



# Inspire

## Just Be... Uniquely You

### Be Yourself

I have an older sister who is quite musical. She sings, plays several instruments—writes and arranges music, and even was a music teacher for a time. When it comes to music she is a virtuoso. Me on the other hand—I enjoy music, but I am not like my sister. It definitely doesn't come easily or naturally for me. In fact, it doesn't bring me joy. It was more of a chore for me. I have likened being in band to going to the dentist (and I think the dentist visit is more fun).

When I was in fourth grade I wanted to learn to play an instrument—a flute. But we don't have flutes in Salvation Army bands, and we had an extra cornet (like a trumpet) in the basement of our house, so I was handed a cornet. My mom and sister both played cornet. Anyone who knew my sister, expected that I would be as musical as her. Every summer when I would attend Music Camp (not by choice) I would have to audition for my placement in band and choir. The instructors would hear my name and assume I was just like my older sister. Needless to say they were surprised when I opened my mouth to sing or played a note. They quickly learned I wasn't my sister.

My sister taught herself to play the piano. Several years later an English teacher at the high school recognized her raw talent and paid for piano lessons to polish her up a bit. That same teacher offered to pay for lessons for me (I too taught myself to play the piano, but never progressed like my sister did), if I was as good as my sister. I knew I wasn't, and I declined the lessons. I didn't want to disappoint the teacher or myself by not being like my sister.

For years I felt I had to be like my sister. But in high school, trying to be different from my older sister, I took business classes rather than music classes. I was involved in FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America). I discovered that I loved the business classes. While my sister was quite talented at a piano keyboard, I was quite impressive at a computer keyboard.

Then I realized that I didn't need to be just like my sister. I needed to be ME! God made me as I am and instead of comparing myself to my sister or anyone else, I needed to celebrate who God made me to be, with the gifts, talents, abilities, interests and passions that God gave me.

God didn't create me to be just like my sister (although I wish I had a little more of her musical ability) but he formed and fashioned me in my mother's womb (Psalm 139:13) and I am His **handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for [me] to do.** (Ephesians 2:10). This month, stop looking around at others and trying to be like them, and simply celebrate "Just being uniquely you." There is no one else just like you, so be YOU. Be yourself, because everyone else is taken!

### INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS from the Territory

*These ideas will help spark ideas for the upcoming fall & holiday seasons.*

#### FALL

**Cathedral City, CA** ladies recognized and supported national breast cancer awareness (in October) by participating in a virtual 5k.

**Monterey, CA** held a drive-thru Harvest Festival handing out treat bags and hot dog meals to the corps neighborhood!

**Phoenix So Mtn/KROC, AZ** did an online series of videos called "Fall Forward." It was 4 videos (one each week), and showcased a devotional and a seasonal recipe for the ladies to try.

**Sierra Vista, AZ** held a Halloween party last year and the ladies dressed up and trick or treated through the corps.

#### CHRISTMAS

**Helena, MT** did a Christmas party in a box (since they couldn't meet in person last Christmas). It included hot chocolate, chocolate treats, an ornament, two Christmas devotional books and a magnet for the fridge.

**San Luis Obispo, CA** had a Christmas party focused on "The Star." Packages were sent out to all of the ladies to make origami stars and star cookies. Hot cocoa packets were also included.

**Santa Clara, CA** held a "I Love Lucy" chocolate packaging party where they watched the classic TV episode and assembled packages of See's chocolates to be distributed to the neighborhood and senior living communities.

*Commissioner Colleen Riley—Territorial President of Women's Ministries*

*Colonel Donna Igleheart—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/>

### 31 Days of Your Identity in Christ

Spend the month of August reading about who God says you are.

1. Isaiah 61:1-3
2. Jeremiah 31:1-3
3. Matthew 5:13-16
4. John 8:31-36
5. 1 Corinthians 1:4-9
6. 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
7. 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
8. 1 Corinthians 3:1-17
9. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20
10. 1 Corinthians 12:12-20
11. 1 Corinthians 12:21-31
12. 2 Corinthians 1:18-24
13. 2 Corinthians 3:1-6
14. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
15. Galatians 2:19-21
16. Galatians 3:1-14
17. Galatians 3:15-29
18. Ephesians 1:3-14
19. Ephesians 2:1-10
20. Ephesians 2:19-22
21. Ephesians 5:8-14
22. Philippians 3:15-21
23. Colossians 2:8-15
24. 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
25. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17
26. 2 Timothy 2:1-16
27. 1 Peter 2:4-10
28. 1 Peter 2:11-25
29. 1 John 5:1-12
30. 1 John 5:13-21
31. Revelation 1:4-8

## Tie-Dye Coasters

In addition to not being super musical, I am not super artistic or crafty. But here is an easy craft to help us all celebrate our uniqueness.

### Supplies Needed:

- 4x4 White ceramic tile
- Sharpie pens
- Rubbing Alcohol (91% isopropyl alcohol)
- Spray bottle, straw or dropper
- Polyurethane top coat spray
- Peel and stick felt or cork, or felt bumpers



Using sharpie markers, choose 3-4 colors that you love and that coordinate well, and simply color random sections all over the tile. No artistic ability needed. Once the tile is colored, add drops of the rubbing alcohol onto the tile. You can use a spray bottle to squirt it on, a dropper, or even a straw or spoon where you simply splatter the rubbing alcohol onto the tile. Apply the rubbing alcohol slowly—too much and you will have a big, blurry mess.

Allow the tile to dry (30-40 minutes). Once dry, use a polyurethane top coat spray to cover the tile so that the colors don't fade or wash away when you clean the coaster.

Add peel and stick felt or cork onto the back of the coaster or using small felt bumpers on the backside of the tile, so that it doesn't scratch the table.

Every coaster will be unique and useful, just like you and I are. No one is exactly alike and everyone has a purpose.

Check out this link for more detailed instructions: <https://pagingfunmums.com/2015/06/18/incredible-sharpie-art-coasters-made-by-kids/>

