

Tea Time

There's something universally connecting about tea. From spicy chai in India, green tea and matcha in China and Japan, sweet rooibos of South Africa or strong black British brews, when you put on the kettle and take out the cups, it is a cross cultural signal that a time of connection, hospitality and refreshment is near. Most likely you offer cuppas in your playgroup space, and as parents and grandparents flow through the doors they are guaranteed that they will have the opportunity to enjoy a hot brew, and not have it go cold on the bench!

So with something so integral to our playgroup ministry, how can a cup of tea encourage us in our serving? Here are a few thoughts we hope will inspire you and your team. Take time to talk through the questions over a cup of tea ☺.

Heat it up



As a child, I once thought I'd save time by making a cuppa for my parents from water from the hot water tap. Their immediate response was "YUCK!" There's nothing nice about a lukewarm brew, (although iced tea is a different matter). Romans 12:11 says "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." The Greek word for fervor here: ζέοντες means "boiling". Over the last 2 years so many playgroup leaders have felt that the effects of COVID have pushed them to the backburner with their ministry. Instead of boiling hot, they're feeling cool or tepid. Can you identify with that?

What is going to heat you up for ministry again? Visiting another playgroup to share ideas and enthusiasm; finding a member of your church to support you and pray for you each week; coming to a CPN online catch up; or something else?

Let it brew

Have you ever watched as the boiling water is poured into the vessel and all the colours of the tea start seeping out of the bag or leaves? It can be quite beautiful, especially with herbal teas or leaves that gently uncurl as they rehydrate. Once the process is started, the whole cup takes on the flavour and this is what we want for our playgroup ministries: that everything we do at playgroup is permeated with the essence of the Holy Spirit.

In the Message translation of the Bible 1 Thessalonians 3:13 reads "May you be infused with strength and purity, filled with confidence in the presence of God our Father when our Master Jesus arrives with all his followers." The thing about tea infusion is that it isn't really a difficult process, but it just sort of happens! Likewise, as we ask the Holy Spirit to work, he does! Instead of striving or working harder to make your playgroup godly we encourage you to take a moment to think about where in your own faith or your ministry you'd like to open more to God's infusion of strength, joy, peace or confidence. If you imagine God infusing those spaces what comes to your mind?



Savor and share

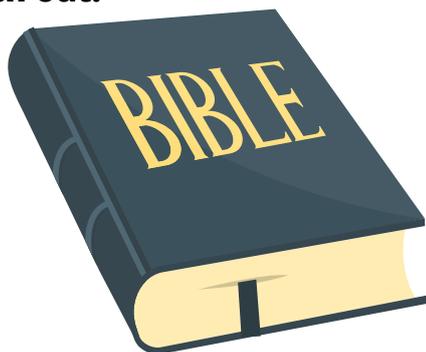
Do you sing “I’m a little teapot” at your playgroup? Surely the most fun part of the song is when you act “Tip me over and pour me out”. Yes we want to drink our yummy tea! Romans 15:13 gives us this encouragement: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”

And this is our prayer for you as well, that your playgroups may be filled and overflowing with joy and peace!

As you think practically about the hospitality space of your playgroup, we encourage you to look through the lens of the CPN value of Connection. When we or our parents are busy or distracted, connection becomes difficult. We want to offer space for moments of connection between members of our groups as well as with the Christian leaders and volunteers. The few minutes when a parent can pour out their heart and receive comfort, guidance or love can be so powerful.

You can intentionally foster this in your group by having someone make and serve the cuppas to parents; offering to watch or play with a child while the parent enjoys a few moments; making it a priority to connect with a different family each week; or deliberately creating space in your program so that there’s more free time. Or do you have other ideas?

We hope this encourages you in your playgroup ministry. We are here to support and connect with you too, so if you want to have a cuppa with us please reach out!



Christian Playgroup Network

connect • belong • grow

This printed/ digital resource has been lovingly made by the CPN team