

LET'S
PLAN A
PARTY!

LET'S PLAN A PARTY!

40 CREATIVE IDEAS
for SPECIAL PROGRAMS
IN YOUR CHURCH

DEE TRAVIS
LYNNE REEVES

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Let's Plan a Party! is dedicated to both our families,
who have been so encouraging and helpful in
getting our book accomplished and who help plan,
organize, and cook for many a party!

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**Bridal
Showers**



A Match Made in Heaven

Theme and Decorations

- Invite the ladies to a morning or afternoon tea in honor of the bride-to-be.
- Decorate in Victorian style with lace, beads, candles, old white fancy gloves, and pretty fans.
- Group ladies at small tables for an elegant atmosphere. Seat the bride and her family at the head table.
- Decorate each table with pretty vases filled with flowers. Set vases on lace doilies. Lean a fan against each vase.
- Serve hot tea in fancy china teacups.
- To create a formal atmosphere, use young ladies as servers. Show them how to carry muffins, fruit, and drinks on trays and serve the guests.

Food

- Triangle sandwiches
- Cinnamon Crunch Muffins
- Poppy Seed Muffins
- Blueberry Muffins
- Fresh fruit
- A variety of flavored teas
- Hot chocolate topped with choice of whipped cream, cinnamon, multicolored sprinkles, and crushed peppermint candies

Games

Match Made in Heaven

Call the groom ahead of time and ask him questions about himself and his bride. At the shower she will answer each question and see how close she comes to his answers.

Possible Questions

- Does he have a nickname for her?
- What is his favorite food?
- If he could travel anywhere, where would he go?
- On what day of the week did he propose?
- What color are her eyes?
- What does he like best about her?
- How much did he weigh when he was born?
- Where did they meet?
- How many kids does she want?
- What is her favorite restaurant?
- Where and when was their first kiss?
- Has he ever had a broken bone?
- Do they have a favorite song as a couple? If so, what is it?
- Would she rather get candy, flowers, or perfume for Valentine's Day?

Whose Heart Belongs to Whom?

1. Mary and _____
2. Clark Kent and _____
3. Rhett and _____
4. Abraham and _____
5. Jacob and _____
6. Ginger Rogers and _____
7. Lucy and _____
8. Isaac and _____
9. Ananias and _____
10. Beauty and _____
11. George and _____
12. Wilma and _____
13. Adam and _____
14. Boaz and _____
15. Romeo and _____

Answers

(1) Joseph; (2) Lois Lane; (3) Scarlett; (4) Sarah; (5) Rachel; (6) Fred Astaire; (7) Desi or Ricky; (8) Rebekah; (9) Sapphira; (10) the beast; (11) Barbara, Laura, or Martha; (12) Fred; (13) Eve; (14) Ruth; (15) Juliet.

Matches Made in Heaven

Have one or two ladies share stories of when they played matchmaker and it worked.

Songs

“Matchmaker, Matchmaker”

“Let Me Call You Sweetheart”

“Tea for Two”

“’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Devotions

A Match Made in Heaven

Everybody enjoys a good love story. Just look at all the books, songs, and films with romantic themes. In a good love story, two people find each other over distance and time. Usually they have to overcome many obstacles along the way. But love always triumphs in the end. Finding Mr. Right can be a difficult job. Only God knows who will be a good husband and perfect match for each woman.

Today we are going to look at a match made in Heaven, the love story of Isaac and Rebekah, which is found in Genesis 24. Rebekah willingly consented to marry Isaac without even seeing him. She left behind all she knew and loved and had great faith in God that He knew what He was doing. She trusted the Matchmaker of Heaven with her heart.

Isaac had faith in God too. What if his bride wasn't all he had dreamed of? What if the servant's idea of a wife didn't match his? But when Isaac looked up and saw Rebekah coming,

he must have been pleased. He took her to his mother's tent (Sarah, who had died). Rebekah became his wife, and he loved her. God knew exactly what He was doing.

I am sure nobody here has a story like that. How did you meet your mate? What did you look for in choosing whom you would marry? God chose the best match for Abraham's son Isaac. Consider with me some of the qualities God wanted in His choice for Isaac's bride.

First, God's match for Isaac would be someone who believed in God. It was important to Abraham, Isaac's father, that his son's bride share their faith. They trusted in God and His promises. They wanted a godly woman of like faith and values. Abraham commissioned his servant to find a bride for Isaac. But he told the servant that the bride could not be a Canaanite. So the servant traveled many miles to find the best match for Isaac. It would be worth the long journey to find a woman who loved God.

When we want God's best in marriage, we must start with someone of the same faith, a man who trusts in Christ alone for eternal life.

Second, God's match for Isaac was a faithful servant. When Abraham's servant arrived in his master's home country, he was tired and hot, and so were his camels. When he saw Rebekah at the well and asked her for a drink, she offered to water his ten camels too. Right away he knew she must be the one for Isaac. She knew how to work hard and wasn't afraid of hard work.

