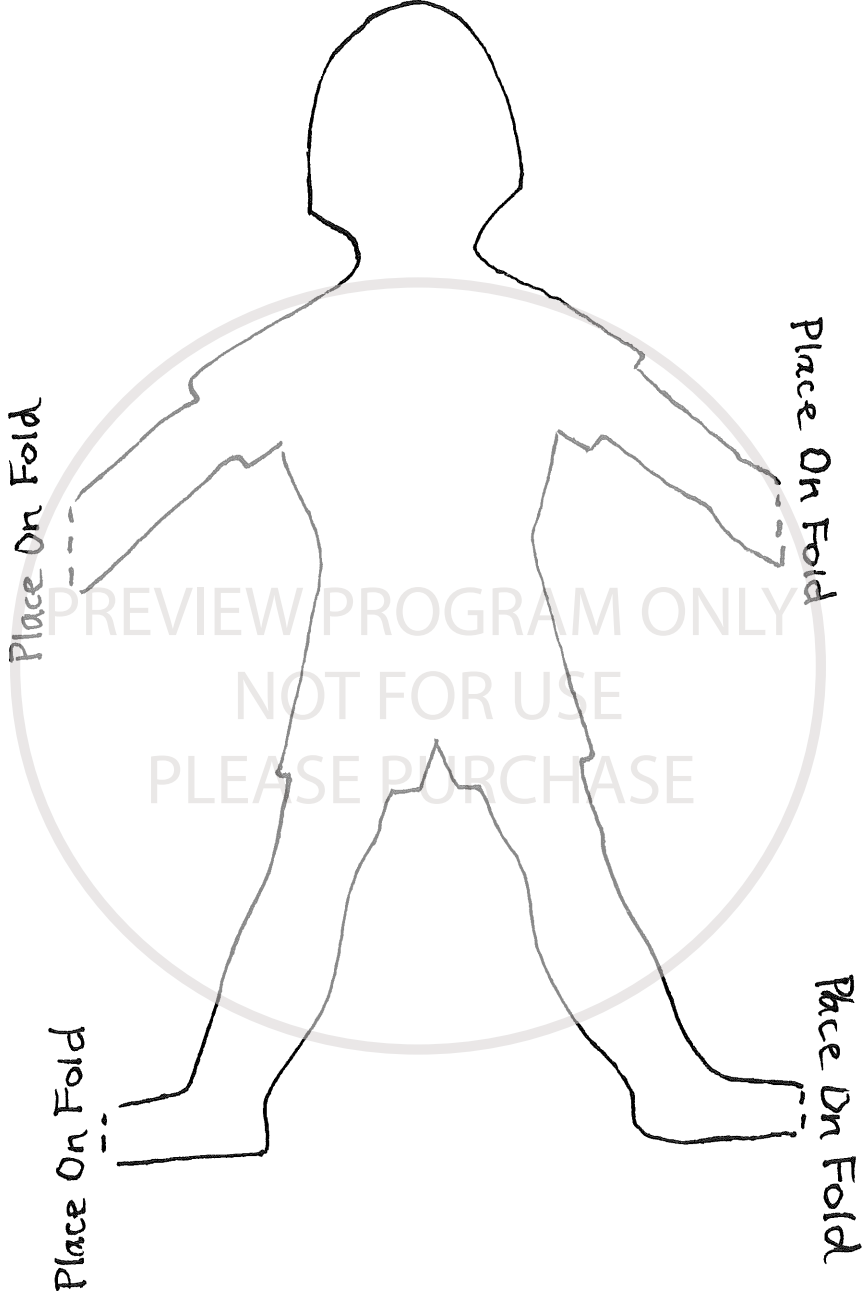


**"It's teatime and all the dolls
are at the table. Listen.
It's that simple."
~ Anne Lamott**





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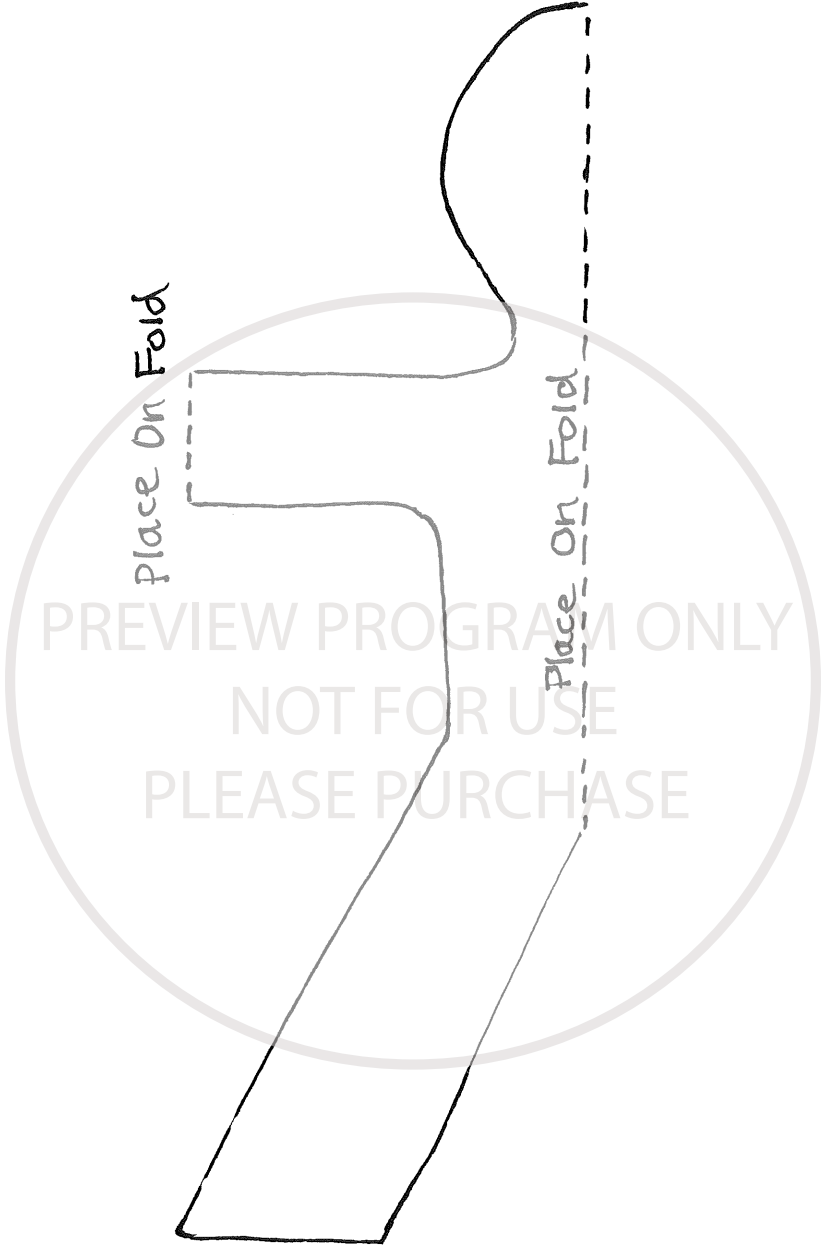
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The Raggedy Ann and Andy Option!

