

Tickled Pink!

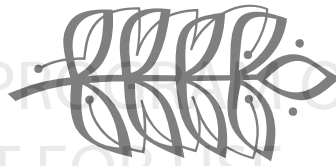
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For The Happy At Heart

Tickled

Pink!



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...A Spring Banquet
for

The Happy At Heart



Tickled Pink

...For The Happy At Heart

"A cheerful heart does good like medicine!"
Proverbs 17:22

Spring is the perfect time to be 'tickled pink'! Bask in a delightful celebration of a simple color...*Pink*...and a joyful theme...*Happiness*. Identify with friends who love the extravagance of femininity for just one evening.

From the first moment your banquet team plans this spring banquet until the last note of music is played and the final crystal cup is tucked away, "Tickled Pink" captures the imagination of every girl from three to ninety three! Smiles all around and even a tear brushed away assure that the gathering has been a success.

Make A Memory!

Inside every gal is a heart longing for happiness. The best of life offers her more, so much more, when she discovers that Jesus delights in her and wants her to be happy!

And the best part of this Spring Banquet is the formal program reminding Christian gals of the happiness Jesus adds to our lives.

*"Let's Sing! Let's Eat!
Let's Giggle Our Feet!"
~Mary Engelbreit*



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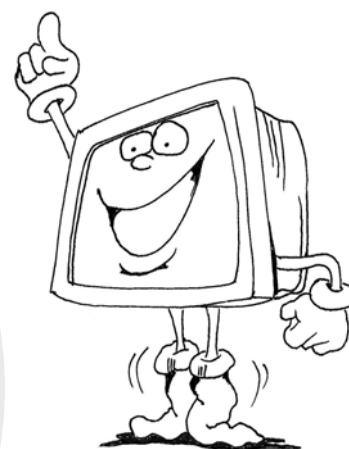
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In The Pink!

*"Delight yourself also in the Lord:
and He shall give you the desires of your heart."
Psalm 37:4*



Follow our tips and add your creative touches to make 'Tickled Pink' a unique event that will be remembered for years. Manage arrangements and then develop the delightful Happiness theme.

Prepare A Banquet Before Them!

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

...Or Create 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. Sometimes parties do not have to be planned at all.

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.

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

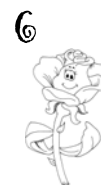
What do you want to see happen during the two hours your guests are with you? Be specific! Plans in this workbook are complete. However, you may have more fun if you adapt details to fit your needs. Add creative ideas and change any activities as desired.

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.

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 complete their tasks. While leadership may be divided, one person should be in charge to keep the whole affair moving smoothly.

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 banquet. Reserve the church for the entire day. 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.

Breast Cancer Awareness Pink

This banquet event does not feature breast cancer awareness but if adding information works for your group, feel free to include whatever is appropriate. There are many 'pink awareness' accessories that are available. There may be a Christian cancer survivor or community organizer who is willing to be the special guest speaker. With or without this theme, have a happy time together!

Notes:

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*"A happy memory never wears out."
~Amish Proverb*



Sparkling Guest Speaker

“I’m here for the fun!”

“I will boast of all His kindness to me.”

Psalm 34:2

Invite A Speaker

By all means invite a guest to share inspirational thoughts. When scheduling a speaker, consider reducing program segments this program provides 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 guest speaker the type of program and details of what you would like her talk to include. Continue to make contact periodically until the person travels to the event.

Care and Feeding

Be aware that it is disquieting for a guest 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 guest speaker until she leaves to return home. Thank that person from your heart and always follow up with a handwritten thank you note!



Publicity!

*"He that handles a matter wisely shall find good:
and whoever trusts in the Lord, Happy is he."*

Proverbs 16:20



Because you make the effort to prepare 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.

It's All About Details

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 church 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!

Add Some Fun! Ask guests to wear their favorite pink outfits, scarves, jewelry, shoes or anything that fits the theme. It's okay if they don't, but those who join in the fun will add to the event!



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.

Even More Fun!

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

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Be Creative!

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



Decorating...

The Pink Bubble!

*"Finally...whatever is...lovely—think about such things."
Philippians 4:8*

Choose The Best and Leave The Rest!

Create a space filled with the color of the event—Pink! Guests should immediately see and feel the color theme. Discuss decoration at the beginning of the planning process. We give many suggestions to get you started but trust your own creativity and make your 'Tickled Pink' banquet amazing!

How Complicated Is This Going to Be?

This spring banquet can be as simple or involved as desired. Give artistic, visually creative people the responsibility to turn the room into a work of sweet pink art. If no one comes forward, decorate simply at each table. You cannot go wrong! Make it fun!

What Should Be Decorated?

Decorate tables with pink centerpieces and color co-ordinated related items. Consider decorating the welcome table, entry door, stage area and each corner.



Tasteful Elegance

Remember that less is more. Do not clutter any area with an overabundance of 'stuff'. Choose a few unique accessories to make the tables and room come to life.

"Tickled Pink~A Banquet For The Happy At Heart" is based on the color pink and a happy theme. Decorate to reflect the beauty of the event.

Decorate With Pink Abandon!

Everything in the room, from table decorations to displays to staging should revolve around a 'pink' theme. Individual events will look different depending upon the items available for display.

The best fun is when guests arrive and the colorful theme comes to life with music and table elegance. Allow guests to move from table to table to view the decorations before they are seated.

Simplicity

Keep it simple. Your task will be easier and the result a delight to the eye. Be familiar with the available space and set up accordingly. Use color, sparkle and light to its' best advantage throughout the area.

Table Ideas

Choose the same centerpiece for each table or use a variation of the theme from table to table. Consider decorating options based on available items.



COLOR: Choose pale pink or white for a tablecloth color for a basic foundation. Print programs the same color or a complimentary color. Add sparkle with white candles, pink and white balloons, crystal glasses and large pink/white napkins.

SPRAY PAINT: Buy cans of pink spray paint. Just spray items pink! Picture frames, clothes pins, buckets, small bird houses, umbrellas, paper doilies, paper bags, boxes, tree branches, plastic eggs, baby food jars.

BEAUTIFUL TOUCHES: Make tables interesting by adding small personal touches that catch the eye. It could be antique crystal candlesticks with beautiful pink ribbon bows, Victorian styled teapots, small table lamps, elegant figurines, decorative ceramic jewelry boxes, unique antique baking items, table clocks, small baskets or live flowers. Fly pink and white balloons high over each table in bunches.

MORE FUN IDEAS: Add one pink flower on top of the napkin setting, stargazer or silk Gerber daisy. For a touch of whimsy wrap a pink beaded bracelet around the napkin. White napkin with pink feather and ribbon wrapping it all together on each plate. Pink napkins folded and fanned into drinking glasses. Pink glass Christmas ornament balls with glitter on tables or in vases. (These can be old ornaments sprayed pink and glittered or decorated anyway desired.)

AND MORE IDEAS: Pink glass stones sprinkled on table, flower petals tossed on tables and floors, pink tulle bow wrapped and tied around the back of each chair, pink pom-pom flowers in vases, large pink plastic diamond rings at each place setting, pink feather boas, pink feathers in center pieces, pink flamingos, pink elephants, pink panther.

Pink paper doilies wrapped in a cone for flowers or candy favors, cone shaped princess hats with feather boas glued to edges with tulle hanging down the back. Pink paper Japanese lanterns hanging from ceiling, flower balls hanging on ribbons, pink/pearl laying on tables.

