

Group

SNAP

women's ministry
downloads



SMILE! 😊

EVENT

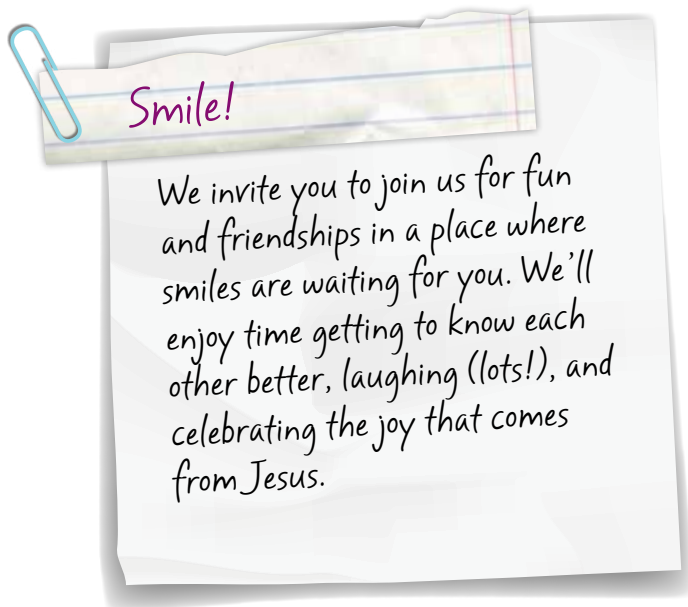
Purpose: Create a friendly and smile-themed event where women can connect with each other and grow closer in friendship with each other—and Jesus.

Smile!

It's easy to forget to smile—and we often end up frowning more than we'd like to admit! Use this smile-themed event to celebrate friendship, give women a place to connect in friendship, and to remind women that true joy comes from God no matter what our circumstances are.

Promoting Your Event

Put this blurb in your church bulletin, on your website, in an email, and in flyers (along with the details for when and where your event will take place).



Invite several women from your team to be at a registration table before and after church services to answer questions and encourage women to attend. For added fun put smiley face stickers on everything!

Options for Your Event

Feel free to use these ideas or add your own smiley creativity to enhance the event.

- **Smiling Greeters** As guests arrive, be sure to have designated “happy faced” greeters embrace them with a warm smile! Recognize those who are new, and make sure they get connected with other friends right away. Be sure nametags are available for everyone too.
- **Bright and Smiley Décor** Get several packets of smiley-face stickers and stick them everywhere—name tags, invites, postcards, drinking cups, put one on each woman's cheek or chin...have fun with them!

Use bright yellow items and add a few smiley faces around the room. Yellow paper plates, napkins, and balloons will make your room feel bright and happy. An easy way to brighten a room is to tape brightly colored paper plates to the wall—make bright yellow polka dots all over your room! Add a few daisies if you want even more cheer.



SMILE!

- **Happiest Music** This theme has a lot of fun music you can use. Here are a few great songs to play throughout the evening:

“If You’re Happy and You Know It” (Clap Your Hands)—you can just sing this loudly with everyone if you can’t find a recording of it!

“Smile” by Vitamin C

“Don’t Worry, Be Happy” by Bobby McFerrin

“Put on a Happy Face” by Dick Van Dyke

“Can’t Smile Without You” by Barry Manilow

“Beautiful Day” by U2

“Here Comes the Sun” by The Beatles

“Walking On Sunshine” by Katrina and the Waves


- **Smiley Sundaes** Create a sundae bar with various flavors of ice cream, hot fudge, caramel, nuts, berries, pineapple, bananas, cherries, and lots of whipped cream. (For those who are lactose intolerant, you might want to include some soy options as well.) Of course you’ll also need lots of ice cream scoops, bowls, plastic spoons, and piles of napkins. Have a bowl of mixed nuts for a salty option as well.


For added fun, encourage women to use the ingredients to make smiley faces. Bananas sliced sideways can be great big smiles, cherries or other berries make bright eyes, and whipped cream is great for frizzy hair! See who can make the most cheerful face! (You might have to take digital pictures and vote later since these works of art won’t last more than a minute or two!)


- **Smiley Friends** Copy the discussion starters below onto cards and put a few on each table to help women start friendly and funny conversations.



 I once laughed so hard I ...

 The funniest thing that happened to me as a kid was when ...

 I could have sent a clip to America’s Funniest Home Videos for the time...

 I didn’t think it was funny at the time, but now I laugh when I think about when...

 The funniest question I’ve heard a child ask is ...

 A movie that always makes me laugh is ...

- **Smile Savers** It’s the laughter and giggles shared that make the memories and friendships what they are. Stop by a dollar store or discount store and pick up a bunch of inexpensive photo frames. Then gather an assortment of craft odds and ends such as glitter, buttons, feathers, ribbon, and so on. Heat up the hot glue guns, and let women decorate the frames. These can be used at home or the office to display pictures of their favorite smiling faces.