“Blessed are those
with Raggedy Friends.”

–Becca Miller



HELLO DOLLY...Bless Your Little Heart

is based on a general doll theme so girls and women from your group can bring their own dolls as part of the fun. When treasured dolls from earlier generations meet treasured dolls from the current generation, great interest is generated.

However, there is another interesting option your group can pursue! Focus the theme on one kind of doll: The ever popular Raggedy Ann and her gang!

DOLLS: The best thing to do if considering this option is to take a quick poll to see how many Raggedy dolls are available. If there are enough to be used as centerpieces and staging, this is a beautiful event. There are many vintage Raggedys as well as new ones that many be borrowed from everyone you know. Consider making a few dolls if there are crafty gals in the group.

COLOR: Feature the brilliant red, white and blues of these dolls in all the decor. Fill the tables with rag dolls and their accessories and books.

COSTUMES: What fun to dress one, two or more gals of any age as Raggedy Ann. There are many patterns available for costumes. Your local costume shop may be able to supply costumes. Some gals may already have Halloween costumes in their attics.



TABLES: All tables can be covered with red and white checkered covers for this theme! Bright red heart shaped balloons look beautiful 'flying' over each table! Scatter red heart confetti on each table.

There are Raggedy Ann napkins, paper plates, cups, etc available from party stores and web sites.

Where To Get This Raggedy Stuff

Everything you need can be found at a wonderful website called RAGGEDY LAND at www.raggedy-ann.com. Check it out and design your own event based on what you find.

Web sites like ebay will be helpful to find the perfect accessory for this theme. www.ebay.com

PICTURES: As the guests arrive, take digital pictures of them with their dolls. These can be easily printed and given before the end of the banquet.

NAME TAGS: Name tags can have Raggedy Ann's picture and print each name as: Raggedy Renee, Raggedy Irene, etc. just for fun! OR: Make each guest a red heart with I LOVE YOU printed in the middle. Pin it to them when they enter.

GIFT BAGS: Purchase small red gift bags for favors or gifts. Wal Mart usually has a display of inexpensive bags.

COOKIES: Make each guest a large heart shaped cookie as a gift. Wrap in clear cellophane and tie with red curling ribbon. Heart shaped cookie cutters are available in many local stores. Cookies can be made in local bakeries to save time.

MORE IDEAS ARE AVAILABLE AT: www.birthdaypartyideas.com and www.birthdayexpress.com



Invite Guests:

Advertise the event with a special invitation in the church newsletter and weekly Sunday morning bulletin.

Hello Dolly...Bless Your Little Heart!

The history of the Raggedy Ann doll is very touching. She began as an old family rag doll; An old toy, faded and worn, tossed into an attic. And there the legend goes, a little girl named Marcella found her one wet and rainy day...

Please join us for a very special banquet where storybook dolls come alive and enjoy adventures with their friends. Laughter, good food, music and fun await girls of all ages!

**Join us for our spring banquet:
"Hello Dolly...Bless Your Little Heart".**

It's a memory maker!

Bring your favorite doll!

Wear your favorite HEART JEWELRY!

DATE:

TIME:



And So We Begin...

A Spoonful Of Sugar

"Frankly, I think the chances of having a happy childhood while you're still a kid going through it are pretty slim."

-Edith Ann, age 5 ½ (Lily Tomlin)



Consider crowd psychology. No one enjoys going to a party where everyone remains a stranger, little conversation occurs and a subdued mood becomes awkward. Everyone enjoys an event where people are talking and laughing, light and temperature are controlled, music sets the mood, strangers are just new friends and tables are inviting.

When The First Person Arrives, The Party Has Started

Greet guests cordially, give them a name tag and direct them to the party area. If special items are on display, encourage guests to travel from spot to spot as the crowd gathers. They may take a look at table decorations. Help them choose a seat or find their assigned table and specific seat. Point out rest rooms and conveniences within the building. Keep guests out of the kitchen!!!

Get Acquainted

Put people at ease with smiles and hospitality. Help them get acquainted with simple table activities. Place conversation starters under each plate. Scatter pens or pencils at each table and place paper puzzles or short games in obvious places so guests can work together to win a table prize.



Getting Together

Help the guests "sense the whole". Enthusiastic group singing encourages togetherness. Play a few table games as ice breakers.

Small Groups

Place guests in small groups and offer opportunities to make more intimate contact with others. Devise an activity that could be done in pairs or fours. Dividing by birth months is an effective way of creating smaller groups across all lines: age, race, sex.

Alternate the Pace

Some activities might be interactive and some quiet. Have some activities requiring a mental challenge with pencil and paper, group skits and sometimes activities for the whole group.

Build Toward A Conclusion

Complete a few exciting activities just before dinner and continue the fun after the meal.

Close With A Whole Group Activity

Do not end the evening with food. Instead, bring everyone together with a whole group activity. It could be singing, listening to a story, letting people tell what they enjoyed or an inspirational spiritual closing with a serious skit or talk, songs, hymns, praise choruses, sharing and a benediction featuring a fellowship prayer circle.

Clean Up

Leave the church much cleaner than you found it. Often those enjoying the fun are asked to help clean up. That can be fun and don't forget "Many hands make light work".

Tip: Keep the music playing through clean up. Take a moment to sing and dance with other workers!



Everything Nice...

Come Into The Play Room! "Little girls have the happiest smiles!"

Welcome "Hello Dolly" guests in an area where they are warmly welcomed. Serve a delicious chilled punch. Make our recipe or serve your personal favorite beverage while coats are removed and table seating is confirmed.

Make this a delightful formal treat by serving a delicious cold beverage in crystal punch bowls with crystal cups. Consider serving small appetizers on beautiful plates. Add color coordinated beverage napkins.

Cover the punch table with a white linen table cloth. Place lovely dolls on the table with candle light.

Play soft background music as guests begin arriving one half hour before the banquet begins. Encourage them to enter the banquet area where they move from table to table and enjoy the Hello Dolly table decorations and the staged displays.



Pink Punch

- 1 quart ginger ale
- ½ quart lemon sherbet
- ½ quart cranberry juice cocktail
- 2 cups pineapple juice, canned.

Add the lemon sherbet to the punch bowl in spoonfuls. Add the cranberry and pineapple juices. Add the ginger ale. Serve with a punch bowl ladle.





