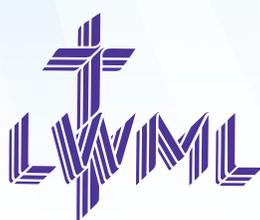




Zone Events



PO Box 411993
St. Louis, MO 63141-1993
www.lwml.org

lwml@lwml.org
800-252-LWML
Fax: 314-268-1532

Published by the Leader Development Committee
Lutheran Women's Missionary League 2015

PUTTING *ZEST* in Your ZONE EVENTS

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Bits of <i>Zest</i>	4
Sample Zone Rally/Event Agenda	5
Out-of-the-Box Ideas for Planning an LWML Women's Day Out	6
Women's Day Out Event Planning Form	7
Sample Invitation	8
Sample Registration Form	9
Sample Return Postcard	9
Sample Event Poster	10
Icebreakers/Community Builders	11
M & M Game	11
Bible Charades	11
Name Introduction	12
Mixers	12
Puzzle Mixer	12
Games	13
Give Yourself a Point	13
What's in Your Purse?	14
Friendship Bingo	15
Bible Bingo	16
Women's Meeting at Lucy Left's Home	17
Sketches of Delight	18
Discovering Your Gifts	18
Doubly Blessed	21

(Many additional sketches are available from the LWML *Catalog* or on the LWML website www.lwml.org.)

INTRODUCTION

“Well, that was a waste of my time!” “What a dull meeting!”

“I don’t think I’ll go to another rally!”

“I really wasn’t inspired by that program!”

Have you ever heard comments like these after a zone gathering? Do your zone events tend to be dull and boring? Do the women of your zone seem to lack inspiration and enthusiasm after attending a rally or workshop?

This packet of materials is designed to put some **ZEST** into your zone activities.

Bits of Zest: helpful hints to consider as you plan your zone event.

Out-of-the-Box Ideas: suggestions for opportunities to try “something new” and enjoy lots of fun and fellowship.

Icebreakers/Community Builders and Games: ideas to help attendees feel at ease and become better acquainted with one another as they share a common purpose.

Sketches of Delight: two sketches on the topics of discovering your gifts and being blessed by helping others. These sketches present a light-hearted view of women serving in the LWML. Many other sketches are available from the *LWML Catalog* and website (www.lwml.org).

The enclosed materials will help put that **ZEST** into your zone activities so that after the next event, you will hear comments like these:

“What a great rally!” “That was such a fun and inspiring day.”

“I can’t wait for the next gathering!”

“Wait until those who didn’t come hear about the great day they missed!”

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God
(Colossians 3:16).*

BITS OF ZEST

1. It's thoughtful for the zone executive committee to compose and distribute detailed guidelines for host societies. (Sample guidelines for host societies are found in *The Planning Zone*, available as a free download at www.lwml.org.)
2. Hold your event at tables (round tables work well), not pews.
3. In addition to staffing the registration table, have two smiling women standing at the door to give a warm, personal welcome.
4. If hosting a zone workshop with more than one presenter, consider having the presenters move to each room while the participants stay in the same room. This works well for presenters who have a minimum amount of props and A/V equipment. This could save "travel time." You may need little "elves" to help presenters move props.
5. The president should have a prepared agenda, but be flexible for possible changes.
6. Use a microphone. Never ask "Can you hear me?" without the microphone.
7. Schedule breaks during the event. Stand, sing, or play a game (if time allows). Have the attendees rub their neighbors' backs. This is a good community builder!
8. Encourage attendance by publicizing beginning and ending times and abiding by those times. Be sensitive to travel distance – avoid making people get up too early or arriving home too late.
9. Distribute printed reports to each society, or consider sending copies via email, before the event. Instead of oral reports, promote new items from the *LWML Catalog*.
10. Consider using gifted women of the zone to lead Bible studies, breakout sessions, etc. Consider inviting an LWML mission speaker or doing a servant event rather than hosting a topical speaker.
11. The host society could use a sketch or song to extend their welcome. The inviting society could also use a sketch or song for the invitation to the next event.
12. Invite each society to use a sketch, song, poem, or cheer to tell about a new project they are undertaking or a recent mission outreach effort.
13. Simplify gifts from the heart (ingatherings) by asking for specific items (e.g. diapers, wipes, used eye glasses, toothbrushes for a homeless shelter, one or two food items for a food bank). This is a great Christian witness to the community.
14. Ask each society to bring three or more wrapped white elephant gifts. These are stacked on a table and given as door prizes during lunch. Women can register for door prizes at the registration table. Recruit enough helpers so distribution goes quickly. Everyone loves seeing the gifts opened.
15. Announce the theme, date, and place of the next event – this is great publicity! Planning a year in advance helps eliminate stress for the next hosting zone.