FORGET THE CLUTTER: Use items sparingly. Guests may wander from table to table to see everything. Don't try to do it all on each table!



Table Centerpieces

'Tickled Pink' is an evening visually designed around the eye catching, feminine color, pink. Design centerpieces to reflect the theme.

CONTEMPORARY STUNNER: Gather three glass vases for each table. Square or rectangle shapes are great but use what is available. Spray paint tree twigs (no leaves) pale pink and stick them in vases that have been half filled with white salt or pale sand. Add a few silk pink petals to the branches if desired by hot gluing them in place. Plain and simple with a large pink candle and silk pink petals scattered around the vases is an inexpensive, elegant look!

BALLOON BLAST: Fly pink and white balloons high from the centers of each table. The entire room will look festive as guests enter. Fill the floor with pink and white balloons. Don't worry, balloons move easily as people walk. The more balloons on the floor, the better the effect.

PINK FLAMINGOS: Is your gang a crazy, laughter loving group? Check out www.orientaltrading.com and you will discover party items to make flamingo accessories funny and memorable. Flamingo beads and eye glasses for guests to wear, pink flamingo straws, votive holders, tea light holders, coasters, lollipops, and other items to make a hilarious 'statement'.

DESSERT TOWER: The centerpiece of each table can become dessert! Inexpensive cupcake stands can be purchased locally and usually hold at least 12 cupcakes. These popular stands are also available on various web sites in several different designs.

Instead of buying wire cupcake stands, choose three gift boxes that stack upside down like a tiers. Wrap each box in pink paper and glue matching ribbon around each box. Add a bow to each ribbon. Place cupcakes on each level. There should be at least one cupcake per person sitting at the table.



Banquet Room

Trim the space with pink details including white twinkle lights wrapped in pastel or hot pink tulle (netting) and draped in visible areas.

Program Props

Simple props should be set up center stage for the after dinner program. One small table placed center stage is covered to the floor with a pink tablecloth. Change props as needed for each part of the program. The constant prop is the pink tablecloth and a beautiful centerpiece with candles or lighting.

Candle Light: Soft candle light is a beautiful way to feature the pale pink theme. Fill the stage or corners of the room with lit candles of all sizes, on a variety of interesting stands. Plant stands, chairs, small tables and floor all work well for an interesting look. Use whatever is available. TIP: If using lit candles, it is not only wise but mandatory to have containers of water nearby!

Flamingos: Fill large pots with sand or dirt and insert plastic pink flamingos around the room. Oriental Trading also offers a giant inflatable flamingo!

Photo Booth: Want some great entertainment? Collect lots of fun items in a large open suitcase and set up a digital photographer in one corner of the room. Decorate a simple background and provide chairs or a bench in the scene. Items: pink feather boa, pink sunglasses, pink hat, pink tie, flamingo, glasses and fake nose, fancy masks made from heavy paper with stick attached. Gather anything crazy and fun to wear.



Guests have their pictures taken by themselves or in groups of their choice. They can choose whatever items they want to wear from the old suitcase. Make photos available as desired. Then.....LISTEN TO THE LAUGHTER AND WATCH THE SMILES!!!



Art Supplies, Decorations, Small Gifts

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

Pink heart stickers, bags, aprons, shirts, gifts are available at any price point. Have fun searching for the perfect accessories!

Creative Table Favor and Dessert: Make chocolate chip cookies and display them at each place setting in old pink teacups and saucers. These old cups and saucers can be collected from Good Will Shops, Salvation Army and donated by friends. To make the many varieties of cups and saucers look similar, attach a large pink bow to the handle of each cup. The cup and saucer become the take home favor of the event.

Option: Place each dessert inside a clear glass canning jar. Trim the top of each jar with a pink ribbon and bow. Tuck a fancy chocolate lollipop into each ribbon. Take home gifts are always a popular 'ooo-ahh' factor for any banquet!

Door Prizes: Ask businesses and restaurants to donate gifts or gift cards. Buy dollar items like picture frames, note holders, lamps, cosmetic bags, pill organizers, key chains, potted plants, candles and costume jewelry to give away if playing table games. Don't forget to provide something fun for the littlest gals....stuffed animals, coloring books or fingernail polish!

Put everyone's banquet ticket in a large fish bowl and draw their tickets at random. They may come and choose a gift or the gifts can be numbers and given away in order of the drawing.

Some 'pink' gifts: flamingo, hair curlers, cup, crocs, flowers, ceramic figures like bunnies or vases, pens, stationery, shirt, stuffed animals, etc. Shop the local dollar store for great pink choices. Grand prize can be a large pink ceramic piggy bank with pink bow tied around the neck.



Catalog Stuff

Check out Oriental Trading Company. They offer a wide variety of wonderful gifts, decorations and supplies! www.orientaltrading.com

Gifts and accessories also available at www.currentcatalog.com

Check out fun decorations at: www.Shindigz.com

Don't forget deals on www.ebay.com and www.amazon.com

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“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to love the color pink.”

~With apologies to Reinhold Niebuhr



And So We Begin....

Tickled Pink

~For the Happy At Heart!

*"My soul will be satisfied with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you."*

Psalm 63:5



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 pink name tags and direct them to the party area. Encourage guests to browse as the crowd gathers. They may take a look at table decorations. Help them choose a seat or find their assigned table. Point out rest rooms and conveniences. Keep guests out of the kitchen!!!



Get Acquainted

Put people at ease with generous hospitality and smiles. Get acquainted with simple table activities. Place conversation starters under each plate. Scatter pens or pencils 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.

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 exciting activities just before dinner and continue the fun after the meal. Add spiritual and inspirational thoughts near the end.



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!

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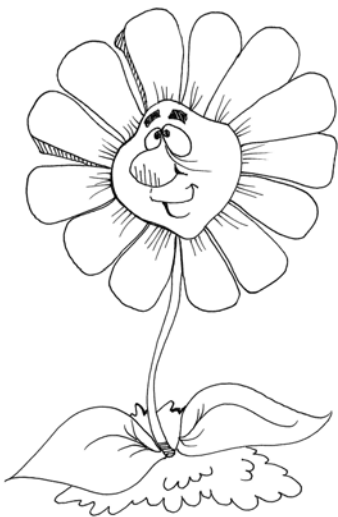
"Nobody's last words were
'I had too much fun.'"

~ Evelyn Beilenson



Welcome!

*"He who is of a merry heart has a continual feast."
Proverbs 15:15b*



Greet guests to "Tickled Pink~For The Happy At Heart" in a separate area. Serve a delicious chilled punch while guests gather, coats are removed and table seating is confirmed.

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

Play soft background music as guests arrive. Encourage them to enter the banquet area where they move from table to table and enjoy the decorations and staged displays.

Raspberry Sherbet Pink Punch

- 1 can frozen pink lemonade concentrate
- 2 ½ cans water
- 2 liter Sprite
- 1 container of raspberry sherbet

1. In a pitcher, combine pink lemonade concentrate and cans of water.
2. Freeze for about 4 hours until slushy.
3. In the pitcher, add the lemons and thick layer of raspberry sherbet.
4. Pour Sprite over top of sherbet and stir just a bit so it gets nice and frothy on top.
5. Serve immediately

Choose appetizers that fit your group. Because guests may be standing while juggling a beverage and appetizer, prepare finger foods.

Use one of our suggestions or create your own appetizer.



