



Master Garden Party

spring women's luncheon



Invitations: Use small packages of flower seeds, readily available and inexpensive, for a fun and memorable invitations. Print event information on a pretty label and place this on the flower packets. *OPTION:* Add a request that each woman design and/or wear a garden party hat to the event (see game ideas below).

Location: Church fellowship halls, gyms or basements will work well; but why not opt for a patio or lawn party in a backyard or park garden setting? *NOTE:* Include a Plan B, in case of spring rains or threatening weather conditions.

Decorations: Place various planters and flowers vases on the tables. Flowers need not match as the program describes various plants and flowers. Just make centerpieces big and over the top with lots of color for that “pop” when your guests enter the room or the patio. Ask a local florist to donate these or enlist help from ladies in your group—those with green thumbs. Give arrangements as door prizes. If flowers and plants are too hard to come by, or if only a few are available, use a combination of seed packets, gardening tools, flower pots and gloves and hats scattered throughout the room, along with the flowers. Or use some smaller flower vases filled with spring garden flowers. If inside, use a Power-Point screen of colorful flowers as a backdrop for your program.

Food: If you are going for a more formal affair, host an afternoon *tea*. Food might include various salads and desserts. Dress and set tables with cloths, china and silverware.

If you are planning a more casual and fun atmosphere, opt for casual fare such as chicken salad sandwiches, mixed fruit in a large punch bowl, lemonade and ice tea, cookies or ice cream. Use floral paper plates and napkins and make it a serve-yourself buffet. Place the napkins and plastic utensils in terracotta pots to add to the garden theme.

Games and Activities:

LITTLE FLOWERS: If you use the “Little Flower” song mentioned on p. 30 of *Treasure*, have women choose the flower or plant mentioned in the study that they would perceive themselves to be. Sing the song together with women singing out their chosen flowers on the last line. Or sing song several times, naming a different flower or plant each time and having women with those personalities stand. Then sing together one last time, all women standing and singing out their flower/plant names together.

HAT PARADE: If you included the garden hat option, as an icebreaker, let each person introduce themselves and model their hat. Judge the hats during the party and award prizes for various categories.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH: Match each month with its birth flower. Make a list of the months on one side of the page and a list of flowers on the other side. Give attendees a limited time to match the month with its corresponding flower. (Since there are only 12, one minute might be fun.)

MIXED BOUQUETS: Create (or find online) “word jumbles” using flower names or gardening terms.

FLOWER POWER: Divide into groups by birth flowers to conduct a silk flower arranging contest. (Weeks before, make an appeal for leftover silk flowers or unwanted arrangements. Enlist volunteers to separate stems, so teams can easily select components for their *winning arrangements*.) For the super adventurous, bring fabric, cardboard, glue, craft sticks, pipe cleaners, etc., and let women make their own flowers for the arrangements. Provide an eclectic pool of materials and “floral containers” (old shoes, purses, jars, tubes, etc.) to make it silly and fun.