SAMPLE ZONE RALLY/EVENT AGENDA

We hope that as you read this packet of material you will be inspired to make your zone events more “zestful!” The question has been raised by those planning zone events: “Is it OK to plan an event like this and add a business meeting to the schedule?”

There really is no good “one-size-fits-all” answer. Some zones are geographically large and then it makes sense to include a business meeting as most of the board members are already present. It might even encourage more board women to attend both the meeting and the event if they know they only need to drive once, thus saving gas and time. On the other hand, combining an event and a business meeting might discourage women who don’t need or want to attend a business meeting; they just want to attend the event.

One solution might be to schedule the meeting portion of the day immediately before or after the event. Then those who only want to attend the event can just come for that. Perhaps if women are carpooling, those who are not attending the meeting would enjoy a pre-or-post event fellowship time.

Here is a suggested schedule that you may consider when you set up an event which includes a zone business meeting; adjust the times and events as is most appropriate for your zone:

8:30 Board Meeting (Zone board meetings, planned well, should not take more than ½ hour.)*
Optional Fellowship Time/Coffee/Pastries

9:00 Registration/Ice Breakers

9:30 Welcome/Opening Devotions/ Offering

9:45 Bible Study

10:15 Program (or consider doing a servant event)

11:30 Light Lunch/Announcements/Door Prizes

12:30 Closing Devotion

Optional Fellowship Time

If not held in the morning, the zone board meeting could be held at this time.

* Business meetings should be as brief as possible while making sure members are well-informed. Being well-organized and having as much as possible printed (or sent electronically) for distribution beforehand will help facilitate this goal. To minimize zone expense, place one copy in a packet for each society and ask the society to be responsible for sharing with the members of their group. For more details on conducting a well-planned business meeting, see *The Planning Zone*, available as a free download at www.lwml.org.

But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way
(1 Corinthians 14:40 NIV).

OUT-OF-THE-BOX IDEAS FOR PLANNING AN LWML WOMEN'S DAY OUT

Offering an event exclusively geared toward women provides an excellent opportunity for fellowship. It also opens the door to mentoring opportunities. Hostesses should plan a theme to include women of all ages, be Scripture-based, and full of fun!

LWML Oregon District zones have an annual event known as "LWML Rendezvous." Each society is invited to participate in a talent show program through a sketch, song, reading, musical offering, etc. They use this event as an extra "fun" event, not as its regularly scheduled zone business meeting.

Depending on the number of societies and the time allotted, some groups may have more than one talent entry. A brief business meeting and a meal could also easily be included.

Having society members as participants and bringing along their "fan club" assures a good attendance. Encouraging and inviting non-LWML women to participate and join in the fun is an excellent outreach opportunity!

The Women's Day Out is self-sustaining; no money from the zone treasury is used. A registration fee can be assessed if needed, to cover any costs incurred; a free-will offering might also be considered. You may want to place a Mite Box in the area and suggest bringing an offering.

Begin planning at least six months in advance to allow groups to choose the talent they will provide. Secure enough talent before announcing the event to ensure there are enough women willing to participate.

Start by choosing an inspirational theme with ideas from the Bible, hymns and songs, nature, quotes, bumper stickers, product labels, food and beverages, hobbies, sports, seasonal, holidays, celebrations, or special occasions. There are also many resources available from the LWML *Catalog* (www.lwml.org).

