

# BLESSINGS



# CANDLE

# 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.

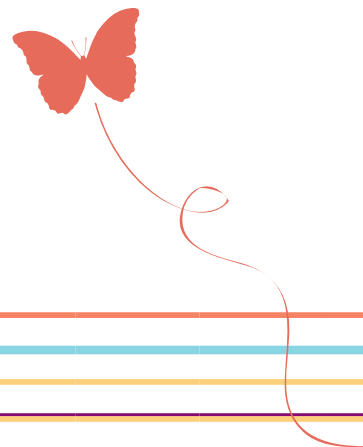
## Getting Ready

- 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!

## Blessings Candle

The Blessings Candle is an easy, fun craft that women will love making and displaying in their homes. During your time together, women will understand that God loves to shower his goodness upon us...we just have to recognize the many blessings he has for us each day! As women create this craft, they will reflect on everything God is doing in their lives. And each time they light their candle, they will be reminded of their many blessings and remember to offer God a prayer of thanks!

- Estimated Cost: \$3-5 per woman
- Estimated Time: 20-30 minutes



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CANDLE

## Supplies

- ✓ 4 to 6-inch tall glass vase with an opening wide enough for a tea light (1 per woman)
- ✓ fine-grained sand
- ✓ small seashells, stones, glass gems, etc.
- ✓ funnels
- ✓ tea light candle, votive, or electric tea light candle (1 per woman)
- ✓ one extra candle per table to burn during devotion
- ✓ Scripture hang tags (provided at the end of this download)
- ✓ ribbon
- ✓ large spoons for dipping sand into vases
- ✓ bowls for the sand
- ✓ butcher paper to cover tables
- ✓ photocopies of the Blessings Candle handout included in this download

### *It's a Snap!*

*Check your local dollar store or secondhand stores for inexpensive vases and fish bowls. You might find a fun variety of unique vases for women to choose from!*

## Prep

- Make a Blessings Candle as an example.
- Set up tables and chairs.
- Cover the tables with butcher paper for easy cleanup.
- Set out the vases, sand, funnels, shells, and stones so all the supplies are ready to go.

## Devotion

Once everyone has arrived, have women form pairs to discuss the following: **Tell about a time you clearly saw God at work in your life.** Allow about 5 minutes for women to share.

**When we think about times we have seen God at work in our lives, most of us probably think of a few big events or major moments when we know, without a doubt, that God was present and active. Maybe someone gave you a car when you really needed one. Maybe a member of your family miraculously recovered from a serious illness. Maybe you walked away from a car crash that should have been much worse. It's easy to see God at work in those situations. But do we just as easily see God in our day-to-day lives?**

**Psalm 23:5-6 says, "My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life." Do you feel overwhelmed by God's blessings in your life? Do you truly believe that God is pursuing you and wants to shower you with his goodness and love? With a partner, share your response to this verse, if this describes how you feel about God's presence in your life, and why.**

After 5 minutes, have women return their attention to you. **Sometimes it's hard to see the blessings God has for us. Busyness may distract us from looking for God or maybe we give credit in the wrong places...citing coincidence or other people as the source of the goodness we receive rather than acknowledging that God is the ultimate source of all good things. God has blessings for us every day...we just have to train ourselves to see it.**

**1 Chronicles 16:8-12 says, "Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness...Exult in his holy name; rejoice, you who worship the Lord. Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him. Remember the wonders he has performed." Every day, make a point to thank God for his blessings...big or small. Thank him for the beautiful weather. Thank him for his light shining through a stranger. The more we give thanks to God, the more open we will be to seeing his blessings that surround us.**

**Today we are going to make a Blessings Candle to help us remember what God has done—and is doing—in our lives. As you fill your vases, think of the sand as representing the countless blessings we receive every day. Talk at your tables about the blessings we take for granted. Let the stones and shells represent the blessings you are most thankful for in your life; share at your table what those special blessings are for you. Finally, think of the candle as a symbol of the joy those blessings have brought you. Each time you light your candle, remember the good things God has done and offer a prayer of thanksgiving.**

Have women begin making the craft. When everyone has finished, gather women's attention. **Say: Let's spend a few minutes reflecting on**

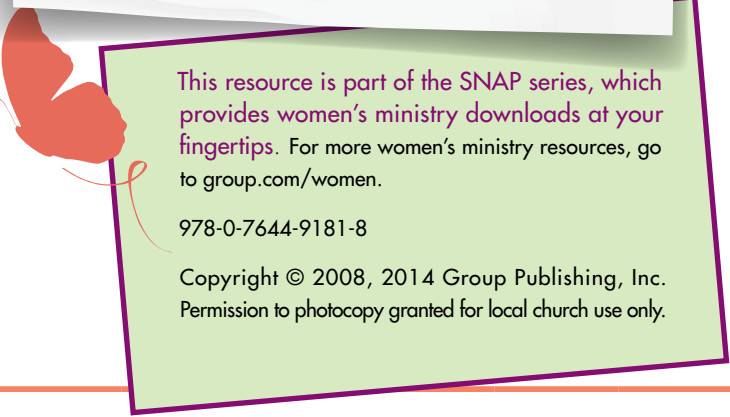
**those blessings you've just discussed.** Have one woman at each table light her candle (tell these women there is an extra, unused candle for each of them to take when you're finished). **With the women at your table, go around and each offer a one sentence prayer of thanksgiving. When your group is finished, blow out the candle, but we'll remain quiet until all the groups are done.**

Once all the groups are finished, close by praying: **Thank you, Lord, for all the blessings you give us. You are so good! Help us to open our eyes to see the many blessings you have for us each day. And guide us in being a blessing to one another. Amen.**



### Add Pizzazz!

- Create a playlist of praise songs before your event. Use these songs as background music during the craft time. At your closing, choose one of the songs to play and invite women to close their eyes and listen to the words of the song as a meditation of thankfulness.
- Dress up the craft by using colored or even sparkle sand to create a layered sand art project in the vases. Look up sand art how-to's online for simple instructions. Put pictures of simple sand art at each table to provide women with ideas.



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](http://group.com/women).

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# BLESSINGS CANDLE

## 1. Pour the sand.

Using a funnel, pour sand into the vase, filling it about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way full.

## 2. Place the shells and stones.

Fill the remainder of the vase with small shells or stones; these represent the blessings you are most thankful for. Share what these blessings are for you at your table.

## 3. Add Scripture hang tag.

Use a ribbon to attach the verse provided to remind you give thanks to God.

## 4. Add the candle.

Place a candle in the center of your vase. Each time you light the candle, be reminded of everything God has done in your life and offer him a prayer of thanksgiving!



○ "Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness...Exult in his holy name; rejoice, you who worship the Lord. Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him. Remember the wonders he has performed."

1 Chronicles 16:8-12

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