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Hostess Activity Guide

Introduction Week

In preparation for first meeting, ask participants to bring a childhood picture.

Ice breaker: Have participants introduce themselves and share a childhood memory.

Play *Guess Who* with childhood pictures. Give each guest a piece of paper, number page with number of guests. Host holds up childhood picture; guests write down the name of who they think the child is; whoever guesses the most correctly receives a childhood related gift. (Suggested gift ideas- coloring book, doll, candy ring pop, kid-themed toy)

Another suggestion: Watch "The Star of Bethlehem" by Rick Larson, www.bethlehemstarmovie.com. (65 minute duration)

From The Ground Up

Week 1: In the Beginning

Decorating suggestions: large clear bowl of water, bucket of dirt, centerpiece of random stuffed animals. Serve only fruits and vegetables.

Preparations: Poke holes in black construction paper. Place lamp in middle of table. Fit black paper to lamp shade to be able to slide over it.

Activity: Start the meeting with the lights off. Quote God's command "Let there be light". Flip switch on lamp. When discussing the creation of the "lights in the sky"; Place black construction paper cone over lamp shade creating stars in the room. Also use decorative props in discussion as you see fit.

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Week 2: God's Design for Humanity

Preparation: Make mini wedding veils. Cut out pieces of tulle or similar material (white tissue paper); hot glue a hair pin to each. On name tags, write "Bride of Christ".

Suggested activity: Have each guest form a person out of playdough. See who makes the best "Adam".

Play a round of "Operation"

Give each person a name tag with the label "Bride of Christ"; give a veil to wear.

Have a three-legged race. (Simulates the importance of working together as one body. Also, it shows that we must humble ourselves to work together to remain standing instead of trying to drag the shorter, slower person which causes a fall. The slower person sets the pace. This analogy can refer to marriage, disciplining, parent/child relationships, mentoring, etc. Not everyone moves at the same pace. Once we grasp this fact, it will help us give grace and lessen frustration when dealing with someone who is not in the same place that we may be in our relationship with Christ.)

Suggested menu: Ribs

From The Ground Up

Week 3: The Fall of Man

Suggested Activities:

Have a costume party. (Deception of Satan) Play True or False. Write down familiar Scriptures, some as is, some change one word creating the false.

Here are some examples of false verses:

1. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave a son that whosoever believes in Him should not parish but have eternal life. (changed "His only begotten" to "a")
2. John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god. (changed "the Word was God" to "the Word was a god.")
3. John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am a way, a truth, and a life..." (changed "the" to "a" and ignored the rest of the verse.)

Act out scene assigning parts from Genesis 3:1-13. Assign parts- narrator, serpent, Eve, Adam, voice of God.

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Week 4: The Broken World

Fingerprints: using washable paint or glow-in-the-dark paint, have guests dip fingers in paint. Continue meeting as normal. See how many fingerprints are left.

Demonstrate Ocean/Bucket/Cup analogy from Day 3: Ocean Water. Use kitchen faucet in place of ocean, sand pale or bucket, cup.

At end of demonstration, have guest wash paint from hands in the flow of water from faucet, representing the cleansing power of God.

From The Ground Up

Week 5: Lukewarm, Yuck!

Serve lukewarm coffee, tea, or other drink of choice.

Demonstrate faucet example on page 125.

Refer to activity on pages 131 & 132. Have participants write situations that steal their time and joy causing them to be lukewarm on notecards. Place the cards in a pile on the floor symbolizing laying them at the foot of the cross. Gather in a circle around the cards, and pray for the Lord to help remove the situations that need to be removed, give strength in situations that cannot be removed, and to learn to focus on the glory of God even in the mist of these situations. Most of all, pray for the Lord to ignite the fire of passion for the Lord within the hearts of His children.

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Week 6: Spread the Seed of Life

Decoration: Bowl full of fruit for centerpiece. Give a piece of fruit for parting gift.

Activity: Planting the seed.

Supply list: Bucket, dirt, seed packet, watering can

1 person sits in chair and hold empty bucket (represents lost person, empty soul)

Additional people (steps divided up by number of people present)

Step 1: People with dirt walk past and pour dirt into bucket. (Each person pouring soil is building foundation of truth in lost person.)

Step 2: 1 person poke hole in completed foundation of dirt. (Represents preparation to receive seed)

From The Ground Up

Step 3: 1 person drops seed in hole. (represents sharing of the Gospel, God's Word)

Step 4: 1 person covers seed with dirt (represents protecting God's Word from outside sources)

Step 5: Remaining people water seed a little at a time (represents nurturing and caring for new Christian)

Point out that not one of the steps is any less important than the other. All need to take place. In ministering, sometimes we will be asked to perform all steps. Other times, we may just be the one who pokes the hole. Notice, none of the steps actually causes the seed to sprout and grow into a plant. That is God's job. None of these steps force the seed to grow, nor do they determine how long it takes for the seed to sprout. All in God's timing and we may never see the end result on this side of glory, but God promises that His Word will not return void.