Next you can decide on a theme verse from the Bible. Your devotion topic, color scheme, table centerpieces, games/icebreakers, music, favors, door prizes, skits, food, beverages, and other portions of the day could be planned around the theme or the verse. A "Women's Day Out Planning Form" to help plan your event can be found in this section.

Invitations, registration forms, publicity posters, and/or bulletin inserts can be sent to each society a month-and-a-half to two months in advance. Invitations, registration forms, and information on the singing/sketch/reading each congregation will present can be sent via email to save costs, or printed on colorful stationery and mailed. Posters should be colorful and eye-catching. Make sure that all pertinent details are covered. Remember to include travel directions to the host church, with the name, phone number, and email address of a contact person.

Printed programs, favors, and table decorations help carry out the theme; however, individual presentations do not necessarily need to reflect the theme. This can be the option of the zone. The following themes have been used:

- ✚ "God's Orchard" (based on fruits of the Spirit)
- ✚ "A Time for Everything" (theme verse Ecclesiastes 3:1)
- ✚ "Promises of God"
- ✚ "Footprints in the Sand"

WOMEN'S DAY OUT EVENT PLANNING FORM

Title: _____

Theme Verse: _____

Devotional Topic: _____

Color Scheme: _____

General Ideas: _____

Table Centerpieces: _____

Games/Icebreakers: _____

Music: _____

Favors: _____

Door Prizes: _____

Sketches: _____

Food: _____

Other Ideas: _____

Notes: _____

There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God (Ecclesiastes 2:24).

SAMPLE INVITATION

Date

Dear Friends,

It will soon be **Women's Day Out!** This special day is sponsored by LWML (zone name) Zone Executive Board. It will be held at (name of church, address, and phone number), on (day of the week/month/date/year). Registration begins at 9 a.m. Enjoy refreshments furnished by the women of (name of church) from 9 to 9:30.

The theme this year will be "(theme name)". **You** are the program! We hope each society will participate or be represented in some way during the day. Maybe your group has budding actresses to perform a skit. Or is there an accomplished singer or musician amidst your numbers? It could be someone who likes to read poetry or another type of reading. We're sure there is someone who would like to do something. It's your participation that will make the day!

LUNCH: We are asking each of you to bring a salad for a salad buffet. The women of (name of church) will provide beverages and rolls. Each woman attending is asked to bring a salad large enough to serve two or three women. This can be a main dish, vegetable, fruit or dessert salad, or a relish tray. The choice is endless, as has been proven in the past. Please be sure to mark your dishes with your name and church.

REGISTRATION: (If you decide to charge a registration fee to cover some or all of the expenses, you may include that information in the registration packet and state the amount per person, or you could consider a free-will offering.) The deadline for registration is (day of week, /month/date/year) (at least one week prior to the event). A registration form is enclosed with this letter. One person may send in all the registrations as long as individual names, addresses, and emergency contacts are included (along with any registration fee amounts). Make checks payable to (Zone Name) Zone LWML. **Please pre-register.** This is important so the women who are planning the event at (church) know how many they need to prepare for.

Serving with gladness,

(name of person planning the event)

SAMPLE REGISRATION FORM

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE/EMAIL _____
EMERGENCY CONTACT _____
I have enclosed (registration fee) for Women's Day Out (or theme) registration.
Return to (chairman name, address, city, state, zip code) by (month/date/year)
Lunch: I will bring a salad to serve two or three people.

SAMPLE RETURN POSTCARD FOR SOCIETY PRESIDENTS TO COMPLETE

Please fill out one card per presentation.	
_____ of _____ Lutheran Church (name of society) (name of church)	
_____	_____
(name of presentation)	(Specify: skit, song, reading, piano solo, etc.)
Presented by _____	Approximate length _____ min.
(name of participant[s])	
Please return to _____ by (month/date/year – 4-6 months before the event).	