Mmmm, Good!

Sugar And Spice!
**“Bless this food
which my dolly and me
are about to eat.”**

The menu is the most important detail of the banquet event. Choose food your group enjoys and will remember fondly! We make suggestions but you know your group best.

Plan Accordingly!

Use the Hello Dolly theme!

Plan the menu and assign a kitchen team to prepare the meal. Since this is a special event for the gals, it doesn't seem fair to ask them to cook their own party food. Ask the men of the church to cook and serve or consider local caterers! Ask a local Boy Scout troop to help. They often look for community service projects.

What Should We Eat?

There are food options that are delicious and appropriate. We'll give you a few ideas to get you started. Consider the cost, the theme, the effort involved to make the food and the tastes of the group.

Sometimes it is appropriate to design a separate menu for the children under age 12. If so, be sure to let people know when they are making their reservations.

Think about various fun foods served in creative ways. Favors can be displayed in small dixie cups with a handle stapled in place, filled with candy at each place setting. Glue lace to the edge of the cup.



Serve egg salad or tuna finger sandwiches, potato chips, cheese squares, jello salad, crackers, mints, tea, hot chocolate. Cut the sandwiches with a gingerbread man shaped cookie cutter. Make cupcakes with baby rattles or tiny baby bottles in the frosting.

Serve gingerbread cookies with pink icing. Make a doll cake—bundt cake with a doll body in the center hole and frosted like a big fancy dress, make two and place side by side for a big doll effect. Add strawberry ice cream or sherbet in footed crystal glasses with a real strawberry on top.

Be as creative as possible and be sure to feature visually appealing dishes.

Notes:

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FANCY FINGER FOOD FORMAL TEA PARTY

Three or four kinds of fancy finger sandwiches
Option: Peanut Butter and Jelly triangles for children

Tiny Fruit Tarts

Miniature Eclairs

Variety of little cookies

Giant strawberries double-dipped in white/dark chocolate

Gingerbread with sauce or whipping cream

Chocolate mint squares

Beverages

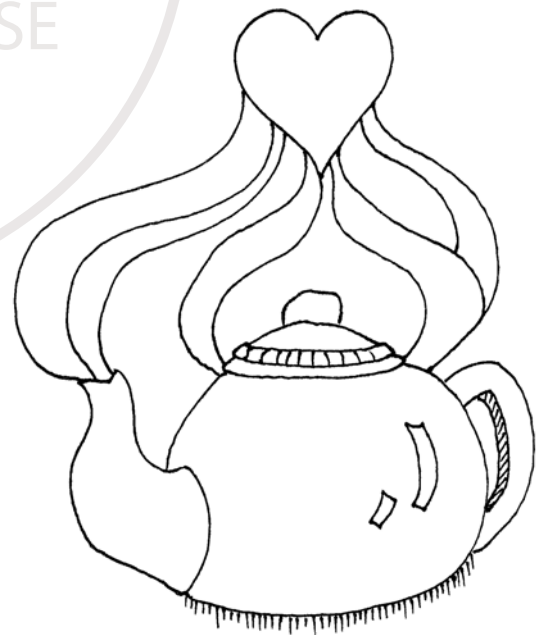
Homemade Lemonade in crystal pitchers with ice

Variety of Hot flavored teas/real sugar cubes and real cream

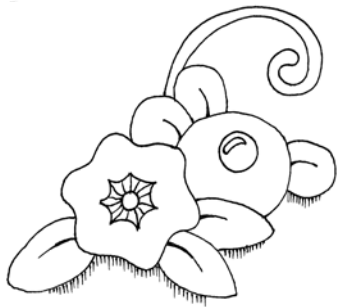
Coffee

Serve everything on crystal, silver and china serving dishes lined with white paper doilies. Serve some of the foods on footed dishes or upside down bowls so there is a variety of heights.

JUST A FRIENDLY TIP: Assign one person to serve the strawberries with silver tongs. Children love them and will polish them off like bread. Women love them too and will serve themselves several (for later)! Everyone enjoys them tremendously but they are expensive and labor intensive. One giant strawberry per person is plenty.



Dinner Menu Choices...



Chicken Princess

Boneless Breast of Chicken
topped with creamy sauce of your choice
Fresh asparagus
Tossed Salad with Salad Dressings
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Homemade Bread with Real Butter
Dessert: Orange Sherbet With Slice of Orange

Tender Pork Specialty

Stuffed Pork Chops
Roasted Red Potatoes with butter and sour cream
Vegetable: Carrots and Peas
Salad: Tossed Salad with Salad Dressings
Homemade Rolls with Real Butter
Dessert: Warm Gingerbread
with Lemon Sauce or whipping cream

Beautiful Beef

Sliced Tender Roast Beef
with Sauteed Mushrooms and Onions
Vegetable: Corn and Green Beans
Salad: Tossed Salad with Salad Dressings
Homemade Rolls with Real butter
Dessert: Chocolate Cake with Strawberries

City Chicken

Breast Of Chicken on Stick
Herb Rice
Vegetable: Green Beans and Almonds
Sliced Tomato on top of Rice
Dessert: Cherry Cheesecake



Desserts With A Flair

Sometimes the best choice for a feminine theme is simply DESSERT! Fill formal buffet tables with desserts of all kinds. Let the group sample many of the desserts. Add hot and cold beverages as desired.



Chocolate Truffle Cake
Cheesecakes with various fruit toppings
Carrot Cake
Fruit Sorbet with Fresh Fruit Garnish

Large Sugar Cookies
(I LOVE YOU printed on each cookie)
Angel Food Cake With Sliced Strawberries
Pie: Apple, Peach, Cherry, Pecan
Cobblers: Peach, Apple Cherry, Blueberry

Assorted Fruit Tarts
Brownies and Vanilla Ice Cream
Tropical Fruit Kabob
Frosted Cupcakes
Strawberry Shortcake/Whipping Cream

Charm is in the presentation. Squirt ribbons of chocolate or fruit topping across the plate before placing the dessert on it. Ad a live flower on the side. Cut fruit and place on plates as accessories. Drizzle warm topping just before serving the dessert.

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: While it is not possible to prepare totally separate foods, it may be possible to accommodate those who have restrictions due to health or allergies.



Children's Menu

Sometimes children do not enjoy the delicious foods adults anticipate eating. Consider an optional Children's Dinner Menu at a lesser cost.