Fresh Fruit 'Cupcake'

Choose a variety of fresh fruits cut into small portions and placed in a doubled cupcake liner. The best fruit can be picked up with fingers for easy eating. Include a mixture of apple slice, cherry, diced cantaloupe, mini pineapple slice, banana, strawberries, blueberries.

Yummy Fruit Dip: 8 oz. Whipped Topping, 3 oz. Cream cheese, 7 oz. Marshmallow creme. Spoon into bottom of liner and fill with fruit.

Nuts And Bolts Party Mix

2 C. Corn Chex	2 C. Rice Chex	2 C. Cheerios
2 C. Thin pretzels	2 C. Blanched peanuts	
3 T. Salad oil	10 T. Butter	4 T. Worcestershire Sauce
½ t. seasoned salt	½ t. garlic powder	

Oven: 225 degrees In baking dish, mix cereals, pretzels, peanuts together; set aside. On medium head blend oil, butter, sauce, salt, garlic until butter is melted and spices are blended in. Pour seasoning mixture over cereal mixture and stir until completely coated with seasoning.

Bake 1 ½ hours, stirring every 20 minutes to make sure it does not burn. Remove from oven and cool completely before storing in an airtight container. Fill doubled cupcake liners with individual portions of the Party Mix before guests arrive.

Crunchy Veggie Treat

Cut mini celery, cucumber slices, broccoli, cauliflower, asparagus, dilly beans and carrot sticks that fit into doubled cupcake liners. Spoon Ranch Dip into the liners before placing veggies on top. Choose veggies that can be cut into small pieces for easy dipping.



Ham and Turkey Roll Ups

Roll deli ham and turkey and place upright in ranch dip with parsley or celery tops for garnish.

Shrimp

Spoon cocktail sauce into liner and place one shrimp on top. Option: For children, consider one chicken nugget on top of ketchup.

Fish Stick

Tartar sauce and one fish stick cut in half with carrot stick and mini dill pickle slice.

Mexican Fun

Fill cup with refried beans, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes and top with sour cream. No spoon, just dip with the taco chips.

Pretzel Fun

Mini pretzels with mustard sauce.

Boneless Wings

Spoon a little bit of BBQ Sauce into liner and top with one or two boneless chicken wings.

Chili Cups

Spoon Chili into small plastic cups and top with two Ritz Crackers. Sour cream on top.

Hint: There are many pink appetizers recipes offered on the internet. To find them, simply google 'pink appetizers and have a wonderful time choosing something different and creative in the perfect color!



Mmmm, Good!

A Luscious Meal! In The Pink

"Happiness is like jam: You can't spread even a little without getting some on yourself."

"Also my bread that I gave you—I fed you with fine flour and oil and honey—you set before them for a pleasing aroma; and so it was, declares the Lord God."

Ezekiel 16:19



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!

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 hiring local caterers! Ask a local Boy Scout troop to help serve the meal. They often look for community projects.

What Should We Eat?

There are many 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.

It may be appropriate to create a separate menu for the children under age 12. If so, be sure to let people know when they are making their reservations.



Chicken

Cream of Broccoli Soup
Baked Stuffed Chicken Breast
Mashed Potatoes
Vegetable of Choice
Cornbread Muffins/Butter
Tossed Salad/Dressing
Dessert: Cupcakes

Pork

Won Ton Soup
Roast Pork or Stuffed Pork Chops
Rice Pilaf
Vegetable of Choice
Muffins/Butter
Tossed Salad/Dressing
Dessert: Cupcakes

Beef

Beef Broth Vegetable Soup W/Shredded Cheese
Swiss Steak and Mushroom Gravy
Hot Buttered Noodles
Vegetable of Choice
Cornbread Muffins/Butter
Tossed Salad/Dressing
Dessert: Cupcakes

Fish

French Onion Soup W/Cheese
Light White fish: Haddock and Tartar Sauce
Baked Potato With Sour Cream and Butter
Vegetable of Choice
Dinner Rolls/Butter
Tossed Salad/Dressing



Dessert: Pink Delicious-ness!

Fluffy Pink Lemonade Pie (With Pretzel Crust)

Crust: 2 Cups broken pretzels (about 4 oz)
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted

Topping: 1 package (8 oz) cream cheese
2 boxes (4 serving size each) white chocolate instant pudding and pie filling mix
1 can (12 oz) frozen pink lemonade concentrate, thawed
2 or 3 drops red food color
1 container (8 oz) frozen whipped topping thawed

Garnish: Lemon slices, cut into fourths

350 degree oven. Crush pretzels and sugar in food processor, drizzle melted butter and mix well. Press crust in ungreased baking dish. Bake 5-8 minutes until golden brown. Cool completely.

Cream cheese in large bowl, microwave until well softened. Stir until smooth. Beat dry pudding mix into cream cheese with mixer until well mixed. Add lemonade concentrate and food color. Beat low speed until mixed. Beat 2 minutes until fluffy. Gently stir in 2 cups of whipped topping until smooth. Spread over crust. Spread remaining whipped topping over lemonade mixture. Refrigerate until set. Cut into squares. Garnish with lemon.



Strawberry Delight

Make an angel food cake and add fresh strawberries and real whipping cream. Garnish with Cut Strawberry!



Pink Heart Cookies and Ice Cream

Make your favorite sugar cookie and cut in the shape of large hearts. Frost with pink and white frosting. Depending on cookie sizes, serve one or two on a pink plate with scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Strawberry Ice Cream

Serve strawberry ice cream in a small glass bowl. Top with real strawberries

Strawberry Cheesecake

Make your favorite cheesecake recipe and use strawberries as the fruit of choice topping.

Pink Cupcakes

Bake your favorite cupcakes in pink liners, frost with pink icing and top with pink silk flower or pink candy.

Cherry Jello Dessert

Make cherry jello and add fruit with a whipped topping.

Hint: There are many wonderful 'pink' desserts to be found on the internet. Simply google 'pink desserts' and make your choice!



Children's Menu Choices

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
Macaroni and Cheese 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



“Trust in the Lord and do good;
so shall you dwell in the land
and truly you shall be fed.”

Psalm 37:2



Crazy Pink Menu

What fun to create a full menu with many shades of pink on the plates. From beginning to end, think of various foods that will make the group smile as they eat the delicious colorful meal.

Meat Choices

Sliced Ham W/Pineapple Slice and Cherry
Shredded Deli Ham on Pasta
Spaghetti

Pink Mashed Potatoes

Make mashed potatoes and beets.
Puree beets and add to mashed potatoes.
Add: shredded cheese as desired and mix thoroughly.
Top with chives and season with salt and pepper.

Roasted Red Potatoes

Oven roast cubed red skin potatoes.
Season with oil and butter as desired.
Serve hot.

Pink Pasta

Homemade pasta can be tinted with beet juice
and served with Alfredo sauce.

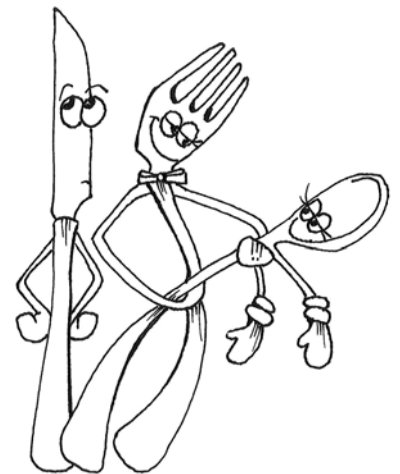
Pink Salad and Vegetables

Add thin slices of tomatoes on a bed of lettuce,
topped with thinly sliced radishes, shredded red
cabbage and one onion ring.

