



Inspire

Welcome Home

Education

Easy Thanksgiving Table Decorations

As a group make Thanksgiving decorations for tables at the corps or for the ladies to take home for their own Thanksgiving tables. Try to incorporate natural elements such as fall leaves and pinecones that you can find in your local community for free. Add a votive candle. Or add whole nuts to a clear vase and add a candle.

Buy small pumpkins, gourds or apples. Cut off the top and add a votive candle for a festive candle holder. You can also add seasonal flowers instead of candles. For a longer-lasting centerpiece, Styrofoam pumpkins and artificial flowers can be bought from the Dollar Store for the same affect.

An easy and inexpensive craft is to purchase inexpensive candles in a variety of sizes. Add seasonal colored washi tape. Washi tape can also be placed around votive candles.



INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS from the Territory

Bullhead, AZ did a program on the favorite hymns of past presidents.

Concord, CA held a baby shower for the social services pantry.

Eureka, CA make handmade blessings cards to inspire the seniors and the women at the local shelter.

Grants Pass, OR went to the local Gospel Rescue Mission and gave the women residents a pamper/spa day.

Inglewood, CA held their annual WM high tea with the theme "When Life Hands You Lemons" with the room beautifully decorated in bright pink and yellow.

Riverside, CA had a time of worship with the four prayer stations where they were encouraged to "lei" down their aggravation, discontentment, fear and tension. After the prayer stations they made homemade ice cream.

Roseville, CA incorporated their Bible study group with their Women Walking with Jesus group. After Bible study they walked the mall while discussing insights from the study.

Santa Rosa, CA did a book study of *Jeremiah: Daring to Hope in an Unstable World* by Melissa Spoelstra.

Tacoma, WA started a new Bible Study focused on Human Trafficking called "Plain Sight."

Yakima, WA adopted a school and shared gifts and notes with the teachers and they are planning to continue this throughout the new school year.

Commissioner Jolene K. Hodder—Territorial President of Women's Ministries
Colonel Colleen R. Riley—Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries
Major Beth Desplancke—Territorial Women's Ministries Program Secretary

Be sure to check out our website for more resources: <https://usw-womensministries.org/>

Fellowship

Thanksgiving Potluck Ideas

As a Home League or Women's Ministries group, have a Thanksgiving potluck together. Here are some fun ideas for your potluck:

- Traditional Thanksgiving meal with turkey, mashed potatoes and all the trimmings. Or perhaps have an after Thanksgiving potluck where ladies take their leftovers and come up with a new dish to share.
- All Pumpkin Potluck. How many different dishes can you bring all using the same main ingredient?
- Thanksgiving Dessert Potluck.
- Thanksgiving Progressive Dinner. Eat each course of the meal at a different person's house: appetizer or salad at one house, the main course at another, and then finish at another for dessert. You can incorporate as many courses and stops as ladies who are willing to host in their home.

Whatever you do for your potluck, be sure to include a time for sharing what you are thankful for around the table.

Service

Help with the packing and/or distribution of the Thanksgiving food boxes.

If your corps does a community Thanksgiving meal volunteer to help cook, serve, and clean-up.

Think of someone from your corps or neighborhood that will be alone for Thanksgiving. Invite them to your house for Thanksgiving.

As a group, volunteer to clean the dining area at the corps building. Wash all the tables and chairs (including the legs and seats) so they are nice and clean. Make seasonal centerpieces for the tables.



Worship

Feast on God's Word

For most, the thought of Thanksgiving Dinner brings to mind gathering around a dining table with friends and family and enjoying a delicious feast of turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie and more. Besides filling our stomachs with yummy food, we should be filling our hearts and minds with the Word of God. National Bible Week is always the week of Thanksgiving.

For most of us, the Thanksgiving meal is not one we approach grudgingly. No we are excited about the delicious food we are going to enjoy—often food we only eat occasionally. Jeremiah 15:16 says, **When you words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty.** Jeremiah was eager to receive God's Word; it brought him joy. He was excited to feast on God's Word. He did not approach God's Word as something to endure like eating lima beans or liver (or whatever your least favorite food is to eat). What is your approach to God's Word? Are you feasting on it or perhaps experiencing a starvation diet?

I love bread and I enjoy it at almost every meal. Just as we eat on a daily basis, we should be taking in God's Word on a daily basis as well. Job not only obeyed God's Word, he treasured it. He valued it more than his daily bread. **I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.** (Job 23:12)

Think of your favorite sweet treat (ice cream, chocolate, cake—yummy!). I never had to force my children to eat dessert like I would have to force them to eat vegetables. Why? Because sweets taste good. David writes about the sweetness of God's Word: **The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.** (Psalm 19:9-10). Read Psalm 119:103 for a similar thought.

What is a food that you crave often? When you crave something, you have a desire to eat it. **Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation** is what Peter commands (1 Peter 2:2). Taking in, and feasting on God's Word, should be something that we crave for.

As you spend time around the dining table, thankful for all your blessings, and enjoying a delicious Thanksgiving meal, take the time to give thanks for the gift of His Word, perhaps go around the table and have everyone share their favorite Bible verse.

For extra fun, check out our website (<https://usw-womensministries.org/november-2019-inspire-newsletter/>)