Children's Menu #1

Chicken Nuggets W/Ketchup
Jello Cubes French Fries
Cold Drink Dessert

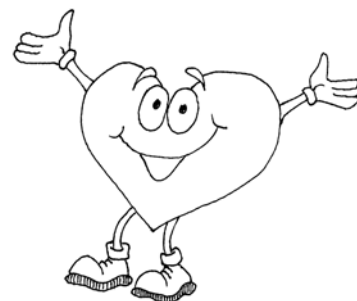
Children's Menu #2

Hamburger on Toasted Bun W/Ketchup and Pickle
Potato Chips and Celery Sticks
Apple Slices Cold Drink Dessert

Children's Menu #3

Hot Dog on Bun - Choice of Toppings
Tater tots Fruit Cup
Cold Drink Dessert

Notes:



Music...

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Whistle A Happy Tune!



“My sister thinks her dolls look best
when dressed in pinks and reds.
I think my sister’s dolls looks best
when they have no heads.”
~ Robert Pottle

Play pre recorded background music throughout the event. Christian CD's, Broadway Show Tunes, classical music, soft jazz or Disney music! Excellent Christian jazz and Christian Big Band music is also available online.

Non vocals work best. Check www.amazon.com for the perfect music.

If your community has amateur/professional musicians will to perform, ask them to come and be part of the festivities. Think about asking a violinist, guitarist, harpist, pianist or ensemble to perform as guests arrive and as they enjoy dinner.

Sing fun songs and Christian choruses after dinner.
Ask a pianist to accompany the group.
Choose familiar songs.

Praise and Worship Songs....

Sing a few contemporary Praise and Worship songs that are familiar and popular with your group. Sprinkle the music through the program whenever you desire to break up the program.



Group Song Suggestions...

Piano music is not included but here are a few songs that you may have or can obtain easily. Some songs can be sung A capella.

THE TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC

Lyrics: John Walter Bratton 1907

If you go out in the woods today
You're sure of a big surprise.
If you go out in the woods today
You'd better go in disguise.

For every bear that ever there was
Will gather there for certain, because
Today's the day the teddy bears have their picnic.

Chorus:

Picnic time for teddy bears,
The little teddy bears are having a lovely time today.
Watch them, catch them unawares,
And see them picnic on their holiday.
See them gaily dance about.
They love to play and shout.
And never have any cares.
At six o'clock their mummies and daddies
Will take them home to bed
Because they're tired little teddy bears.

If you go out in the woods today,
You'd better not go alone.
It's lovely out in the woods today,
But safer to stay at home.

For every bear that ever there was
Will gather there for certain, because
Today's the day the teddy bears have their picnic

TO CHORUS

Every teddy bear, that's been good
Is sure of a treat today
There's lots of wonderful things to eat
And wonderful games to play

Beneath the trees, where nobody sees
They'll hide and seek as long as they please
Today's the day the teddy bears have their picnic **TO CHORUS**



Put On A Happy Face

Gray skies are gonna clear up, Put on a happy face.
Brush off the clouds and cheer up, Put on a happy face.
Take off the gloomy mask of tragedy, it's not your style;
You'll look so good that you'll be glad you decided to smile.
Pick out a pleasant outlook, Stick out that noble chin;
Wipe off that 'full of doubt' look, Slap on a happy grin.
And spread sunshine all over the place!
Just put on a happy face!

Whistle While You Work

Just whistle while you work. (Whistle....)
Put on that grin and start right in to whistle loud and long.
Just hum a merry song (Hummmm....)
Just do your best then take a rest and sing yourself a song.
When there's too much to do, don't let it bother you.
Forget your troubles, try to be just like a cheerful chick-a-dee.
And whistle while you work. (Whistle....)
Come on, get smart, tune up and start to whistle while you work!

Brahms' Lullaby

Lullaby and goodnight! Those blue eye close tight.
Bright angels are near, So sleep without fear.
They will guard thee from harm, With fair dreamland's sweet charm,
They will guard thee from harm, With fair dreamland's sweet charm.



Make A Memory....



Treasured Keepsake Program

**“Nothing that grieves us can be called little:
By the eternal laws of proportion a child’s loss of a doll
and a king’s loss of a crown are events of the same size.”**

~ Mark Twain

Create a “take home” keepsake in the form of a printed program. While not necessary, it is a nice addition to the banquet event.

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Cover

The program cover should match the predominant color of the table decor. Use heavier card stock and make copies on the church printer/copier. Simple artwork may consist of the name of the event:

Hello Dolly...Bless Your Little Heart!

Trim

The cover can feature the outline of a gingerbread man shape. Glue two button eyes on the shape and a small candy heart in the middle. If desired, add a thin ribbon bow tie.

Printed Information

Include the menu, committee members, kitchen crew and servers. Add song lyrics, artistic touches and a bit of poetry or a Bible verse.



Welcoming The Guests...

Welcome To Hello Dolly... Bless Your Little Heart!

"I wanted that doll, Pam Glam. She has a cool car, jewelry, a big house and lots of clothes. Poor thing. She's living in a dream world. I guess I'm glad I didn't get her. I wouldn't wanna be that doll if she woke up in my bedroom."
—Edith Ann, Age 5 ½ (Lily Tomlin)

Seat guests informally
at prearranged tables.

Be sure families and friends sit together.

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As groups arrive, encourage them to get to know
one another by playing games
provided on each table.

Guests may team up to answer the questions.

Furnish small prizes for each successful table group.

Prizes may be Hershey Kisses,

Mini candy bars or other tiny treat.

Walk the prizes to the guests as they win.

Secret: Let EVERYONE win at least once!

Use games we suggest or find others to fill the need.

Copy as many as desired on colorful paper.



Tray Game

Place a number of common items on a large tray. Cover the tray with a towel. Carry it to each table and allow the guests to view the items for one minute. Cover the tray and move on. Their task is to write down as many of the items as possible in a numbered list. This can be accomplished as a table team or individually. Give a small prize (Hershey Kiss) to each winner.

Alphabet Name Game

Each guest prints the alphabet down the left side of a piece of paper. They choose one letter of the alphabet to print next to the letter 'A'. Whichever letter they choose, they continue to print the alphabet from that point, in order, to the end. Once they have their two letters side by side, the Alphabet Name Game begins.

The game player must think of the name of a person, famous or non famous, who has those initials. They write the person's name next to the letter. Each full name is worth 1 point. The players with the most points win small prizes at the end. The most anyone can earn is 26 points, of course.

Ex: A E Albert Einstein

Conversation Starter

Place one conversation starter on each table. Encourage the guests to share part of themselves with the table group.

1. What is the first doll you remember receiving, who gave it to you, when did you get it, why was it wonderful and do you still have it? Is that doll here this evening?



Candy Quiz!