Pickled Onions

Pink Fruit

Watermelon Slices
Strawberries
Cherries
Raspberries



Strawberry Pink Sparkle Cake



Think about making one delicious cake for table centerpieces. This recipe is amazing and should be a hit with most guests. Add a lovely, antique cake server with bow, antique cake plates and a candle to make the table glow.

1 box angel food cake mix (baked) 1 C. Boiling water
1 small package strawberry Jello 1 lb. Frozen sliced strawberries
½ pint whipping cream 2 T. Sugar Red food coloring

Make cake and cool completely. Dissolve Jello in water, add frozen strawberries, stirring to break apart. Place cake, widest side down on serving plate. Cut a 1" layer off top of cake and set aside.

Gently hollow out the cake to make a shell to be filled with mixture by cutting within 1" from the sides and 1" from the bottom, gently pulling out the cake and breaking into small pieces.

Mix the cake pieces with the strawberry mixture and pour back into cake shell. Put top back on cake. Whip cream until thick, stir in sugar and food coloring until pink. Spread over entire cake. Decorate with strawberries if desired. Refrigerate at least 1 hour before serving.



Pink Brunch Buffet

If your gathering is a brunch, use the pink theme for simple dishes whenever possible. Consider Egg and Ham with Cheese casseroles, fresh fruit cups including pink grapefruit wedges, and french toast and sausage with syrup.

Just Desserts



If your program is an elegant after dinner evening, consider using every style cake desired. From chocolate to spice to apple to whatever your group dreams up will be an event your gals will not forget.

Mug And Muffin

An afternoon gathering for tea and coffee and delicious muffins is always popular. Consider making several delicious muffin recipes and offering creative toppings to try: honey, real butter, peanut butter, cream cheese and others. Add sweet cupcakes for dessert.

Strawberry Pie and Coffee Time

Everyone loves a great strawberry pie. Either make them or buy them. You can't go wrong!



Glorious Pink Cakes Galore!

In the buffet of life, friends are the dessert!

Dessert is the *piece de resistance* of this spring banquet. Cakes are the glorious dessert of choice.

So many choices!

So many options!

1. Bake a variety of cakes and decorate them with thick, creamy frosting in every shade of pink possible.
2. Choose one or two flavors and decorate them in two pastel colors like pale pink and white.
3. Frost all cakes identically and top with fresh pink flower petals, small plastic birds (or other party item) or sprinkles.
4. Decide whether the cakes will be homemade or provided by a local bakery with that professional touch of frosting and decoration.

Healthy Dessert Option

Provide simple angel food cake topped with strawberries or a small dish of fresh fruit or a similar choice for those who may suffer from diabetes or other health risk. Try to find out before the event if this option is necessary. Sometimes guests will just say 'no thank you'.

Consider a few choices like spice, carrot or a gourmet recipe found online at one of the many dessert web sites.



Music...

Sing That Sweet, Sweet Song of Salvation!

"...Sing unto the Lord a new song..."
Psalm 147:1



Play pre recorded background music. Non vocals work best mixed with party conversation. Christian CD's, Broadway show tunes, classical music, soft jazz or Disney music. Excellent Christian jazz and Christian Big Band music is available online.

If your community has amateur/professional musicians willing to perform, ask them to 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 music through the program whenever you desire to take a break.



Group Song Suggestions

Here are lyrics that you may have sheet music for or can obtain easily.

Choose a few uplifting, old fashioned secular songs and familiar Christian choruses to remind the singers of the sweet love of Jesus. Some songs can be sung A capella. Some songs can be heard at www.youtube.com and reasonably priced sheet music can be purchased at www.musicnotes.com

A White Sport Coat And A Pink Carnation

A white sports coat and a pink carnation
I'm all dressed up for the dance
A white sports coat and a pink carnation
I'm all alone in romance.

Once you told me long ago
to the prom with me you'd go
Now you've change your mind it seems
Someone else will hold my dreams.

A white sports coat and a pink carnation
I'm in a blue blue mood.

Apple Blossom Time

Chorus: I'll be with you in apple blossom time,
I'll be with you to change your name to mine.

One day in May
I'll come and say:

"Happy the bride the sun shines on today!"

What a wonderful wedding there will be,
What a wonderful day for you and me!
Church bells will chime
You will be mine
In apple blossom time!



Happy Days Are Here Again

Chorus: Happy days are here again
The skies above are clear again
so let's sing a song of cheer again
Happy days are here again.
Altogether shout it now
there's no one
Who can doubt it now
So let's tell the world about it now
Happy days are here again.

Jesus Loves Even Me

I am so glad that our Father in Heav'n
Tells of His love in the Book He has giv'n.
Wonderful things in the Bible I see,
This is the dearest, that Jesus loves me.

I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me;
I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves even me.

Christian Chorus Suggestions

Give Me Joy in My Heart, Inright-Outright-Upright-Downright Happy As Can Be, God Is So Good, Heavenly Sunshine, I Have the Joy-Joy-Joy.

Choose songs your local group knows.
Ask a pianist to accompany group singing.



Make A Memory...

Pretty In Pink Keepsake Happy Printed Program

*"Happiness is like a butterfly: the more you chase it,
the more it will elude you,
but if you turn your attention to other things,
it will come and sit softly on your shoulder."
-Henry David Thoreau*

Offer 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 cover should be pink. Use card stock and make copies on the church printer/copier. Simple artwork may consist of a simple graphic and the name of the event.

Trim

To make the program look 'pretty in pink', attach one large pink or white satin bow to the center of the cover with hot glue.

Printed Information

Include the menu, committee members, kitchen crew and servers. Add song lyrics, artistic touches, poetry, Bible verse and the title of each program segment as desired.

Be Creative!

This is an opportunity to create a lovely keepsake to be treasured in scrapbooks and memory trunks for many years. Take time to design a piece worthy of the occasion.



Welcoming The Guests...

Welcome To Tickled Pink...
For The Happy At Heart!

*"Today I will be happier
than a bird with a french fry."*



Seat guests informally at prearranged tables.
Be sure families and friends sit together.

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 games you enjoy to fill the time.
Copy as many as desired on pink paper.



Tray Game

Place common items on a large tray. Cover the tray with a towel. Carry it to each table where the guests 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 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.

Example: A E (Albert Einstein)

The game player thinks 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.