SMILE!

Have someone take photos and print them out right there with a photo printer. Guests can get their pictures taken on the spot and put the photos into the frames. Immediate smiles!

- **Sweet Smiles of Service** Make (or purchase at a local bakery) unfrosted sugar cookies in a simple circle shape. Provide all kinds of icing and sprinkles to let women make smiley-faced cookies.

You can turn this into a service project by making cookie bouquets. Bake lollipop sticks into the cookies (found at craft stores). Then provide cellophane and ribbons. Women can decorate a few cookies, cover them with cellophane, tie them together with a ribbon, add a note, and take these to someone who needs a smile. It might be a neighbor, someone who's been feeling down, or just drop them off to an all-night gas station or other place open late where the employees would enjoy knowing someone remembered them!

- **Pin the Smile on the Face** This is our version of "Pin the Tale on the Donkey." On yellow poster board, use a large black felt pen to draw two eyes inside a large circle (a face without a mouth). Use another sheet of poster board or heavy paper to cut out enough "smiles" for 10 to 20 players. Blindfold one woman at a time, spin her around (go ahead and be obnoxious with it!), and then have her put the smile on the face. Winner is the best smile placer!
- **Smiley Face Balloon Game** Inflate balloons and store them in garbage bags until you're ready to play. Form two teams of at least five women each and give one balloon to each

team. Be sure to recruit some loud cheerleaders for the sidelines!

On "Go!" see which team can keep the balloon in the air the longest. Play the best three out of five rounds. And remind women, no "patsy patting" of the balloon. Women must really hit it in the air.

- **Hula Hoop Contest** Play "I'm Walking on Sunshine" by Katrina and the Waves while women see who can keep their hoops going the longest. Sure to make everyone smile!
- **Joy-Filled Devotion** Use Romans 15:13 and this short devotion to help women understand the difference between happiness and joy—and that our joy comes from God even when we don't feel like smiling.

You'll need:

- 1 disposable, plastic cup per woman
- 1 drinking straw per woman
- Joy dishwashing liquid
- water
- towels or paper towels

Give each woman a disposable cup filled with water, and a drinking straw.

Say: Remember when you were a kid and you would use straw to blow bubbles in to a glass of milk? Well let's try that again using these glasses of water.

Have women put the straws into the water and blow—making bubbles. (This is where you might want those towels or paper towels). After

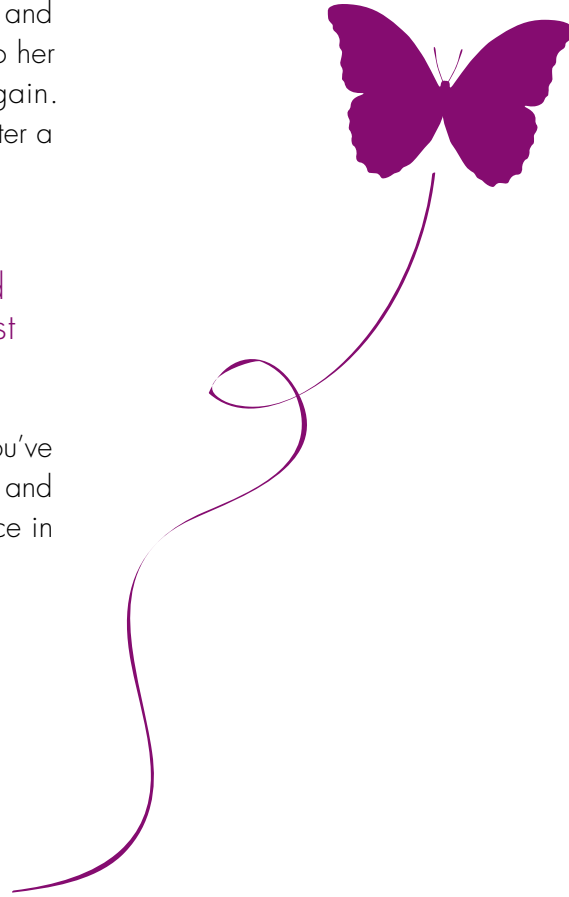
SMILE!

a minute, ask: *What about those bubbles? Are any of them remaining?* Clearly, the bubbles disappear as soon as the blowing stops.

Now pass around Joy dishwashing liquid and have each woman squeeze a tiny bit into her water. Let the bubble-blowing begin again. (Again...you might want those towels!) After a minute ask:

- *What's different this time?*
- *What makes joy bubble up and last in our lives, instead of just disappearing?*

Encourage women to use the principles you've shared to make the joy of Jesus bubble up and overflow continuously, instead of just once in a while.



This resource is part of the SNAP series, which provides women's ministry downloads at your fingertips. For more women's ministry resources go to group.com/women.

978-0-7644-9152-8

© 2007 and 2013 Group Publishing, Inc.

Permission to photocopy granted for local church use only.

SMILE!