1. A famous swashbuckling trio of old _____
2. Indian Burial Grounds _____
3. Galaxy _____
4. Red Planet _____
5. Home Of The Movie Stars _____
6. Not Laughing Out Loud _____
7. Can't Hold On To Anything _____
8. A Famous Author _____
9. Famous New York Street _____
10. Famous Former Baseball Player _____
11. Twin Letters _____
12. Superman's Other Identity _____
13. A Sweet Sign Of Affection _____
14. Favorite Day For Working People _____
15. What Bees Make _____
16. Nut Happiness _____
17. Pleasingly Plump _____
18. Two Female Pronouns _____
19. A Feline _____
20. Single Women Look For Him _____

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- 21. Round Flotation Devices _____
- 22. Celestial Explosion _____
- 23. Bite With a Crackling Noise _____
- 24. Determines Winner of Game _____
- 25. Dry Cow _____

- 26. Children Of The Cane _____
- 27. Music To Your Ears _____
- 28. Very Warm Tomatoes _____
- 29. Jordan & Eisenhower's _____
- 30. Nice and Lots _____

- 31. Massachusetts Cook Legumes _____
- 32. Witherspoon Holders _____
- 33. Happy Cowboy _____

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Candy Quiz Answers:

1. Three Musketeers
2. Mounds
3. Milky Way
4. Mars
5. Hollywood Bar
6. Snickers or Chuckles
7. Butterfingers
8. O'Henry
9. Fifth Avenue
10. Babe Ruth
11. M&M's
12. Clark Bar
13. Hershey Kisses
14. Pay Day
15. Bit O' Honey
16. Almond Joy
17. Chunky
18. Hershey
19. Kit Kat
20. Mr. Goodbar/Sugar Daddy
21. Lifesavers
22. Starbursts/Pop rocks
23. Crunch Bar
24. Skor
25. Milk Duds
26. Sugar Babies
27. Symphony
28. Hot Tamales
29. Mike and Ike
30. Good & Plenty
31. Boston Baked Beans
32. Reese's Cups
33. Jolly Rancher

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Hello Dolly!

...Bless Your
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"A joyful heart is good medicine...."

Proverbs 17:22



These program segments may be used any way desired.

Ask gals of all ages to participate.

No one needs to memorize.

Eliminate what you cannot use and add material as desired!

Make as many copies as needed from the Master Copy.

Do not give the program to any church or group without permission from CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES.

If a speaker has been invited, consider using a few of these theme related segments instead of all of them.

Consider time limitations.

Encourage each speaker to communicate clearly.

Provide microphones.

No rehearsal is necessary.

The participants follow directions in their segment.

The program comes together on the spot.

Be sure to confirm involvement with each person before the event to be sure each one is coming.

Adapt the material as desired.

Add material of your choice as available.

Enjoy the humor and inspiration of each segment!





Pre Dinner Introduction....

I Remember Mama!

Welcome to **HELLO DOLLY...Bless Your Little Heart!** It is our sincere desire that you delight in an evening of remembering the first time you pretended you were 'the mama'. And we want to spend an evening...

...Remembering our dolly friends without voices.

We gave them their voice.

...Remembering our dolly friends without 'seeing' eyes.

We saw the world for them.

...Remembering our dolly friends without true emotions.

We always knew their feelings were the same as ours
on our best days and even on our worst days.

...Remembering our dolly friends without a sense of touch.

We touched them with our own sense of the fun of being a girl.

...Remembering our dolly friends without a sense of taste.

We fed them faithfully with all the delicious foods
in our 'little girl' kitchens with our 'little girl' dishes.

I remember the 'Mama' I was in those days. In some ways I am still that same Mama. I love the real children in my life. I want each child to be all they can be.



I am still the Mama who wants her child to be dressed in the latest fashions, riding in the finest of strollers. I am the Mama who learned how to be a 'Mama' because of each little dolly friend who came into my life. Each one filled a special place in my heart. Each doll that was made for me or given to me by someone I loved became a treasured memory that does not dim with time.

So, to remember all our dolly friends, we celebrate one evening, just one, and honor their little 'lives' and thank them for making each person in this room, whether they have children or not, a very special 'Mama'.

To all the 'youngest among us': Enjoy being the mama to every little doll in your bedroom. These are the days when you are learning to be all God plans for you to be with future generations that are just a twinkle in your eye right now.

Take a deep breath. It is magic time. It is time for 'I Remember Mama'. For you see, Heavenly Father implanted into the heart of every little girl the beat of another heart that says 'I love you, I love you, I love you'. It was just Raggedy Ann who reminded us that God's love is the greatest love and should be written on our hearts every day as we touch the lives of children.

PRAYER FOR THE MEAL



Let The Program Begin ~ After Dinner....

My Baby, My Baby!

Actors: One Adult Narrator.

Two young girls discuss their 'babies'. The girls must be old enough to be able to read their parts. Carry baby dolls or push them in doll strollers.

Costumes: *Girls wear adult women 'dress up' clothing with large hats and high heels and lots of make up applied like a child.*

NARRATOR: The first dolls little girls fall in love with tend to be 'baby' dolls. Can you remember your first baby doll? Did she have cute little eyes, a button nose and sweet, kissable toes? Playing with another little girl who had a similar doll was 'Heaven'! Let's peek in on a girly conversation between two young friends sharing the perfections of their 'babies'. Do you see yourself in this chat?



Girls walk through the tables of guests to the front of the room.

GIRL #1: Good Day, Mrs. Jones! I see you are walking your baby on this fine spring afternoon.

GIRL #2: Good Day, Mrs. Smith! Isn't it a lovely day to walk a baby in the park?

GIRL #1: It is a little chilly for my Suzanna Marie Clarice. She is a very sensitive baby.



GIRL #2: Well, MY sweet Katherine Genevieve Sherree is much more sensitive than your Suzanna Marie Clarice. My baby knows when it is going to rain before the storm comes.

GIRL #1: She is a talented child indeed but MY Suzanna Marie Clarice is very stylish. I can dress her in any outfit and she gets compliments.

GIRL #2: Yes, Mrs. Smith, I can see she is indeed stylish but you may like knowing my Katherine Genevieve Sherree won a baby contest for wearing the perfect little outfit complete with a hat and a tassle.

GIRL #1: Now, now, Mrs. Jones. That is a fine accomplishment but my little Suzanna Marie Clarice is learning to walk and she's only three months old.

GIRL #2: I must see that with my own eyes! Speaking of 'eyes' have you looked at my little Katherine Genevieve Sherree lately? She has the most beautiful eyes of any baby on earth. Look how they sparkle!

GIRL #1: Have you noticed the perfect little fingers my baby has. She waves at me every morning.

GIRL #2: You look a little tired, Mrs. Smith. Has little Suzanna kept you awake at night? Because MY little Katherine has slept through the night ever since she came home from the hospital.

GIRL #1: (Sigh) Okay, you win! Your Katherine Genvieve little miss 'whoever' is the most perfect child ever born. I can't think of anything else to say.

