

STORY BEAD BRACELETS

How to Use This Resource

In this SNAP resource, you'll find a way for your group of women to grow closer to each other and Jesus as they make a fun craft to keep or give away. Each session starts with a discussion and short devotion designed to be comfortable for women of all ages and levels of spiritual maturity. Then there's a fun craft for women at all levels of crafting ability—no one will have to feel "craftiness challenged" with these projects! Finally, there's a quick closing to pull it all together. We've also included "Add Pizzazz" ideas to take your experience to the next level.

Getting Ready

- Read through this entire download. If you're the person who will be presenting the devotion, you may want to read the devotion portion several times so you can present it without reading directly from the page.
- If you aren't comfortable leading crafts, team up with another woman or two who is! Ask those women to help shop for supplies, make a sample craft, and assist others during the craft time. This is a great way to involve women who may not want to lead but who love shopping for bargains and sharing their crafting skills.
- Spend a little time with your crafting team to talk about where reusable craft supplies will be stored and who is in charge of making sure things like dried-out markers are thrown away and replaced with fresh supplies.
- Pray that God will use the time you spend together to deepen friendships and help women draw closer to Jesus.
- Have fun!

Story Bead Bracelets

These Story Bead Bracelets are a great way to get women to open up and deepen friendships as they share personal stories and fun memories with one another while creating the bracelets. Each woman will make and take home her own bead bracelet and can use the bracelet as a reminder to pray for the other women in the group. These bracelets can also be used as gifts for those who need encouragement or could even be sold at a fundraising event.

- Estimated Cost: \$2-3 per woman
- Estimated Time: 30-45 minutes



Supplies

- ✓ pieces of short-nap fabric such as velveteen or felt (you can cut up an old blanket for this or use fabric scraps you have on hand). These will serve as bead mats to keep the beads from rolling around the table and onto the floor.
- ✓ 10 inches of memory wire per person
- ✓ small bowls containing assorted beads of different colors, shapes, and sizes. As the devotion uses solid-colored beads, be sure that your assortment includes a number of solid-colored beads.
- ✓ round needle-nose pliers
- ✓ small wire cutters
- ✓ photocopies of the Story Bead Bracelets handout from this download (1 per woman)

It's a Snap!

Place beads in several small bowls so everyone can reach them easily. Empty egg cartons also work well if you want to keep beads separated by color, size, or style.

Prep

- Make a sample bracelet to show as an example.
- Set up tables, chairs, and supplies so all are ready for women when they arrive.

Devotion

Once everyone has arrived, have women sit in a circle and invite each person to choose a solid-colored bead that appeals to her most. If you have more than 10 women at your gathering, form groups of 5 or 6 for this activity.

Give each woman a Story Bead Bracelet handout. Figure out which person is wearing the most green in the group and ask her to share a story from her life based on the color of the bead she chose and the correlating question from the "Bead Key" on the handout. Once she's told a story, have the woman to her left share next, telling a story based on the color of the bead she chose. Continue around the room or small group until each person has had the chance to share. You'll be amazed by what you learn about each other!

When everyone has shared, say: **We're going to be making bracelets with a variety of beads today. Just as every bead is different, each woman here has her own unique story and a special place in our hearts as our friend. How can the beads we use for our bracelets remind us of different friends who we're thankful for?**

Allow about 2 minutes for discussion, then say: **Philippians 1:3 says, "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God." Let's let our bead bracelets remind us of the friends we have here and help us remember to pray for our friends—thanking God as we think of each other.**

Invite women to begin making their bracelets while continuing to chat at their tables, and remind women that instructions for making the bracelets are on their handout.

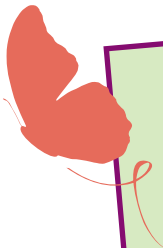
When all the bracelets are done, close with a time of prayer, thanking God for the women who have come and asking God to help them remember to pray for each other.



Add Pizzazz!

- Supply earring-making supplies and have women make matching earrings for their bracelets.
- Suggest that everyone lay out a pattern of 3 to 5 beads on her bead mat. The order or arrangement of the beads should express a particular memory of the beader.

For example, a pattern of white and clear beads might tell the story of a snowy winter memory. Or dark blue and clear beads might represent the night sky during a special camping trip. Think of memories involving specific people, travels, family events, victories—you get the idea. As each woman creates a pattern, encourage her to share her memory with the others at her table.



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.

978-0-7644-9180-1

Copyright © 2007, 2014 Group Publishing, Inc.
Permission to photocopy granted for local church use only.

STORY BEAD BRACELETS



Bead Key

RED: Tell about an embarrassing moment you can laugh about now.

BLUE: Tell about a time you won first place—or did something really, really well!

GREEN: Tell about a time you were jealous of someone else.

YELLOW: Tell about something that brings you great joy.

PINK: Tell about something that makes you glad to be a girl.

PURPLE: Tell about a person or thing that makes you feel like royalty.

ORANGE: Tell your best spring or autumn memory.

CLEAR: Share a fact about life that you finally “figured out.”

1. Size the wire.

Wrap the memory wire once around your wrist, overlapping the ends about 1 or 2 inches. Cut wire to this size using wire cutters.

2. Close one end.

Close up one end of your bracelet by forming a tiny loop in the wire. Using the tip of your needle-nose pliers, grip the wire about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the end and bend the wire until you've formed a tiny loop.



3. Choose beads.

Select a handful of beads and place these on one of the bead mats (those small pieces of fabric). This will help keep your beads in one place. Sort through the beads and find several that you like. Before you begin putting the beads onto your wire, create a pattern you like on the bead mat.

4. Place the beads.

Starting at the opposite end of the wire, string your beads in any pattern you choose. Let your imagination be your guide!

5. Close the other end.

Close the other end of the wire using the method described in step 2.