Old Testament Bible Trivia



1. On what day of Creation did God create Adam and Eve?
7, 2, 1, 6

2. Who was the first child of Adam and Eve?
Seth Abel Enosh Cain

3. Where did Cain lure Abel to be murdered?
barn field garden well

4. What did Noah's dove carry in his mouth when it returned to the ark?
fig leaf mustard seed olive leaf white flag

5. What was God's symbol of no more floods when the ark landed?
lightning olives rainbow thunder

6. What did Sarah do when told she was to have a baby?
wept screamed fainted laughed

7. Which doomed city did Lot and family flee?
Judah Sodom Gomorrah Ninevah

8. What did Esau sell to Jacob?
birthright hunting gear soul best cattle

9. Where was Joseph taken when sold to the caravan by his brothers?
Jerusalem Bethlehem Egypt Syria

10. Where was Baby Moses put to keep him safe from Egyptian soldiers?
River Basket Field Grandmother's House Cradle in Treetop



Happy~Colorful Scrambled Words



1. Knpi _____
2. Pypha _____
3. Oflijuy _____
4. Dlgihdete _____
5. Hgniulag _____
6. Rceheufl _____
7. Deklitc nikp _____
8. Taebup _____
9. Mveua _____
10. Hslub _____
11. Soer _____
12. Laroc _____
13. Genmata _____
14. Sonmirc _____
15. Dlag _____

ANSWER KEY: 1. Pink 2. Happy 3. Joyful 4. Delighted 5. Laughing
6. Cheerful 7. Tickled Pink 8. Upbeat 9. Mauve 10. Blush 11. Rose
12. Coral 13. Magenta 14. Crimson 15. Glad



Tickled

Pink

...For The Happy At Heart

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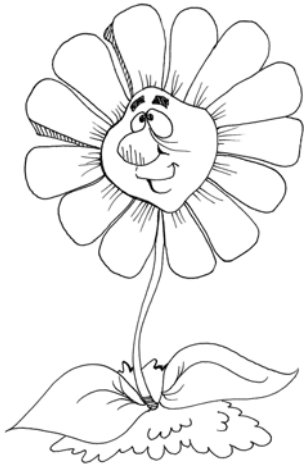
*"Rejoice in the Lord always:
and again I say, Rejoice."*

(Loose Translation: "Don't worry, Be Happy ...in the Lord.")

Philippians 4:4



Tips For A Happy Program!



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 printed 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!



Tickled Pink
...For The Happy At Heart
At A Glance

Hor d'oeuvres
Background Music and Games

Pre Dinner Introduction:
We Are Tickled Pink To Welcome You!

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
A Tickled Pink Banquet!

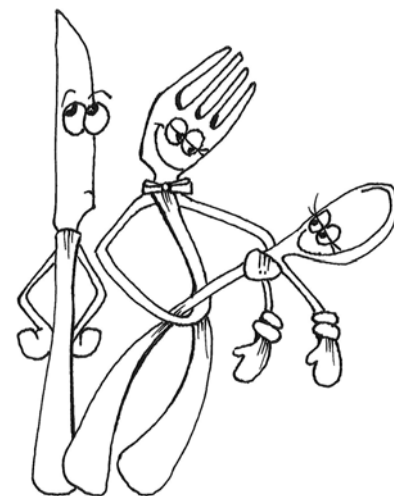
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After Dinner Introduction:
Think Pink!

Positively Pink! How To Be Happy
Happy Wife, Happy Life

Pinkie Swear
Pink Lemonade

Pink Parade
How Hannah Got Happy

Secrets Of a Happy Girl
Conclusion



Pre Dinner Introduction:

We Are Tickled Pink To Welcome You!



Welcome to 'Tickled Pink...For The Happy At Heart'. May you be 'in the pink' as you adjust your 'pink collar' and hold that 'pinky finger' in just the right spot on your tea cup. We have not planned to inundate you with pink elephants or even a pink panther. We hope you left your pinking shears at home. Whether your favorite flower is a pink carnation, pink roses or pink tulips, you may feel like floating on a 'pink cloud' as we celebrate the color PINK!

Mix pink with happiness and it is a winning combination. Learn how to be happy with what you have while you pursue all that you want. If you are not happy with what you have in life, you will never be happy with what you get!

Happiness comes from within. It is the relationship you have between you and God. If you have a good relationship with your Lord and Savior, it will not matter whether you live in a shack in the middle of the desert or a mansion in glittering downtown, you will have inner happiness. Once you have that then whatever you get next is only the cherry on top!

Remember this verse throughout our time together: *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord."* (Romans 8:28) Now isn't that a happy verse? No matter what, God's got your back! He wants you to be happy!

Just a reminder that the dictionary says if you are 'tickled pink', you are delightfully happy! To celebrate the occasion, we have planned a happy time and want you to join in with complete abandon and joy!

Enjoy your meal and remember this is a time to....THINK PINK!

Prayer For The Meal



After Dinner Introduction:

Think Pink!



SPEAKER: *One person or two speakers who are assigned opposite paragraphs.)*

Welcome to 'Tickled Pink~For The Happy At Heart'! By now, you have caught on that we are all about celebrating the 'pink' in our lives at this banquet. Have you ever laughed until your cheeks turned pink? Now, that represents a good laugh! For that moment in time you are so happy that it takes your breath away.

I have heard that children laugh 300 to 400 times a day while we grown ups laugh only a mere 15 times a day! Believe it or not, experts say that laughing aids digestion, lowers blood pressure, reduces stress hormones, increases muscle flexion, boosts the immune system, triggers the release of endorphins which are the body's natural painkillers, heals broken relationships and produces a general sense of well-being!

What are we waiting for? It's time for a good laugh:

A young reporter approached an old woman on her 100th birthday. "Happy birthday, lovely lady! Can I bother you to answer one question? In all your years, of what are you most proud," he asked.

"Well," said the woman, "I don't have a single enemy in the world."

"Really?!" shouted the reporter, "That's just incredible-how inspiring to us all!"

"Yep," added the centenarian as she fluffed her beautiful white hair, "Outlived every single one of 'em."

(Pause to let them laugh!)



Proverbs 17:22 says, *"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."* Sadly, there is more to that verse... *"but a broken spirit drieth the bones."* There you have it, the good and the bad: Happy vs. Broken. As many times as you have laughed yourself pink, there have been times when you have been 'broken in spirit'.

I'm sure you can recall a few of those dry bone days. Let's see...there's too much month at the end of the paycheck. The kids are throwing up and never make it to the bathroom in time. The husband walks in the door and says, "This place is a mess! What have you been doing all day?" The church friend calls and says, "The Lord told me that YOU should direct Vacation Bible School this year." And to top it off, you haven't been feeling too good yourself. Dry bones. There's not even an ounce of energy left to pretend you are 'happy'.

Give it up, gals. Tonight is a time to shout, "Dry bones, be gone!" It's a "Tickled Pink~For The Happy At Heart" kind of day.

I know how to start this program! I want to hear laughter. Not the little 'tee hee' kind of giggle behind a handkerchief, I want to hear this entire room erupt in loud, joyful laughter. Big guffaws and belly laughs that ring the rafters. Laugh until you cry!

Ok, on my count, I want to hear you laugh loud and strong until you are 'tickled pink'.

THREE!
TWO!
ONE!

LAUGH!

(Allow the entire room to erupt in loud laughter. Let it continue to a normal conclusion to continue the program.)



Positively Pink! How To Be Happy



SPEAKERS: *Two friends, one happy, one sad.*

Two friends sit at a small table decorated to look like an elegant tea room. Props include: fancy teapot, creamer, sugar bowl, tea cups and saucers, plate with cookies, two chairs, pink table cloth.

#1: I'm so glad we could get together. This is my favorite café and I knew you would love it. Would you like some tea?

#2: (Sigh) I suppose. I hope it's not too hot. Tea is always too hot.

#1: Oh come on, cheer up! Be happy. We have some time to catch up and enjoy this lovely day.

#2: Lovely day? It's raining!

#1: Well, I've always loved the sound of rain. It is so soothing. Makes me feel happy inside.

#2: I stared out the window this morning and all I saw was a rain spattered window. The years are slipping by and I'm just...not...happy.

#1: That's too bad. Hey, what do you think when you see this pink table cloth?

