

Christian Playgroup Network AGM Devotional 2023

The 2023 CPM theme is *Intentional Hospitality*. We encourage you to gather your playgroup team to spend some time together listening to God and listening to each other, and sto eek to hear God's gentle promoting and the grace-filled words of our Playgroup colleagues and community around us. You'll need a sweet treat, something salty and something fruity for everyone to taste for this devotional.



Savour a bite of a sweet treat and then read the following passage and discuss the questions: <u>Proverbs 16:24</u>

Our words and actions can be like sweet treats that add joy to the lives of children and parents alike. Just as a cup-cake brings a smile to a child's face, your presence and care can brighten even the

dullest of days.

- How could our words be healing like honey? What about a non-verbal children in our playgroups or language and cultural barriers?
- What is "sweet" (kind, loving, gentle) about your playgroup? The welcome, the volunteers, the environment? What could you change to make it 'sweeter'?



Savour a bite of a something salty, then read the following passage and discuss the questions: <u>Genesis 19:26</u>

This scripture appears in the story of Lot and while not necessarily about salt itself, it can act as a good reminder as we savour our salty food. The story says that Lot, his wife and two daughters fled the city of Sodom under God's guidance, before it was destroyed by God. God instructed them to 'not look back' but Lot's wife stopped to look back was turned into a pillar of salt. This passage can remind us to live in the moment and also to take our learnings from the past and be future focussed.

- What can intentional ministry look like in the moment?
- Is there something you are looking backwards at that you could let go of?
- Is God calling you forward into something this year or next?



Savour a bite of a something fruity and then read the following passage and discuss the questions:

Colossians 1: 9-10

Leading a playgroup "worthy of the Lord and pleasing to him in every way" bears fruit in the good works of caring and building community and creativity.

- Where is your playgroup bearing fruit? Think of strengths and encouraging stories
- Where would you like to ask God to fill you with wisdom & knowledge to help bear fruit?
- What would outrageous hospitality look like?

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Pray for your playgroup and each other. You can use this prayer as a starting point.

Father God,

Thank you for guiding us in to create playgroups abundant in hospitality, welcome, inclusion and unity. Guide us in sharing the gift of our time, attention and compassion. May our actions be a testament to Your goodness and magnify Your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.