SAMPLE EVENT POSTER

SALAD LUNCHEON

DAY OF WEEK/MONTH/DATE/ YEAR

AT

TIME

Sponsored by

NAME OF ZONE

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Name of Church

Address, City

City, State

FELLOWSHIP, FOOD (Desserts and Beverages), and FUN!!!!

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED

(Including mothers, daughters, daughters-in-law, sisters, grandmothers, friends, and neighbors)

Donation is (amount) (amount) **will be given to LWML MITES**
(or inform them if there will be a free-will offering)

Mark Your Calendar! Come! Have a Fun Time!

ICEBREAKERS/COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Icebreakers can play an important role when women come together for zone events. They help ease tension, get attention, and help bring the group together.

Fine-tune your games and icebreakers to the group of women attending. Some women enjoy more active things, while others enjoy such things as solving puzzles or answering questions.

Consider how many people will be there, how much time you need for the activity, how much space is needed, and if you would like an active or passive icebreaker.

Games and puzzles are great for icebreakers and they also can be something for the women to do while waiting for the rest of the guests to arrive. They're easy to do, but can be full of zest by encouraging the women to laugh and talk with each other.

Following are samples of games you may use for your icebreakers. Adapt any of the following to fit the situation. Be creative!

M & M GAME

Pour M&M's or any other multicolor candy into a bowl. Using a large spoon or ladle, have each person place a dozen or so pieces of candy in a cup or bowl. Don't eat it now.

Each person will answer a question for each piece of M&M candy they took. The questions can correspond with these colors. For example, you can designate:

- Red candy: favorite hobbies
- Green candy: favorite foods
- Yellow candy: favorite movies
- Orange candy: favorite places to travel
- Brown candy: most memorable or embarrassing moments
- Blue candy: wild color (they can share anything they choose)

Be creative and choose questions that fit your group. The leader will call out the color topic and everyone will go around the table sharing one answer per M&M. For example: if the person has two red M&M's, she will name two of her favorite hobbies. After the individual has shared her answer with the group, she may eat her candy. Continue to go around the table until each color topic has been shared.

BIBLE CHARADES

Divide the group into two teams. One person from the team draws a Biblical event from a box to pantomime for the other team players. The others try to identify the Bible story being enacted.

NAME INTRODUCTION

Say your name and something for which you are thankful, with each word of thanks starting with your initials. (For example, Esther Jones is thankful for “Easter” and “Jesus.”) Use your own name as an example.

MIXERS

To encourage the guests to get to know others at the event, consider asking women from each congregation to sit with others in the zone, at least for part of the day. (However, you need to be flexible with this, as sometimes those who are new to the group or are guests like to sit with people they already know.) The following suggestions can be used:

1. Use different colored nametags and place corresponding colors on the tables. Arrange to have women from the same society receive different colors, if appropriate.
2. Give each person a phrase from a familiar song or hymn as she arrives. When everyone with the words to the same song find each other, they can sit at the table with the name of their song printed on a card placed in the center, and they then sing the song at the designated time.

PUZZLE MIXER

Cut a used greeting card or a solid color tag board into two puzzle pieces identically numbered. Participants find matching puzzle pieces and share names, addresses, and contact information. They can be partners for future activities of the day and can also become prayer partners. Share specific prayer needs, if desired.

GAMES

These games are full of zest so the women can get to know one another, laugh, and have fun! They also allow you to give door prizes; consider using items from the LWML *Catalog* or the online shopping cart on the website to see the variety of prize items available. What a great way to have the women feel part of LWML!

He will yet fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips with shouting
(Job 8:21).

GIVE YOURSELF A POINT

Narrate the following story while the women keep track of their points. Provide small pieces of paper and pens.

I wonder who came here from afar; give yourself 5 if you came by car.

Were you on time? Not one minute late? Punctuality pays so give yourself 8.

A watch is 6 and each ring is 2; 10 more points if your eyes are blue.

Score yourself 5 if you show any pink. But take away 10 if you left dishes in the sink.

Count all of your buttons; each gives you 1. Except if they're white, and then you'll get none.