#2: Pink table cloth? I didn't even notice it. It's just...pink.

#1: Did you ever consider that we are the luckiest gals in the world? We have a PINK tablecloth! That's a happy color and I love to look at the world like a pink tablecloth.



#2: You are the happiest person I know. You are crazy but you are happy. I wish I could see the world like a pink tablecloth. How can I be happy?

#1: First of all, make your face look happy. Come on, smile! You'll feel a lot better if you smile. Try it.

#2: (Make faces. Try a crooked smile. Become frustrated when friend encourages you to keep trying because your smile is awful.) Aren't I smiling? Here, how's this? This? Maybe this?

#1: (Laughing) If you could only see yourself. You make me happy just by being with you!

#2: I knew there was a reason I liked you. I want to be happy. My husband is tall, dark and the handsome love of my life. We have two delightful girls; I live in my favorite city. I have friends. I am healthy.

#1: There you go! I see you smile when you talk. That's a 'positively pink' way to look at life.

#2: You haven't seen me at my worst. I snipe at my husband. On the way over here I even lost my temper with the drugstore clerk. I get disgusted when little things don't go my way. 'Positively pink' is not how I would describe myself.

#1: I have the answer.

#2: No, you don't. You were just born happy.

#1: Yes, I do.

#2: No, you don't.

#1: Yes, I do.

#2: I am positive you don't!



#1: See? You're positive! Now we just add the 'pink' and you will be 'positively pink'!

#2: I give up. Tell me how to be happy.

#1: I wasn't always happy. I began a Happiness Project. I started with the basics: go to sleep at a decent hour and eat good food.

#2: I can do that. Sounds simple and wouldn't cost much.

#1: Do not let the sun go down on your anger. Good Bible advice and when I let go of all my 'mad' I feel much better at bed time.

#2: I am always so upset at bedtime that I never fall asleep. Sometimes I even cry.

#1: Well, cut it out. Let it go. Think 'positively pink' happy thoughts when you go to bed. Even if you don't feel it, try it. Go on adventures. Take an art class, go swimming at the Y, window shop in an expensive store, learn a new game. Tackle something new and pretty soon you will feel happy inside.

#2: I am beginning to feel warm inside. Maybe the tea IS too hot.

#1: Nope, that's 'happy'. That is the feeling you get when you are 'positively pink' happy! Feels good, huh?

#2: Are you telling me you were not 'born' happy? You actually practice being 'positively pink'?

#1: I told you I had the answer.

#2: I guess you were right. I am feeling happier already. The tea is delicious, the cookies are great and your friendship is making me smile.

#1: Now, that you are in the perfect 'positively pink' mood, let's go....

#1 and #2: (In unison) SHOPPING!



Happy Wife, Happy Life!

SPEAKERS: One young wife, one older wife

Both wear aprons and carry mixing bowls and wooden spoons.

Place them on the pink table placed center stage.

Young Wife: I didn't know you would be here! I'm so glad we can work together in the church kitchen.

Older Wife: Hello! We can use all the help we can get for the fund raiser. Thanks for showing up.

Young: No problem! I had to get out of the house. My husband is home with his feet up on the coffee table, watching football. I HATE football. Working in the church kitchen seemed like a better option than hearing him shout, "You dummies, catch that ball!" one more time.

Older: Oh, my husband has that same game on TV today. I like to let him enjoy it with his buddies. I set up some snacks and skedaddled.

Young: The last thing I said to him before I slammed the door was, "Don't forget, happy wife, happy life." I hope he got the message.

Older: What was the message?

Young: "Happy wife, happy life." You know...that's the secret code phrase all of us wives know. "You're in big trouble, buster, if you don't keep me happy! I can make your life miserable."

Older: And are you happy?

Young: He knows it's up to him to make me happy!

Older: I see.



Young: What? Did I say something wrong?

Older: (Smiling) I was just thinking about the days when I was a young wife. Life was pretty simple. We got married, had kids, lived on a farm, worked the land and stayed married whether we could stand each other or not. The concept of a happy marriage never even came up more than the idea of a 'pretty tractor'.

Young: Times have changed. Today's wives want more. Happy isn't as easy to come by these days. I have needs.

Older: Needs? What exactly do you 'need'?

Young: I need to have money. I need nice clothes. I need a big house. I need my own car. I need at least one vacation a year. I need to be...happy!

Older: You do have quite a few needs. Is he able to make you ...happy?

Young: Who?

Older: Your husband.

Young: Oh, him. He tries but he's a...he's a ...man. He doesn't understand me. I have a great job so I can buy most of what makes me happy. His money can make him happy.

Older: That has changed over time. Couples don't need each other nowadays for quite as many things as we did. If you're running a farm with someone, it doesn't matter if you're angry at him or not. You need his labor as much as he needs yours. We were equally dependent on each other. But then, you're not running a farm, are you?

Young: Thank goodness, no! (Thoughtfully...) Are YOU happy?

Older: Very.



Young: I thought so. You look happy. You act happy. How can you work that hard on a farm and be happy?

Older: You know the secret code: Happy Wife, Happy Life. I have had a very happy life. That makes me the happy wife. Maybe 'content' would be a better way to explain it. I love that old farmer who's home watching football. I haven't always liked him but I sure LOVE him. He's the reason my secret code is, "Happy husband, happy wife."

Young: (Leave stage quickly)

Older: Where are you going?

Young: I have to get home. I forgot to set out football snacks and I want to give my husband a big hug.

Older: (Watching young wife leave) That's what I thought, "Happy wife, happy life."

EXIT SMILING

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Pinkie Swear!

*"I have promises to keep
and miles to go before I sleep,
and miles to go before I sleep."*

-Robert Frost

SPEAKERS: 2 Young girls

Stand near the pink table.

2 grandmothers Enter the skit at the end and stand near pink table.

2 YOUNG GIRLS (On stage together):

#1: Let's pinkie swear!

#2: No way! I never swear. My mother told me to never swear. My grandmother said she would wash my mouth out with soap if she heard me swear. Uh-uh, I will never pinkie swear.

#1: Oh, you think I mean swearing like 'saying bad words'?

#2: I am very careful. I don't even say the word (whisper) 'swear'.

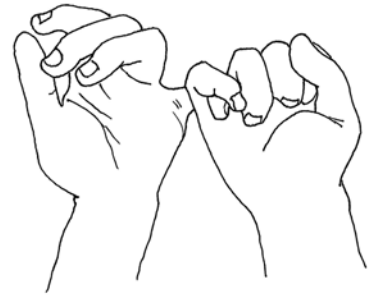
#1: A pinkie swear is not a bad thing. A pinkie swear is a promise.

#2: I promise you I will not pinkie (whisper) swear!

#1: You silly goose, listen to me. Have you ever made a promise to someone and then broken your promise?

#2: It's very easy to make a promise. Just say, "Sure I'll do that". And when the time comes to make the excuse say, "Oops, I forgot."

#1: Bad form, deary. Bad form. Promises are tricky things. People tend to think that once we give our word and promise to do something—or NOT do something, we really mean it.



#2: Well, I always mean it when I say it. It makes me feel good. The other person smiles at me and we all leave friends.

#1: What happens when you break your promise?

#2: They frown and shake their heads. It only takes a moment and I never feel too bad once it's over.

#1: What if God broke His promises to us?

#2: God would never break His promises. He's not like that. When God says something, I can count on it like the sun rising every morning and setting every night.