GIRL #2: (Smiling...) Why, thank you Mrs. Smith! I knew it all the time but it is nice to have a friend admit my baby is perfect. Let's go to lunch.



GIRL #1: Yes, Mrs. Jones, I could use a rest. Suzanna Marie kept me up all night last night.

NARRATOR: Every child is perfect in the eyes of his or her mother. Some children come specially wrapped with physical problems or other issues that bring challenges along the way but they are still all God planned them to be.

When little girls grow up, we think we must meet the perfection standard in everything we say and do...and that, dear friends, as our young 'mothers' have demonstrated, is exhausting.

To brag about perfect babies is fun to a point but every baby is unique. Some sleep, some stay awake all night. Some talk early, some are silent until they have something important to communicate. Some babies have cheerful personalities and others are grumpy.

God created each child, not taking into account what we think is perfect, but according to His perfect Plan. God says through David the Psalmist: "Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them...." (Psalm 127:3-5)

Ahh, that's what we girls learned with our baby dolls! Children are gifts, rewards and blessings! What a great, giving God we serve!

EXIT





'Tis A Gift To Be Simple Rag Doll Speaks!

LIVING DOLL: One adult dressed as a Rag Doll. This doll can resemble any type of doll from Raggedy Ann to an Antique Rag Doll.

COSTUME: Use your imagination to design a costume. Wear a billowy cotton prairie styled dress covered with a pristine white apron, colorful tights and little black ballet slippers. Wear a large straw hat with long fabric ribbon around the brim. Hair and make up should be very childish and bright. Make large eyelashes and bright pink or red cheek spots with a few freckles.

OPTION: Rag Doll sings a capella the old Shaker song, "Tis A Gift To Be Simple". The 'doll' may even lead the entire group in singing the song if it is a familiar chorus in your church.

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SIMPLE GIFTS

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free,
'Tis a gift to come down where you ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
It will be in the valley of love and delight.

Refrain: When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight,
'Til by turning, turning we come round right.



'Tis a gift to be loved and that love to return,
'Tis a gift to be taught and a richer gift to learn,
And when we expect of others what we try to live each day,
Then we'll all live together and we'll all learn to say: Refrain

'Tis a gift to have friends and a true friend to be,
'Tis a gift to think of others not to only think of "me",
And when we hear what others really think and really feel,
The we'll all live together with a love that is real. Refrain

SPEAK IN A VERY SOFT, SWEET VOICE:

(Make a wobbly curtsy) It is an honor to meet you. I am not used to being the center of attention. I am at my very best being hugged on a fluffy bed in the middle of the night. Little girls are my best friends.

I'm not much to look at. I'm just rags filled with soft stuffing, you know. Long before people made fancy dolls, little girls loved dolls like me made from simple cloth. Scraps left over from sewing quilts and clothing would often become a new doll. As long as people have been wearing clothing, they have been making rag dolls like me.

I am quite simple compared to fancy dolls, but little girls still love the stuffing out of me. They carry me around and patch me up and play with me again. Listen to my ragged story:

Once upon a time through a door just down the hall
In a dark, forgotten corner of the playroom was a doll.

She was only made of cloth, A rather simple work of art,
But you could see where someone had embroidered her a heart.



It had faded from neglect and being lonely through the years
And she couldn't even cry because she hadn't any tears.

But then one day as she lay cold and silent on the floor,
A little girl was tossing toys through the squeaky playroom door.

The doll was watching carefully as the girl peeked 'round her way
And her little red embroidered heart came to life that day.

The little girl quickly picked her up and as she held her in her arms,
She noticed a faint heartbeat and certain rag doll charms.

So she took some thread and stitched a pretty twinkle in her eye
And fixed her sewed-on smile which had long since gone awry.

She brushed away the dust and cobwebs from her dress
Then taught her about love with her little girl caress.

Those two have stayed together since that day so long ago:
And as she looks at her today she would hardly even know
That her happy little rag doll so content and satisfied
Was the same one she had found cast so carelessly aside.

CONCLUSION: Rags, rags, nothing but rags. Sewers can take scraps of rags and make something beautiful like me. If I can become beautiful after being tossed inside a closet, how much more beautiful are you who are the twinkles in God's Eye!

EXIT





The Doll Parade!

Announce an impromptu Doll Parade. Ask everyone who has a doll to line up at the back of the room with their dolls. Play music while the parade participants walk single file around the tables.

If desired, ask specific people to stop at the microphone and introduce their doll. Name of doll and perhaps an occasional story about the doll will be enjoyed by all.

If there are gals who do not want to participate in The Doll Parade, be sure they feel comfortable declining.

Make this a fun five minute activity in the middle of the program.





My China Doll

My All In All

Speaker: One older woman holding a china/porcelain doll. If there is a personal story connected with the specific doll, tell the story in your own words.

My China doll has survived many years of loving. I got her when I was a little girl and I have treasured her beyond all the other little dolls I have owned. Let me tell you about the crack in her neck:

I had a pretty china doll, a real pleasure for me to own.
Although I grew older through the years, my doll, I have never outgrown.
A constant companion to me, I took her with me everywhere.
Each time I moved from place to place,
she was packed with loving care.

As things happen, from time to time, my china doll was dropped and fell.
Broken in two pieces, how to fix her I could not tell.

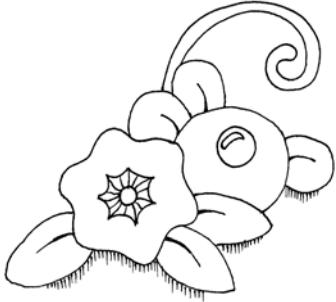
Now, I am like my china doll, into many pieces broken.
No way to reconnect the parts, nor, magic words be spoken.

A doll of china is no good, once it has shattered on the floor.
But, Jesus came and spoke to me, saying He could use me more.

He does not need a perfect doll, to carry out His plan.
He only needs a willing one, to spread His word to man.



Bride Doll



LIVING DOLL: Dress in a bridal dress, veil, flowers, shoes. Be as beautiful a bride as possible.

Walk through the crowd as if walking down the aisle. If possible, ask the pianist to play Wagner's traditional "**The Bridal Chorus**" while the bride doll is entering.

Act slightly airheaded and naive while speaking:

I am so excited! This is the first day of the rest of my life! Right? Isn't that what they always say? When I was first molded in the toy factory, I hoped and dreamed that I would become a Bride Doll but I never imagined it would come true! I am so beautiful! (Turn around so the audience can admire the gown.)

Life is filled with enough hard work and sad times. Every girl should own at least one Bride Doll in her life.

Isn't it interesting that there are very few Groom Dolls? I wonder why?