For each bow that you're wearing add on 2. But safety pins are taboo, so for each one you're wearing, you must subtract 2.

Score 25 if this week you added mites to your box; subtract 15 if you're wearing black socks.

One point for each year you've been wed, but take away 5 if you have on red.

Pets are sweet, we all agree, so for each add 3. But when adding it up, kids count for more, so for each child give yourself 4.

This game is done so total your score; unless you brought a friend, then give yourself 20 more!

WHAT'S IN YOUR PURSE?



1 Point	5 Points	10 Points
Keys	Driver's License	Coupon (any type)
Cell Phone	Credit Card	Sales Receipt
Calendar	Check Book	Mints or Gum
Note Pad	Library Card	Tissue
Pair of Glasses	Calculator	Handkerchief
Pen or Pencil		

15 Points	20 Points	25 Points
Lipstick	Photo of a Friend	Sewing Kit
Make-up Mirror/Compact	Pain Reliever	Safety Pin
Brush or Comb	Cash (Bills or Coins)	
Nail File	Snack	
Hand Sanitizer	Postage Stamp	
Hand Lotion		

Total Points _____

Friendship Bingo

“Friendly” Rules: Write a statement in each grid on the card (examples: “Teaches Sunday school, has participated in LWML activities for 5 years, has 3 or more grandchildren, plays a musical instrument, has been married 10 years, has been to an LWML district convention, wears glasses, is wearing something purple, is wearing a scarf”). Use your imagination and include a variety of other statements.

Find a person who fits the description and have her write her first and last name in the square. Each person can sign each paper only once. When the card is full, give someone a hug, sit down, and visit quietly.

Bible Bingo

Make copies of the blank bingo grid. Prepare a list of biblical terms and people. Have each participant fill in her own bingo card using words from the list. Play the game like regular bingo. The caller uses the words from the list, too. Variations of bingo can be used such as: horizontal, vertical, diagonal, four corners, and blackout. When a player has a bingo, she calls out, "Bible bingo!" A prize may be given to the winner.

To add zest to the bingo game, place gifts on a table and winners can choose a gift. When gifts are gone, the winner can trade her gift with another player or the winner can take a gift from someone if she does not have one to trade. Set a time limit.

Markers may be coins from purses or the society may provide the coins. Another idea is to have an ingathering of coins. The winners place their coins in a large Mite Box.

B	I	B	L	E
		GOD IS LOVE FREE SPACE		

WOMEN'S MEETING AT LUCY LEFT'S HOME

Give one woman at each table a gift. The leader reads the story and the guests pass the gift in the direction told in the story. (When the word "left" or "right" is mentioned, the gift is passed in that direction.) The woman who is holding the gift at the end of the story gets to keep the gift. Another idea is for everyone to bring a small gift and everyone passes a gift every time.

I **left** my house and was on my way to Lucy **Left's** house for the women's fellowship meeting, but I **left** the directions at home **right** by the phone! I knew **right** away that I needed to have the **right** directions to Lucy **Left's** house, so I turned **left** and I turned **right** and made my way back to my house for the **right** directions.

Sure enough, there they were, **right** where I had **left** them, **right** next to the phone and **left** of the picture of my kids.

Finally, I was on the **right** track. I arrived **right** on time for opening prayer. I sat **right** down. I sat on the **left** of Lucy **Left**. The leader got **right** to work to tell us all about what we would be doing **right** in our women's group and asked for suggestions so we could do things **right** from the start. There were wonderful ideas **right** from our own women who attended. Nothing was **left** out.

The leader covered what type of meetings we would be having and what Bible studies would be coming up that would be just **right** for our group. She didn't want anyone to be **left** out of our activities.

She told us that this might be the **right** time to volunteer for one of the projects or to help with our activities and events. She emphasized that all the little details mattered and she didn't want anything **left** out because our women's group was an outreach of our church and for the Lord, who is **right** and true.

The leader told us we could talk to her **right** after the meeting if we wanted to volunteer. It was **left** up to us in what area we wanted to volunteer. So, there was nothing **left** for me to do but volunteer, **right**?