#1: But let's say God did break a promise, how would you feel?

#2: Sad, disappointed. I probably wouldn't trust Him anymore....

#1: And....

#2: Ohhh, I get it. When I don't keep a promise the sad looks I get mean that person is disappointed in me and won't trust me anymore.

#1: Right. If we make a 'pinky swear' that means you must keep that promise no matter what. We seal the deal by crooking our pinkie fingers together when we make the promise.

#2: And if I break the promise?

#1: We have sealed the promise and that cannot be broken for any reason. So, think about it long and hard before making a pinkie swear. If you do break a pinkie swear, all other promises with me are cancelled and you have to find a way to make it up to me before we can be friends.

#2: You are my best friend. It would break my heart to lose you. Ok, let's make a pinkie swear that neither one of us would ever break, as long as we both shall live.



#1: I have a good one. Come on, let's crook our pinkies together and say, "I love you forever, pinkie swear".

#2: That's a promise I would never break. Let's do it!

Hook fingers together and say in unison:

I love you forever, pinkie swear!

EXIT

2 Grandmothers Greet each other beside the pink table.

#1: How many years has it been since we have seen each other?

#2: Too many years to count, old friend.

#1: I have missed you and I have thought about you often.

#2: So have I. Have you remembered our pinkie (whisper) swear?

#1: Indeed I have remembered and kept my pinkie swear promise.

#2: Let's see if we remember how to do it.

Hook fingers together and say in unison:

I love you forever, pinkie swear!

#1: That feels good to keep that promise even after all these years.

#2: Let's go have a cup of tea, friend. We have a lot of catching up to do!

EXIT



Pink Lemonade

Happiness Is Cold and Pink!

SPEAKERS: Several young girls (2 or 4)

Props: Pink table, large pitcher of pink lemonade with ice, stack of plastic cups, sign propped up on floor in front of pink table:

Pink Lemonade
5 cents a glass

Girl #1: This is the perfect spot for our Pink Lemonade stand. Put the sign right in front. I will set up the pink lemonade pitcher so everyone can see it.

Girl #2: I've got the sign! We can prop it up in front of the pink table.

Girl #3: I've got the cups. Let me get customers. I have the loudest voice. (Shout....) Get yer ice cold pink lemonade right here! It's COLD! It's PINK! It's HAPPY!

Girl #4: Hold it! Stop right there! Nobody said our Pink Lemonade is 'happy'. It is just cold and pink.

Girl #3: But it IS happy. Whenever I take a sip, I feel happy.

Girl #1: Why do you have to be socreative! Just say 'cold and pink'.

Girl #2: Yeah, 'cold and pink' is plenty. If they feel happy when they drink it, it's up to them. We get our five cents and they get...pink lemonade.

Girl #3: But it IS happy. I believe in truth in advertising.

Girl #4: Let's take a vote.



Girl #1: Wait, wait. To be fair we have to say why we're voting and get a chance to change wondering minds.

Girl #4: Okay, you go first.

Girl #1: I vote 'no'.

Girl #2: 'No' to what? And why 'no'?

Girl #1: I don't know. I just thought you would be happy if I vote 'no'.

Girl #4: That's not the way it works. You don't say and do things just to make someone happy. You must think it through and make your decisions based on truth, justice and faith in God.

Girl #3: Oooo, that was good! I like that speech. "Truth, justice and faith in God."

Girl #1:and making other people happy!

Girl #4: Nooo!

Girl #3: I vote 'yes'. 'Yes' because the truth is...pink lemonade makes me happy. 'Yes' because the justice is that pink lemonade happiness is fair for everybody. 'Yes' because faith in God tells me if I offer the right stuff I will be happy.

Girl #1: Yay! That sounds great. Now I vote 'yes'.

Girl #4: Noooo!

Girl #1: Now you are voting 'no'? Have you thought it through?

Girl #4: You still don't get it. You just want to make her happy and you don't really want to vote 'no'.



Girl #1: Well, yes, but don't tell her that. We'll keep that a secret and I'll vote 'yes' and EVERYONE will be happy! Come on, vote 'yes' and all of us will be happy.

Girl #3: I don't want you to pretend to be happy. I want you to be really happy!

Girl #2: I'm confused. All I wanted to do was make money selling pink lemonade on a pink table and now I have to vote 'yes' or 'no' and somebody is NOT going to be happy.

Girl #3: What if I decide to just shout "Pink Lemonade! It's Cold! It's Pink! Make up your own minds if you're happy!" Will that work?

Girl #1: Works for me!

Girl #2: Works for me!

Girl #3: I'm happy!

Girl #4: You would be...happy, that is.

Girl #3: GET YOUR PINK LEMONADE! FIVE CENTS A GLASS! IT'S COLD! IT'S PINK! DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY!

EXIT



Pink Parade

This optional segment is an interactive, visual experience for the guests.

Pink Parade participants dress the part, carry pink accessories and wave cheerfully during the parade.



Create a surprising fun event with background music. Everything about this parade of people should include pink. That will mean different things for each group depending upon available items. Use this list of possibilities and add as desired. The goal is to make guests smile and laugh with a happiness flair in the middle of the program.

The Pink Parade will feature children and grown ups dressed in pink with pink accessories. The parade winds its way through the tables and around the room so guests can enjoy the sight.

Choose happy music played on CD's or with live musicians. The music should be upbeat and lively to keep the parade participants moving quickly. Recorded music could be big band music, Christian contemporary band or marching band.

Pink Parade Suggestions

- 1. Pink Clothing:** Parade participants should be dressed at least partially in shades of pink. Coats, shorts, dresses, sweaters. Other colors are acceptable but pink is the primary color.
- 2. Pink hats:** Trim existing hats with pink accessories like flowers, feathers and fabric. Make paper sailor hats from pink paper or add swirls of pink spray paint to hats.
- 3. Pink shoes:** Tie big pink bows to shoes and/or ankles. If people own pink shoes, wear them!



4. **Flags:** Make simple fabric flags using garage sale fabric or pieces of cotton strips. Use balloon sticks or thin rods purchased at a home improvement center. Add pink crepe paper streamers.

Print messages on large posterboard flags:

In The Pink

Think Pink

Pink Up!

Come Happy! Leave Happy!

Happy Am I, Jesus Loves Me!

Happy Christian (arrow pointing to self)

Christians Are the Happiest People In The World!

Happy! Happy! Joy! Joy!

5. **Props:** Carry pink items that are interesting to view. Look around and find available items that cost little or nothing.

Pink Stuffed Animals

Batons—wrapped in pink flower garlands

Flowers

Make large pink wallpaper fans, trimmed in feather boas

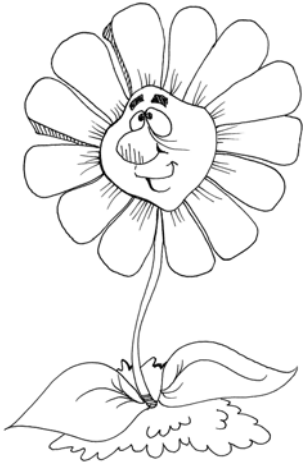
6. **Live animals:** Small pets are fun. Dogs, cats, bunnies, birds, guinea pigs, hamsters, lambs...any pet available. They may be trimmed with pink bows, flowers or whatever the owner has. They are led on lead or carried in the parade by the owner.

These little creatures must be in cages in an outer room and under complete owner control before, during and after the parade.

