

April Seeds of Kindness

{ a Women's Ministries Program }



Spring is in full swing and it is time to plant seeds! And flowers! And... Well, you get the point! Nothing yells 'hurrah' more loudly than flowers popping up all over the place after a long winters nap! Of course, seed planting takes thought, care, preparation, patience, and work.

How true those same principals are for relationships too! Planting kindness (not 'acting' or 'showing' but a genuine 'putting kindness in to' another person requires thoughtful and continuous and faithful effort.

Bible Verse	Decorations	Theme Song
<p>Hosea 11:1-4 I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.</p>	<p>Garden Décor. Flower pots, seed packets, plants, garden tools. Be creative! Make a 'garden bouquet' - fill flower pots with dirt, plant a pansy or other colorful plant in the dirt then fill in behind and beside it with a few small garden tools and seed packets glued to sticks. Use floral cloth squares as table toppers.</p>	<p>Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam</p>
Food		
<p>Quick and Easy: Salad buffet Potluck: have women bring their favorite salad</p>		
Activities		
<p>S.I.P. Sisters In Prayer</p> <p>Have a basket of pansy shapes and pens ready for ladies when they arrive. Have them select a shape and write a prayer concern on the back, then place in another basket. At the end of your event, redistribute shapes asking women to include the concern in their personal prayer time.</p>	<p>Ice Breaker Name That Object</p> <p>You will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assorted gardening and plant related items in a bag or box • Blindfolds • Pen and paper for each lady <p>Have women take turns guessing what items are in the box – whomever guesses the most wins.</p>	<p>Ministry Flower Delivery</p> <p>You will need: Clay pots Potting soil Pansies Wood plant markers and pens Blank cards and items to decorate them</p> <p>As a group - draw up a list of ladies who have been missing from church or people they would like to come to church Have ladies re-pot pansies and create plant markers (write a Bible verse or kind word on marker) Each lady should select a name to deliver to the flower to. Then decorate a card for that person. On the inside of the card write "This card is good for..." and think of something to do for or with that person in the near future. Think of things that will bring women together with cords of kindness.</p>

Ideas for cards:

- A pot of tea, scones, and good company
- A walk in the park
- Help around the house
- Letter writing
- A movie and popcorn
- A hand massage
- Babysitting
- A batch of homemade cookies

Deliver the plant and card, then follow up with a phone call or email setting up a date for the item in the card. Consider starting a Heart Call ministry in your church.

Devotional Thought

Cords of Human Kindness

Read through the scripture verse (Hosea 11:1-4) . What a beautiful passage! You can feel the anguish and concern that God is voicing. God, our creator, someone who could force, destroy, change anything He wants is expressing Himself in very human terms much as a parent would do. "I loved him, I called him my son, I taught Ephraim to walk taking him by the arms...I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed him". How heartbreakingly beautiful this passage is. You can clearly visualize a parent agonizing over the unwise choices of a child.

In verse 4 there is an interesting phrase: **"I led them with the cords of human kindness, with ties of love"**. This portrays kindness and love as things that connect and facilitate drawing in. The whole passage reflects gentleness, a tender reaching out to a wayward child.

We know well the story of the Israelites, and if we continue the parent-child analogy in human terms, gently hugging and tenderly loving them is not what many of us would do! A good spanking seems in order here, along with a long lecture! And yet God knows what is needed, what will help the wayward child to respond in a positive way. And what kindness He shows! It isn't the superficial kindness - something done because it is the right thing to do. It goes deep - a genuine kindness and desire for well-being for the individual.

Cords of Human Kindness. What a beautiful phrase. If God is continually kind and patient - shouldn't we emulate His character? Won't kindness accomplish the same things for us that God desires for mankind? And, if we wish to draw people in with kindness shouldn't we be kind at all times, not just during a planned activity?

Let's pray for the type of kindness and love that God shows to each of us, and the ability to share that kindness with others.

A Ministry for Every Woman