SKETCHES OF DELIGHT

DISCOVERING YOUR GIFTS

A sketch for four persons. Props: four wrapped presents.

(It begins with Person 1 moping around with a gift close by. Person 2 sits and studies her gift intensely; Person 3 rushes in with her gift excitedly.)

Person 3: Hey everyone, look what I have. A gift! I wonder what it is. *(Puts the gift up to her ear and shakes it with great anticipation.)* Wait – I think I know! – Teaching! I knew it – I knew it all along. Hey, I have the gift of teaching! I’ve already been doing that. Someone asked me to teach Sunday school because they thought I’d be good at it. At first, I was too nervous, but they encouraged me to at least try it. So I did and I really grew to love it. I really love those kids.

Person 2: Good for you.

(Person 3 shows gift to person 1 and person 2, person 1 acknowledges it and person 2 and smiles slightly.)

Person 3 *(to person 2):* What did you get?

Person 2: I don’t know. I’m too afraid to open it.

Person 3: Why? It’s a gift.

Person 2: What if I don’t like it? What if it’s something like ... I have to be a missionary in a hot place with tons of ... big, hairy spiders?

Person 3: Why would you think that?

Person 2: Because I rarely get what I really want. And I really hate big, hairy spiders.

Person 3: Well, still, how do you know what you’ve got unless you open it? Come on, just open it.

(Person 2 hesitantly opens her gift and carefully looks inside. Meanwhile, Person 1 is pacing around in aimless circles.)

Person 2: Administration? How in the world can I serve God with that?

Person 3: Well, you can be a church secretary, or church treasurer, or help in all different kinds of areas in organizing ministries. I’m sure there are **lots** of ways you can use **that**. And you can always do these things by participating in the LWML! *(Person 2 looks alarmed.)* Not all missions are in hot places with big, hairy spiders!

(Person 2 looks relieved. Person 2 and person 3 look at person 1 who is still pacing in aimless circles.)

Person 2: Hey, what about you? What gift do you have?

Person 1: Me? I'm just a loser. I don't have any gifts.

Person 2: Ah, yes, you do.

Person 1: No, I don't. I'm not good at anything.

(Person 4 walks by tossing her gift in the air like a toy, and then sticks it under her arm. Person 2 calls out after her and person 4 stops.)

Person 3: Hey, do you know what your gift is?

Person 4: Yeahhhh. *(Shrugs)* I took a peek at it a few times. It's evangelism and encouragement.

Person 3: Wow! You're so lucky. And you have **two**?

Person 2: Aren't you going to use them?

Person 4: There's a lot of rejection involved. And nobody thanks me.

Person 3: I teach Sunday school and if nobody thanked me, I wouldn't care. I'm doing this because I love God. I'm really serving God, you know. And I love serving Him.

Person 4: Come on, be honest, it's nice when people thank you.

Person 3: Sure, it's nice, but that's not why I do it. How will anyone ever thank you, if you aren't doing what you should be doing? I mean, you could be telling a lot of people about Jesus. I'd sure be thankful for that!

Person 4: Evangelism is very scary.

Person 3: Sure, but I was scared when I started teaching Sunday school.

Person 4: So what were you scared about?

Person 3: Well, at first, I was worried that the kids wouldn't like me, or they wouldn't listen – but it's more than that. I have a big responsibility.

Person 4: What's so big about that?

Person 3: I have a great responsibility to teach the Word of God correctly. The Holy Spirit will work through my words and someone may come to know Jesus.

Person 4: Huh! Well, you've given me something to think about, anyway.

(Person 4 walks away, now intently studying her gift. Person 1 has stopped pacing to listen.)

Person 1: I think I would use mine, if I had one.

Person 2: But you do! It's there – right there – with your name on it – here, let me help you.

(Person 2 picks up the gift and hands it to Person 1.)

Person 1: It's been there all the time?

Person 2: Yes! Now open it.

(Person 1 eagerly opens the gift and looks, and then person 2 looks in.)

Person 2: Wow! You got two also; hospitality and helping.

