

Theme Description

"When life gives you lemons," the old saying goes, "make lemonade."

If you're human, life's given you a lemon or two, or, maybe a bushel or an orchard. From momentary problems to life-long challenges, the sourness of hurt, disappointment, despair, and pain are inevitable parts of living.

Yet, through the twisting and squeezing required to endure trials, the lemons of life turn into lemonade. Sweet relationships become more cherished, patience developed, faith increased, wisdom learned, and strength to endure earned. Life suffering leads to empathy and unconditional love for others. We become more than before.

The theme, "When Life Gives You Lemons," is an opportunity to uplift and encourage. It's all about providing support through stressful times. Use this activity idea to offer empathy for all types of suffering and to provide strengthening connections with others. Help develop faith and lift burdens. Hopefully, at the end of your event, those you serve emerge inspired to keep going, press forward with faith, and take care of each other.

Activity Ideas

A few suggestions for your event.

- Drive-by Lemonade Stand: In times of social distancing, a gathering may not be appropriate. Plan a drive-by activity instead! Set up a lemonade stand (lemonade stand printables offered in the When Life Gives You Lemons Event Pack) and offer cool drinks and sack lunches or snacks. Provide cups with lids or water bottles and single-serve lemonade mix. Print "When Life Gives You Lemons What Can You Do," posters and include an inspiring talk, scripture or thought. Hand out items as invitees drive by during a scheduled time period.
- Care Packages: Put together a care package using the printables in the When Life Gives You Lemons Event Pack. Package carefully and mail. Instead of including liquid lemonade, add a packet of lemonade mix.
- Delivery Service: Distribute snacks/sack lunches, lemonade (in cans, single-serve packets/water bottles or beverages in cups with lids), printed "When Life Gives You Lemons What Can You Do," poster and inspiring talk, scripture or thoughts to ministering sisters who hand-deliver to those under their care.
- Retreat: Present different classes/speakers on subjects such as handling financial stress, having faith during long-term problems, serving others, and managing relationship stress. Serve lunch with a variety of flavored lemonades and lemon desserts
- Backyard Picnic: Have a group discussion on handling life's difficulties. Serve lemonade, sandwiches and sides.

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Decor Ideas

Create a fun environment for your event.

- Lemonade Stand: Include a classic lemonade stand in your decor. The When Life Gives You Lemons Event Pack includes printables to help including a lemonade stand sign and banner.
- Fresh Lemons.: Place in bowls or pretty containers for centerpieces. Slip lemon slices into clear glass vases, add fresh flowers and water.
- Lemon Balloons: Blow up small yellow balloons. Tie off and attach artificial leaves from the craft store or cut out card stock leaves. String lemon balloons into garlands, attach to a backdrop.
- Use the straw slides, refreshment signs and "When Life Gives You Lemons" posters included in the event pack as additional decor.

Food Ideas

Tempt the taste buds with the lemon dishes and desserts.

Main Dishes & Salads

- Lemon Chicken: Countless recipes for roasted, grilled, and baked chicken with a lemon kick can be found. Choose your favorite.
- Chicken Salad Sandwiches: Select a chicken salad recipe with a touch of lemon.
- Lemon Butter Sauce: Accompany shrimp, fish or seasoned chicken breast with a savory butter lemon sauce.
- Green Salad with Citrus Dressing: Make your own lemon-poppyseed dressing or purchase citrus vinaigrette at the store.
- Pasta Salad: Search Pinterest for "Lemon Pasta Salad" for a wide selection of delicious recipes.
- Gelatin Salads: Go retro and pull out Mom's old recipe for a molded or fluffy lemon gelatin salad.

Beverages

- Lemonade: Whether fresh or from a mix or concentrate, lemonade is the perfect beverage for this theme. To be a bit more adventurous, serve a couple of flavored lemonade options: peach, watermelon, strawberry or raspberry.

Desserts

- Lemon-shaped Sugar Cookies: Top with pale yellow lemon frosting.
- Cupcakes: Fill with lemon curd. Don't forget to use the cupcake toppers included in the event pack.
- Lemon Bars: Whip up a batch of these favorite bar cookies.
- Lemon Meringue Pie: Serve slices or individual mini pies.
- Lemon Ice Cream: Try your hand at homemade or purchase. Top with lemon dessert sauce.

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Handout Ideas

Use these ideas as inspiration for your event handouts.

- Lemon Candy: Purchase Lemonheads, Jelly Belly Sunkist Lemon jelly beans, Lemon Drops, Atkinson Lemon Slices Hard Candy or other lemon-flavored candy. Fill a favor bag with a selection of lemon-flavored sweets.
- Lemonade Mix: Attach a single-serving or packet mix to a bottle of water.
- Lemonade: Give cans or bottles of lemonade drink or lemon soda.
- Baked Goods: A small plate of lemon bars or a giant lemon sugar cookie are great handouts.
- Personal Care Products: Many of these items come in lemon scent. Try lemon lip gloss, lotion, hand soap, bath bombs, or shower gel.
- Home Fragrance: Shop your favorite home/body stores for lemon-scented candles or oils.
- Lemon-shaped Items: Look for erasers, notebooks, or necklaces/bracelet charms.
- Lemon-themed Home Goods: Everyone needs dish towels or hot pads! Use lemon-themed fabric to stitch up aprons and pillowcases. Lemon-shaped hot pads can be crocheted quickly.
- Fresh Lemons: Lemons from the produce section make inexpensive and fragrant handouts.
- "When Life Gives You Lemons What Can You Do?" Poster: (Found in the When Life Gives You Lemons Event Pack.) Print as photos or on your home printer. Optional: frame or turn into magnets.

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