

Birthday Celebration



"So God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created them..." Genesis 1:27

Celebrate each life in your ministry with a Birthday Celebration!

"One of the things my son and I missed out on the most was being invited to birthday parties. He had so few friends. Everyone knew it would be awkward to have us there so the invitations just quit coming..."
- a PURE mom

Celebrate the life of each person in your ministry as an image-bearer of God. Utilize this simple theme event to reinforce the belief that each member of the Body of Christ brings a beautiful gift regardless of his or her abilities or disabilities.

Don't forget your camera because you will want to use these pictures to show everyone what PURE ministry is all about!

Decorations

You can decorate as much or as little as you desire for this



Birthday Celebration theme. Consider including the following decorations for your event:

- Birthday banner
- Balloons
- Confetti
- Streamers

P Perfectly created by a loving sovereign God, designed for His purposes

U Unique in his or her own gifts, blessings, talents, desires and contributions

R Receptive and responsive to our communication, touch and acts of love

E Eternal: there are no disabled souls

Spiritual Lesson

Supplies: small hand mirror, Bible

The Bible tells us that when God created the very first man and woman that he made them “in His image.” Read Genesis 1:27. Say, “Now an image is something that is reflected. Like when I look in a mirror, I can see my image reflected in it.” Take small hand mirror, showing it to group and ask, “Who do you see?” As a response say, “That’s right. God made _____ in His own Image.” After several people have looked in the mirror ask: “But how can we all be made in God’s image if we look so different?” Point out the differences in appearance each person has. Then say, “Being made in God’s Image isn’t about how we look on the outside. It is about who we are on the inside. It is about how our love for others and our actions can reflect the love God has for all people. Our ability to love others is how we reflect God’s image.” Say a prayer thanking God for everyone present. Thank him for every gift and talent in the room. Close by asking God to help everyone present reflect his image by loving others.

Craft Ideas

Decorate birthday hats. Get plain hats from Dollar Tree, decorate with googly eyes, stickers, foam letters, pom poms, etc.

PURE adults might enjoy tiaras and top hats usually designated for New Year’s Eve celebrations.

Create picture frames from a foam craft kit and write “Made in God’s Image” on the frame. Using an instant or digital camera, take photos of PURE friends with their buddies. Place photos in frames before they leave for the evening.

Snacks

Who wants to celebrate a birthday without cake? Serve a large birthday cake with enough candles for all participants or individual cupcakes with a candle in each. Don’t forget the ice cream and punch to complete the festive atmosphere.

Be sure to consider allergies and specialized dietary needs (gluten free, casein free, low sugar, etc.) and offer an alternative snack. Applesauce and mandarin orange cups are good snacks to always have on hand. Remember that some participants will need to use a straw to drink so have them on hand as well. Clearly mark name

tags so that volunteers can easily identify dietary needs.

Be sure to sing Happy Birthday to everyone and blow out some candles!

Be sure to check out our PURE Ministries Pinterest page for links to even more ideas.

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Fun & Games

Play party games such as musical chairs, “Pin the Candle on the Cake” or a relay race with some balloons you used to decorate.

Acknowledge the birthdays of everyone present by month – volunteers included. When everyone arrives to check-in for your event, have a large piece of poster board divided into 12 sections labeled with the months of the year. During your large group time, take time to recognize each person present and say, “Thank you God for making each one of us. Today we celebrate how you made each one of us in your image, to reflect your glory.”

Theme Stations

Consider having a station with an “All About Me” activity page. Have volunteers and buddies assist their PURE friends in coloring a poster and filling out the information about what makes them uniquely special. What a great way for volunteers and buddies to learn more about their PURE friends! (Find “All About Me” posters at www.orientaltrading.com and

other school supply websites.)

If you are serving cupcakes as part of your birthday celebration, consider allowing PURE friends and their buddies the opportunity to decorate their own cupcake at a station before its time to eat. Don’t forget the candles!

Activity Stations

Be sure to keep some activities the same at each event. Soon PURE friends and buddies alike will have a list of the favorite things they do at every respite event. Here are a few ideas:

- Lego Station
- Nail Salon
- Puzzles & Board Games
- Video Games
- Sensory Stations

Sensory Stations

Large bins filled with colored rice or dried beans can provide fun and tactile stimulation at the same time. Hide small items that compliment your theme in the bin. Candles might be a fun choice for a birthday party

Parties can be over-stimulating at times. Don’t forget to have a Quiet Room designated as a place away from all the excitement where PURE friends can relax and take a break. Include low lighting and comfy seating for optimal relaxation!

theme. Turn this into a fun game by timing everyone to see how many candles they can find in a minute.

Supply List:

- Balloons, streamers, birthday banner & other decorations
- Party hats and stickers to decorate them
- Cupcakes or large sheet cake
- Candles
- Foam picture frames from local Dollar Store or craft kit
- Poster board for writing everyone’s birthdate on
- “All About Me” posters, markers or crayons
- Sensory Station items