TIP: It may be helpful to assign one person to develop the parade and organize participants.



How Hannah Got Happy!



SPEAKER: *One woman becomes Hannah in Holy Land garments.
Stand near the pink table on stage to speak this monologue.*

(Bow and Smile....) Shalom! I am Hannah. May great joy be with you! This smile has not always been on my face. There was a time I was sad. Never a happy thought crossed my mind.

Every single year my handsome husband and I traveled to worship and offer a sacrifice to God. It should have been a joyful journey with friends and family but my husband's younger wife made fun of me because I had no children.

She was cruel and rubbed it in whenever she could "Poor thing," she said, "God must not love you. He never gives you a child. Look at all my little ones racing around." She even taunted me right in the sanctuary in front of God! A lesser woman would have kicked her...but I was good. I tried to be patient and hope for a baby in the new year.

Food, clothing, servants...I wanted for nothing...except a baby. Finally my darling husband said, "Oh, Hannah, why are you crying? Why aren't you eating? And why are you so upset? Am I not worth more to you than ten sons?"

So I ate..and ate...and ate. Something had to happen before I ate my way out of my lovely tunics. I pulled myself together and entered the sanctuary. Eli, the priest, was on duty that day.

My soul was crushed and I prayed hard and cried and cried. I even made a vow. I said, "God, if You take a good, hard look at my pain and quit ignoring me and give me a son, I'll give him back to You. I'll set him apart for a life of faithful service to You."

Much to my embarrassment Eli was watching me cry and pray. He came up to me and said, "You're drunk! How long do you plan to keep this up? Sober up, woman!"



I was shocked, "Don't for a minute think I'm a bad woman. I'm so desperately unhappy and in such pain. I am pouring out my heart to God." I didn't want to tell him why I was unhappy.

Eli said, "Go in peace. And may the God of Israel give you what you have asked of Him."

I said, "Think well of me—and pray for me!" I went away and ate heartily. Gotta quit that 'eating because I'm happy' thing. My face was radiant.

You guessed it. Within a year I was expecting my baby boy! We named him Samuel. It means "I asked God for him." I was true to my word. As hard as it was to give him up, little Samuel went to live at the temple and served God all his life. I made his clothing every year. I am the proud mother of one of God's greatest prophets, Samuel! My boy! My son! My joy and happiness!

Want to hear my happy prayer?

"I'm bursting with God-news!

I'm walking on air.

I'm laughing at my rivals.

I'm dancing my salvation.

...God knows what's going on.

He takes the measure of everything that happens.

...God brings death and God brings life

...He rekindles burned out lives with fresh hope

...He cares for his faithful friends, step by step

...God will set things right all over the earth,

he'll give strength to His King,

He'll set his anointed on top of the world!"

(From I Samuel 2:1-10 TM)

By the way, in case you are feeling sorry for me, God was most especially kind to me and made my happiness complete. I had three more sons and two daughters! Isn't that something? I have been Happy Hannah all my life! Are you looking for happiness? Maybe it's time to pray until God makes a miracle!

EXIT!



Secrets Of A Happy Girl!



SPEAKER: One person carries a lovely basket (decorated with pink flowers and large bow) filled with folded pink paper 'secrets' individually wrapped in pink ribbon.

Hello! When I say "how are you", you say "wonderful"! Are you ready?

How are you?
WONDERFUL!

Louder: How are you?
WONDERFUL!

Loudest: How are you?
WONDERFUL!

Now, tell me, don't you feel much better? Just saying the word "wonderful" does something inside like feels like...HAPPY! I have heard that there are secrets to being happy so I went on an adventure to search out these mysterious 'happy secrets'. Now, I am going to share them with you.

Better yet, YOU are going to share the secrets with all of us! Listen to tips and the next time someone asks 'how are you' you can be totally truthful when you say 'Wonderful'!

Carry the basket around the audience and let individuals pick one folded packet. They will open it and stand to read it when you give the signal. Once you are beside the pink table once again, ask the audience to stand and read their opened message.



PRINT THESE SECRET HAPPY MESSAGES ON PINK PAPER,
FOLD AND ATTACH A PINK RIBBON BEFORE THE PROGRAM.

Get rich quick...count your blessings.

*We don't laugh because we're happy,
we're happy because we laugh.*

*Five Simple Rules For Happiness:
Free your heart from hatred.
Free your mind from worries. Live simply.
Give more. Expect less.*

*Survivors have one personality trait in
common: a sense of humor.
Cancer patients who laugh, live longer.
Just laugh and you will feel
the difference in your body.*

*You get exactly what you are feeling.
Happy feelings will attract
more happy circumstances.*



*We must try to contribute joy to the world.
That is true no matter what our problems,
our health, our circumstances.
I didn't always know this and am happy
I lived long enough to find it out.*

*What makes me happy?
The other side of the pillow; bakery air;
when socks from the dryer match up perfectly
...when I hear someone's smile over the phone.*

*Happiness often sneaks in through a door
you didn't know you left open.*

*Happiness isn't a condition:
It's a decision.*

*Contentment, contrary to popular opinion,
is not just being satisfied with where you are.
It is knowing God's plan for your life.*



*It's not doing the things we like to do
but liking the things we have to do
that makes life blessed.*

*Scientists have discovered that the small act
of cooperating with another person,
of choosing trust over cynicism,
generosity over selfishness,
makes the brain light up with quiet joy.*

*We all experience 'soul moments' in
life—when we see a magnificent sunrise...see
the wrinkles in our mother's hands or smell the
sweetness of a baby. During these moments,
our hearts resonate as we experience the
glory of being God's Child!*

*A happy person is not a person in a certain
set of circumstances, but rather a person
with a certain set of attitudes.*

*No matter how sad you are today, happiness and laughter
and even joy are distinct possibilities for tomorrow!*



Let's try our interactive 'shout out' again. Now that you are educated in the art of happiness, your response should truly be heartfelt and...HAPPY!

How are you?
WONDERFUL!

Louder: How are you?
WONDERFUL!

Loudest: How are you?
WONDERFUL!

Great! Take that thought with you, wherever you go, for the rest of your life.

EXIT
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NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE



Conclusion~

A Heart Of Happiness

SPEAKER: *One person concludes the program.
Stand near the pink table.*

*"The righteous shall be glad in the Lord
and trust in Him.
And all the upright in heart shall glory."
Psalm 64:10*



The Bible has a lot to say about happiness and joy. The New Testament repeats the word 'happy' over 50 times. Most often it is hidden in the word 'blessed'. The Bible is very serious letting Jesus followers know that being a happy and joyful person is a central part of Christian living. We don't have to feel guilty about feeling happy. Isn't that great?

What is happiness? We have been 'thinking pink' and having some fun with the idea of happiness. Many of us think of happiness as some sort of pleasurable feeling that hinges on circumstance in our daily lives. "I'm happy if I have what I want." "I'm happy if I'm doing what I want to do." "I'm happy if people are saying only nice things about me." If we hinge our happiness on these types of things, our lives can become like roller coaster rides.

Think of real happiness as contentment. Happiness is a person fully alive. Happiness is the ongoing, sense of joy when you make your whole soul available to God's kingdom. It's being fully alive in Jesus.

Close In Prayer

Lord, help me find my happiness in You. Help me to feel that blessed happiness that comes from living my life fully alive, following You, blessing others, loving You.
In Jesus' Name, Amen



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