Perhaps little girls are more in love with being 'in love' than they are with 'the first day of the rest of my life' when they wake up the morning after the wedding! No matter, I'm still the most beautiful Bride Doll on the shelf and I choose to think only of my wedding day.

I was given to my little girl last Christmas. I was shipped in a large box and a little cellophane window with just my face peeking out. Her mother opened the shipping box and nearly cried to see my beautiful Bride Doll face. I don't know who was happier to have me arrive, my little girl or her mother.



I was carefully gift wrapped in sparkly silver paper with a very large white bow on top. I was placed way back under the Christmas tree so I was the very last present my little girl opened. I was her 'big gift'!

She saw me waiting patiently inside my surprise coverings and opened me with great care. She took me from my box and held me up for everyone to see. I put on my best 'bride smile' and my dress was perfect.

My little girl has kept me on her special bedroom shelf. Her friends always ask to play with me but she says, "No, that is my special Bride Doll. Nobody can play with her."

I'm a bit lonely but the look of hope and love in my little girl's eyes each day reminds me that she is thinking of her wedding day. She doesn't know who her groom will be but she knows he will be strong and handsome and rich! He will love her with all his heart and they will ride into the sunset in a carriage at the end of the wedding. She isn't quite sure where they are going but she has grand hopes and dreams and I am the picture of that wedding day for her.

EXIT

Option: 'The Wedding March' may be played
as the Bride Doll exits.



Groom Doll

I Promise

Living Doll: There are a couple of choices for this doll. A woman can dress up as a groom or if a man is willing to participate in the program, he may become the Groom Doll. This is a comedy piece that should be read right after the Bride Doll leaves the area.



Walk through the crowd holding up the crumpled script as if walking down the wedding aisle.

Is she gone? The Bride Doll! Has she left the building? I found this paper on the floor. She told me she would help me out by writing my Groom Doll wedding vows. I agreed because that's what Groom Dolls do. we are very agreeable. But you should hear some of this stuff! What am I getting myself into? Listen to this:

"I promise to get up at 6:30 a.m. and walk the dog every morning. I promise to shave and clean the sink after I shave. I promise to eat fruit at breakfast and I promise to be a work at 8:00 A.M.

I promise to say 'yes' to her every time she speaks and I promise to be quiet when I cannot say 'yes'. I promise to always take her phone call no matter what is happening in my own life.

I promise to separate the recycling, empty all the wastebaskets and take the trash to the curb every week. I promise to wash the windows in the spring and clean the inside of the car whenever asked. I promise to shampoo the carpets at least once a year unless we get dogs or babies which may require more frequent carpet cleaning.



I promise to listen to your opinions and your friends opinions. I will nod even if they are not my own opinions. I will not have an opinion.

I will be respectful to your mother and I will take her to the grocery store at least once a month.

I promise to carry your nail polish and your comb and your mirror and your credit cards in my pocket. I promise to watch your Romance Channel television shows with you."

Now I know why there are not many Groom Dolls in existence. Once we meet the Bride Doll we run away. I don't think I can live happily ever after making promises like these on my wedding day.

If you see the Bride Doll, don't tell her where I am. I am going to hide under the bed...way under the bed. If I'm lucky the old stuffed dog and the yellow rubber ducky will never tell her where I am.

I am OUT OF HERE!

EXIT-RUN AWAY!



Raggedy Ann At Play



One teen or adult (any age) carrying Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls. If there is only one Raggedy Ann available, fill her arms with other kinds of dolls.

When I was a little girl, I loved books and playing with my dolls. I kept my dolls and stuffed animals in my bedroom where they lived on my bed, in a bookshelf and in their own doll cradle and stroller. For my fourth Christmas, I received a Raggedy Ann doll and Raggedy Ann book to go with her.

I was spellbound as my mother read me the stories of Marcella, Raggedy Ann, Andy and the rest of the dolls. The thing that really amazed me was that when Marcella left the room the dolls came to life and talked and played.

I wondered if my dolls did the same thing when I was not in my room. I was so fascinated by this thought that I sometimes left my room, closed the door, then tiptoed back, opened the door a tiny crack and peeked in to see what they were doing.

One day after I had been playing outside, I went into my room to find one of the dolls out of her bed. The next day Raggedy Ann was in the stroller. I knew I had placed her on the bookshelf. Each day I noticed something different about my dolls when I returned to my room.

I continued the peeking routine to try to catch them at play, but they were always perfectly still. But the fact remained that anytime I returned to my room after a period of time, one or more of the dolls had moved. Sometimes they were even next to a toy or puzzle. I was convinced that they indeed played and talked to each other when I was gone.



Every time my mother read me the Raggedy Ann book I was so happy that my dolls were just like the ones in the book. I guess my vivid imagination let me believe this longer than I should have but I wanted to believe that my dolls had their own lives and kept themselves busy when I wasn't around to play with them.

Of course it was my mother who faithfully moved the dolls each day. She later told me that she really enjoyed moving the dolls because she thought it was important for me to have the dreams of my imagination come true.

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Just One Doll

This is a precious poem to be read by a sweet older gal carrying her favorite antique doll. Before the poem is read, she may tell the story of her doll, if desired.

If you could only keep one doll of all the dolls you own,
If only one doll would become the last doll in your home,
Which doll would you give favor to,
which one would your heart choose?
Would it be the prettiest, or the oldest and most used?

Or would it be the doll you got as a little girl, the one with
teeth and big, brown eyes and long, dark tendrilled curls?
Or would it be the homely one that set you back a bit,
The doll whose straw is breaking through her legs,
where seams are split?

Or would it be that German doll with soulful eyes of blue,
Born at the turn of the century and born to be with you?

The doll you found at that estate,
forced to liquidate, By events beyond control,
the one you couldn't wait to carry home, to treasure, own,
in vain, when just a little girl?

Or would it be the little boy from eighty years ago,
from your dear aunt,
the one you can't ever wait to show to company?



Or would it be the rubber baby doll your children played with years ago?
Why can't you keep them all?

The one with flaxen curls,
the doll your heart had longed for so,
You look at each and every one,
Some gifts from those you love,
and your sad heart cannot decide
which one to place above the rest of them

Each one has been so special to your heart;
but the time to let them go has come
and you must part with all but one.
It must be done before the day is through;
I wonder which doll YOU would pick from dolls so dear to YOU?

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Dolls, Dolls Everywhere!

Choose several young girls to take turns reading this delightful poem by Harry Miller. Divide the poem as desired depending on how many girls are participating. Each girl should carry a favorite doll.

Dolls, dolls, they're everywhere,
they're on the counter, they're in the chair.

They're in the closet up high on the shelf.
There's even one I think is an elf.

There are dolls in the bedroom and dolls in the hall
And pictures of dolls that hang on the wall.