Person 3: You do all these things already. You're always inviting people over for a meal or coffee and you're always helping.

Person 1: But, it's not important.

Person 2: Are you kidding! When I was going through a really hard time, you brought over a meal and cleaned my house – you just don't know how much that helped and what that meant to me. That's why I started coming to church in the first place. You showed me God's love by doing that.

Person 1: Really? I didn't realize that. Thanks for letting me know.

(Person 3 put arm around person 1 and person 2 shoulders to walk out.)

Person 3: See, no one is a loser. God has given everyone a gift!

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms
(1 Peter 4:10 NIV).*

DOUBLY BLESSED

(This sketch tells us about God's blessings in our lives. God is always there for us, with the Holy Spirit working through Bible passages that He brings to mind through our conscience. Helping others brings us joy, and glory to Him!)

Cast: Jaycee; Jaycee's Conscience (voice offstage); Pam; Pam's Conscience (voice offstage)

The sketch opens with Jaycee sitting in a chair, holding two tickets. She looks at the tickets and sighs deeply, with a sad look on her face.

Jaycee's Conscience: Couldn't find a babysitter for the concert tomorrow night?

Jaycee: Conscience, is that you?

Jaycee's Conscience: Yes.

Jaycee: I'm glad you're here. No, we've only lived here a few weeks and don't know that many people yet, so I don't know who to ask to babysit.

Jaycee's Conscience: Feeling a little homesick?

Jaycee: A **lot** homesick! I'm not used to being so far away from my family and all my friends. Back home, finding a babysitter was never an issue, but this time ... well, I'm afraid these tickets are going to go to waste.

Jaycee's Conscience: I wouldn't give up so soon. James 4:14 says, *yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring.*

Jaycee: Unless you can physically manifest yourself into Super Nanny by tomorrow night, I'm afraid this situation looks rather dismal.

Jaycee's Conscience: I have an idea.

Jaycee (*excited*): You'll do the Super Nanny thing?

Jaycee's Conscience: No.

Jaycee (*disappointed*): Oh.

Jaycee's Conscience: Why don't you go talk to your neighbor?

Jaycee (*confused*): Why?

Jaycee's Conscience: Because I asked you to.

Jaycee: But I don't even know her. I've only seen her in the yard a few times.

Jaycee's Conscience: I think today might be a good time to introduce yourself.

Jaycee: But I'm the one new in town. Shouldn't she come over here to welcome me to the neighborhood?

Jaycee's Conscience: Ephesians 4:32 tells us to be kind to one another. She needs you to be kind to her today, Jaycee. Go talk to her.

Jaycee: You want me to just show up on her doorstep for no reason? She'll think I'm strange.

Jaycee's Conscience: No, she won't.

Jaycee: But I'm not good at meeting new people. I won't know what to say.

Jaycee's Conscience: Remember the words of Luke 12:12: *The Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.*

Jaycee: But ...

Jaycee's Conscience: It will be okay. I promise.

Jaycee: The Holy Spirit won't leave me?

Jaycee's Conscience: The Bible promises that the Holy Spirit dwells with you and will be in you. John 14:18 says, *I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

Jaycee: Alright.

(Jaycee walks to the opposite side of stage)

Jaycee: Hello? Is anybody home? *(No answer; Jaycee talks to her conscience)* She's not here. Too bad. *(Starts to leave but stops suddenly and turns around.)*

Jaycee's Conscience: Not so fast.

Pam *(off stage):* Is someone there? Who is it?

Jaycee *(talking to her conscience):* This is crazy! What am I doing here?

Jaycee's Conscience: Answer her.

Jaycee: Do I have to?

Jaycee's Conscience: Trust that the Holy Spirit will tell you what to say.

Jaycee *(calling out to Pam):* It's your new neighbor.

(Pam enters, somewhat confused.)

Pam: Hello.

Jaycee *(extends her hand to shake):* Hi. I'm Jaycee. I moved in next door.

Pam: I'm Pam. I've seen you out in the yard with your little girl.