Marriage is hard work. Love is wonderful, but after sin entered into the world with Adam and Eve, even keeping love aflame requires a lot of effort. Work at being supportive and honest; work at giving readily to your husband's needs. Be a faithful servant, willing to do your job and work hard at your marriage.

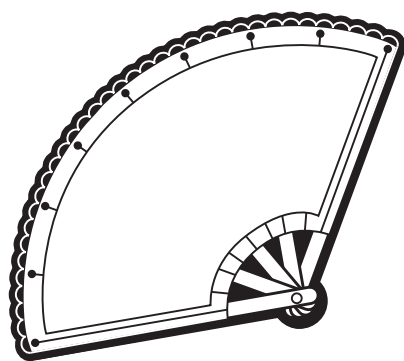
Third, God's match for Isaac had a willing heart. After Rebekah and the servant arrived back at the house, her father also believed this marriage was of God and gave his blessing. When

her father and brother asked Rebekah, she replied, without question or hesitation, that she would go with the servant. I wonder if she had any idea what she was doing. I am sure she knew she could trust God's plan. She had a willing heart.

We, too, need to have willing hearts in our marriages—hearts that give up their own wills for the good of another. Rebekah could have selfishly asked for more time or to meet Isaac first, but she didn't think of herself and what she needed. She wanted what would please God. Our attitudes and actions need to please God in our homes. Be willing to say "I will do it" or "I will go."

No one knows better than God whom we should marry. He knows all about us. We can trust God with our desire for a good marriage. Even a match made in Heaven has to be lived out day to day here on earth. We need God's help in order to live this way. He gives us His Word, His Holy Spirit, and people to guide us down the right path. Trust Him for a mate who is a believer, is a faithful servant, and has a willing heart. Also trust Him for a marriage that is pleasing and honoring to Him.

Nametags



Prizes

- Tea towels
- Flavored teas
- Flavored hot chocolate mixes

- Jams and jellies
- Lace doilies

Recipes

Egg Salad Sandwiches

- 8 eggs
- ½ cup Miracle Whip
- 1 teaspoon prepared mustard
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- Salt and pepper to taste

Boil eggs for 15–20 minutes. Drain and let cool in cold water. Peel and chop eggs into small pieces. Mix with rest of ingredients and spread on slices of bread. Cut off crusts and cut into triangles.

Ham Salad Sandwiches

- 1 lb. bologna
- 1 lb. hot dogs
- Sweet pickle relish
- Miracle Whip to taste

Grind bologna and hot dogs in food processor. Add sweet pickle relish and Miracle Whip. Spread on slices of bread. Cut off crusts and cut into triangles.

Cinnamon Crunch Muffins

- 3 cups flour
- 1½ cups brown sugar, firmly packed
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon, divided
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ cup shortening
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup buttermilk
- ½ cup chopped pecans

1. In a large bowl, stir together flour, sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, salt, and ginger. Add shortening; mix until crumbly.

2. Put $\frac{2}{3}$ cup of flour mixture into a small bowl. Add 1 teaspoon cinnamon and pecans. Set aside to use for the topping.

3. Add baking powder and baking soda to the remaining mixture; stir well. Add eggs and buttermilk; stir just until blended. Spoon batter into buttered muffin tins, filling each cup about $\frac{2}{3}$ full. Sprinkle muffins with the reserved topping. Bake at 375°F for 15–20 minutes.

Poppy Seed Muffins

1½ cups flour

½ cup wheat germ

⅓ cup poppy seeds

⅓ cup sugar

1 tablespoon baking powder

½ teaspoon salt

1 cup milk

1 egg

¼ cup unsalted butter, melted

1. In a large bowl, stir together flour, wheat germ, poppy seeds, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Set aside.

2. In a small bowl, whisk together milk, egg, and butter until smooth. Add to dry ingredients and stir just until blended. Spoon into buttered muffin tins, filling each cup about $\frac{2}{3}$ full. Bake at 400°F for 15–18 minutes.

Blueberry Muffins

2 cups flour

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup sugar

2½ teaspoons baking powder

¼ teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 cup milk

2 eggs, beaten

½ cup butter, melted

1 cup fresh or drained blueberries

1. In a large bowl, stir together flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon. Set aside.

2. In another bowl, whisk together milk, eggs, and butter until smooth. Add to dry ingredients and stir until blended. Slowly stir in blueberries. Spoon into buttered muffin tins, filling each cup until $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Bake at 400°F for 15–18 minutes.

Contents of Let's Plan a Party! CD-ROM

Included on the accompanying CD-ROM are numerous items to help you plan, promote, and have a successful church event. Clip Art images in GIF files are intended for electronic use (such as PowerPoint or Web pages); images in TIF files are designed for print media. Some items are samples only; you will need to customize the announcement or flyer for your specific event. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader, you will need to install the included program to view any PDF files.

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