There are tall dolls and small dolls
and all sizes in between.
There are blonde dolls and brunette dolls
and some with ankles green.

There are girl dolls and boy dolls
and some that you just can't tell.
But based on the way that these dolls are dressed,
I'm sure that it's just as well.

There are delicate dolls and sturdy dolls
and some dolls with falling hair.
There are nude dolls and crude dolls
(but those are very rare).





There are ugly dolls and pretty dolls
and one with a sock on its head.
The way that they turn up all over the place
I'm afraid to lie down in bed.

There are formal dolls and casual dolls
and one that's dressed as a prince.
There's one with new duds all covered with suds
that's surely in need of a rinse.



There are dolls partly dressed who seem to be stressed
and one doll that's just wearing socks
And just when you think we've got all there is,
another arrives in a box.

There are Sasha dolls and Ginny dolls
and I'm sure there are several Marys.
But just when I've grown used to it all,
My goodness, they're now selling fairies!

But with dolls everywhere in the house that we share
each day is more than alright.
Since the best dolls are the wonderful dolls
that make us smile all night!



A Lost Doll

One young girl looking for her doll. Just for fun this girl can be dressed in an old fashioned dress to look like she is from time past.

The sunflowers hang their heavy heads
and wish the sun would shine;
The clouds are gray, the wind is cold. "Where is that doll of mine?
The dark is coming fast, I'm in a dreadful fright.
I don't know where I left my doll, and she'll be out all night.
Twice up and down the garden walks I looked; but she's not there.
Oh yes, I've hunted in the hay; I've hunted everywhere.
I must have left her out of doors but she is not in sight.
No dolly in the summer house, and she'll be out all night.

The dew will wet her through and through
and spoil her dear, best dress;
And she will wonder where I am and be in such distress!

The dogs may find her in the grass, and bark or even bite;
and all the bugs will frighten her that fly about at night.
I've not been down into the woods or by the brook today.
I'm sure I had her in my arms when I came out to play.



Just after dinner; then, I know, I watch Tom make his kite.

Will anybody steal my doll if she stays out all night?

I wonder where Papa has gone?

Why, here he comes; and see!

He's bringing something in his hand. That's Dolly, certainly!

And so you found her in the chaise,

and brought her home all right?

I'll take her to the baby house. I'm glad she's home tonight.

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When You Thought I Wasn't Looking

One adult and several young girls read this piece. Divide the lines between the available number of young girls who are willing participants.



ADULT: Have you ever listened to a little girl talking to her dolly? There is much to be learned about her take on real life experiences communicated privately to her own little baby dolls. You may learn valuable lessons about how to treat your own real life child.

At some point every little girl switches from the friend made of cloth and plastic to becoming a real life mother with a real life little girl or boy to raise. Here is what we learn:

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DIVIDE STANZAS BETWEEN AVAILABLE YOUNG GIRLS:

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator,
and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed a stray cat,
and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite
cake for me, and I learned that the little things
can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you say a prayer,
and I knew that there is a God I could always talk to,
and I learned to trust in Him.



When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make a meal
and take it to a friend who was sick,
and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw how you handled your
responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good,
and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw tears come from your eyes,
and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared,
and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I learned most of life's lessons
that I need to know to be
a good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked at you and wanted to
say, 'Thanks for all the things I saw
when you thought I wasn't looking'.

ADULT: How will you touch the life of someone you love?

Live Simply.

Love generously.

Care deeply.

Speak kindly.

Leave the rest to God.



Hello Dolly Conclusion

A Raggedy Ann Heart

“A joyful heart is good medicine...”

Proverbs 17:22

Divide this program conclusion between several willing participants. Carry Raggedy Ann dolls and one large heart with the words “I LOVE YOU” plainly printed across the heart just like the Raggedy Ann doll.

The earliest Raggedy Ann dolls bear a mark: **Patented Sept 7, 1915.** They have brown yarn hair, tin or wooden button eyes and are made of cloth. These rare and fantastic antique Raggedy Ann dolls are worth many thousands of dollars at auction. But to a little girl, any raggedy doll is priceless!

“A joyful heart is good medicine....” Proverbs 17:22. God’s Word says, “A merry heart, a cheerful heart, a joyful heart...” is a very good thing. In fact it is so good it works like medicine from a doctor.

Do you wonder why we sing “I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart to stay”? There is something marvelous about that one emotion. Everybody searches for joy. God has provided His Son, Jesus, as that deep down joy for every living person.

One of the best reminders of a joyful heart is printed on a little girl’s first doll. Raggedy Ann’s printed heart states, “I Love You” for all the world to see. This little doll tells us the very emotion that is at the heart of all little girls....Love!

When we teach our little girls to ‘love’, they also learn the true meaning of deep down joy and from that joy comes a cheerful heart.



A girl's heart is tender and true. It does not matter her age since a girl is a girl from birth until death. Listen to the lyrics from a sweet Raggedy Ann song:

Candy hearts and paper flowers
Sunshine days and skies of blue
rhymes and songs we sing forever
Words to say 'I love you true'.

Times get bad and then I worry
How we'll ever see it through
But candy hearts and paper flowers
Will always keep me close to you.

An old story comes from Raggedy Ann's inventor Johnny Gruelle's son, Worth. His childhood memory inspired the story that Raggedy Ann's first heart was actually a candy heart carefully sewn inside her stuffing. He said he was sent to a candy store again and again to buy sugar hearts, picking out the ones with "I Love You" printed on them. Sadly, no one has ever discovered a doll containing this sugary trinket but wouldn't it be fun to discover one?

Dolls are such a pleasure no matter the age of the owner. They teach us to treasure special works of love and enjoy true keepsakes. Soft dolls paint a picture of real hugs and gentleness. Raggedy Ann and Andy deserve a special place in the doll world for all the happy play they have brought to children for many decades.

Happy people live longer. Do you suppose that is what Raggedy Ann has been telling us all these years? Perhaps there is a deeper message whispered from doll to girl, from generation to generation.

That is the same message God whispers in our ears, "I Love You"! I love you so much that I gave Myself for you. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16





**I LOVE
YOU**

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Say Goodnight Annie!

One young girl wearing pajamas and robe and slippers with hair in pigtails, carries her doll on stage to read this final farewell:

We've played a lot together,
Raggedy Ann and I.
As playmates often do
I always shared my dreams
With no one else but you.

Each night my prayers were whispered
As I snuggled you by my side.
One stormy night, the thunder
Made us cover up and hide.

Now your eyes have both grown weary
And your arm is slightly torn.
Your cuddly body is tattered
And your nose is mashed and worn.

We did so much together,
Raggedy Ann and I.
The years, oh how they flew
And I cherish every memory
Of growing up with you.