(There is an awkward silence as the two stare at each other.) Is there something I can help you with?

(Pam stands still during the conversation between Jaycee and her conscience.)

Jaycee *(talking to her conscience)*: I told you this was a bad idea. Can we go now?

Jaycee's Conscience: Remember the Bible verses about lilies from Luke chapter 12 that you learned long ago? Tell her that she's more important than the lilies.

Jaycee *(confused)*: What? What do lilies have to do with anything?

Jaycee's Conscience: Tell her.

Jaycee: But that doesn't make any sense.

Jaycee's Conscience: It will to her.

(Pam begins to move again.)

Jaycee: Um.... *(hesitates)* Pam... *(looks at her helplessly)*

Pam: Yes?

Jaycee's Conscience: Tell her.

Jaycee: This may sound crazy, but I came over here to tell you that ... *(looks away shaking head and looks back to Pam)* I came to tell you that you are more important than the lilies.

(Pam stares at Jaycee blankly)

Jaycee *(to her conscience)*: See, I told you this was a mistake! She thinks I'm insane!

(All of a sudden Pam dramatically bursts into tears - the more dramatic, the funnier it will be. Pam hugs Jaycee, crying on her shoulder.)

Jaycee *(to her conscience)*: Or not!

Pam *(stepping away from Jaycee, shocked)*: I'm sorry, it's just that I can't believe you just said that!

Jaycee: Do you know what it means?

Pam: Of course I do!

Jaycee *(surprised)*: Really?

Pam: Yes. This week I've been reading in Luke about how God cares for the lilies of the field, but I just got laid off from my job.

Jaycee: I'm sorry to hear that.

Pam: Me too. I don't know how our family is going to survive without that second income. I was feeling a bit sorry for myself and I told God that He cares more about those stupid flowers than He does me!

Jaycee: You don't really believe that, do you?

Pam: Not since you walked through that door! Now I know God is telling me that He hasn't forgotten me and that somehow everything will be okay. Thank you for coming over. You've been a real blessing to me!
(hugging her again)

Jaycee: You're welcome. I'm glad I could help.

Pam: Maybe you could come back later in the week and we can have lunch. Kind of a "welcome to the neighborhood" feast. I make a mean ham and sausage quiche!

Jaycee: I'd like that. Thank you.

Pam: I'll see you on Thursday then. Thanks again. You have no idea how much your words meant to me.

Jaycee: Any time. See you Thursday.

(Pam stands still and Jaycee walks to other side of stage.)

Jaycee *(excited, talking to her conscience):* Did you see that?

Jaycee's Conscience: I saw it.

Jaycee: Did you hear what she said?

Jaycee's Conscience: I heard her.

Jaycee: I didn't have a clue, but she knew exactly what it meant! She said I was a blessing!

Jaycee's Conscience: I know.

Jaycee: That was amazing! I'm so glad I listened to you. Did you see the look on her face when I told her what you said?

Jaycee's Conscience: Yes.

Jaycee: Watching her really made my day. Thanks for reminding me about the Holy Spirit being with me and giving me words to use when I don't know what to say.

Jaycee's Conscience: You're welcome. Plus, I think you made a new friend.

Jaycee: Yeah, I think I did. Thank you so much!

(Jaycee leaves the stage. Pam is now the focus)

Pam: I can't believe that just happened!

Pam's Conscience: I told you that God will always love you and take care of you. Remember the words of Jeremiah 31:3: *I have loved you with an everlasting love.*

Pam: I know, but sometimes it's good to hear it out loud, you know?

Pam's Conscience: That's exactly why the Holy Spirit sent Jaycee over.

Pam: I am so thankful that the Holy Spirit knows exactly what I need.

Pam's Conscience: So, are you feeling better now?

Pam: Yes, **much** better!

Pam's Conscience: Good. Then I think you should call Fran.

Pam: From my night class? Why should I call her?

Pam's Conscience: Because the Holy Spirit will help you. You will be a blessing to Fran just as Jaycee was a blessing to you.

Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these (Luke 12:27).

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).