

Crafts Galore!

The Ultimate
Guide for Girlfriends



Loveland, Colorado
www.group.com



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The Ultimate Guide for Girlfriends
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Introduction

No More Refrigerator Magnets!

Is your fridge cluttered with the magnets you've made at the past four women's ministry events? Are you tired of making bookmarks, placemats, and anything that can be formed from Popsicle sticks and glue? Are you ready to quit making crafts that get tossed into the trash as soon as you get home? Or are you simply intimidated by those "crafty" women who can make a lamp out of three toilet paper tubes and an empty mayonnaise jar—and then tell you how easy it is?

If you can relate to any of these questions, *Crafts Galore!* is for you! This book is packed with crafts that truly *are* easy—and that are so attractive that you'll want them in your home and can delight your friends with them as gifts. Imagine that!

Using This Book

For simplicity, we've placed the crafts into five chapters: Service Projects, Gifts, Seasonal Crafts, Crafts With Devotions, and Food Crafts. However, all the crafts can be done for a variety of reasons, such as for fundraisers, gifts for the women in your church, wedding showers, anniversaries, Christmas, the end or beginning of a Bible study, or any kind of special event.

All of the supplies listed for each craft will make one item, unless otherwise noted. General supplies that women will share (such as scissors or glue) are listed under the "Supplies per table" heading. As we've tried to make this a user-friendly book, all supplies can be purchased at your local craft or hobby store, and some craft kits, where noted, can be purchased directly from Group at www.group.com/women.

With each craft, you'll see a photo of the finished project (and these were made by real women—not professional craft stylists!) and information on about how long it takes to make the

craft. You'll also see a dollar symbol (\$) that helps you know about how much this craft will cost to make. Here's the key:

\$ = under \$2.50 per woman

\$\$ = under \$5 per woman

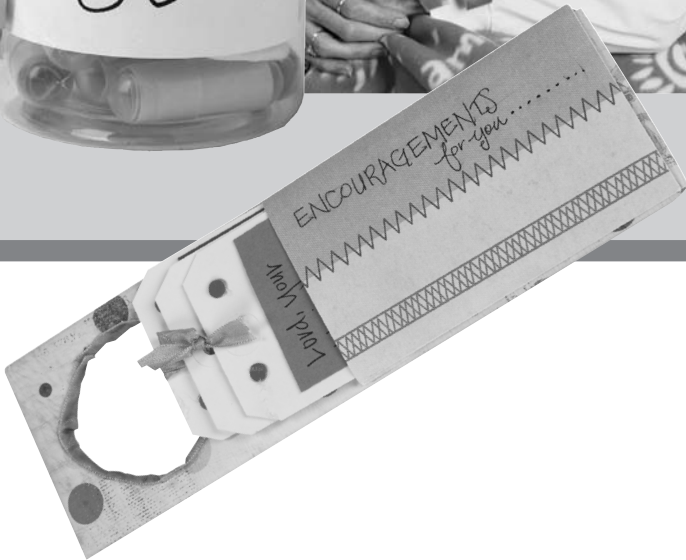
\$\$\$ = more than \$5 per woman

Perhaps your budget will allow you to provide the supplies for a smaller craft. For higher-priced projects, you can add that into the cost of your event or charge a fee for making the items. If you have a sample craft already made, and women see how adorable the craft is, they'll quickly chip in for the cost of the supplies!

And to make doing these projects super easy for you and the women in your group, each craft also includes a reproducible handout with the instructions on it. This means you can photocopy the step-by-step instructions and set these on each table where women will be working, making it easy for them to work at their own pace.

So invite some women over, share in laughter and deepening friendships, relax, and enjoy the process of making something beautiful with your own hands.

Service Projects



Ribbon Cards

• \$

- Takes about 30 minutes
- An eye-catching (and useful) item for new moms, high school grads, or a bride-to-be

Supplies per woman:

- 8 to 10 blank notecards and envelopes
- a variety of grosgrain or satin ribbon, approximately 1½ yards per woman

Supplies per table:

- glue sticks or rubber cement
- waxed paper
- scissors

New moms, graduates, and brides-to-be will appreciate having these pretty cards on hand for instant thank-you notes. You may want to provide themed ribbon to match the occasion. For example, pink and blue ribbons for new moms, high school colors for graduates, or ivory ribbons for brides. Women can make the cards as elaborate or simple as they wish—the craft is so easy that even one line of ribbon looks tasteful.

Prior to your event, make a few Ribbon Cards to show as an example. To prepare your room for this craft, set up tables and chairs. On each table, place enough cards, ribbon, and other supplies so every woman can make four to five cards.

Tip

Be sure to provide sharp scissors so women can easily trim the edges of the ribbon from the cards. Dull scissors are not only hard to use, but they leave lots of frayed edges.

Rubber cement dries more nicely than regular glue with the ribbon and paper, but it may have fumes that are irritating to some women.

While women work, encourage them to talk about people who helped them during transitional times of their lives.

You can also collect these cards and send them to a missionary your church supports as the beginning of a pen pal relationship. Everyone loves to get “real” mail!

Ribbon Cards

1. Choose the Ribbon

Select a few coordinating colors to use on a batch of cards.

2. Create

Determine a pattern for each card. For example, a line of ribbon on the left-hand side with a coordinating line along the bottom, or a simple line of ribbon across the top.

3. Measure

Lay the ribbon on the card and cut the ribbon, allowing about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to extend off of the edge of the card.

4. Get Gluey

Lay the ribbon facedown on a sheet of waxed paper. Spread glue or rubber cement on the ribbon, and then position the ribbon on the card. Press down firmly to secure the ribbon in place.

5. Trim the Edges

Use sharp scissors to trim the edges of the ribbon. When the cards are complete and dry, use a piece of ribbon in a coordinating color to tie the stack of cards and envelopes together.



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Blanket of Love



- Takes about 30 minutes
- A soft and practical gift to remind others of God's love

Supplies per table:

- 2 pieces of fleece, measuring 2 yards, edges cut into strips 4 inches deep and 1 inch wide
- scissors
- one 4x6-inch piece of red felt

Have you ever been to a quilting bee? They're not as common anymore, but these gatherings provided a way for women to share their hearts while they work on a blanket together.

The Blanket of Love encourages that same feeling of community as women work on an easy gift that will blanket someone else with God's love. In groups of four, women will create a soft fleece blanket and give it to a woman in need who can wrap her child in its warmth. Or the blankets can be donated to a nearby homeless shelter, children's hospital, crisis pregnancy center, clothing bank, or mission group that your church supports.

Prior to your event, make a Blanket of Love to show as an example. To prepare your room for this craft, set up tables and chairs. Make sure each table is set up for four women to complete a blanket.

Tip

Don't have time to adequately prepare for this craft? Make it easy by ordering the "Jesus Loves Me" Blankets at www.group.com/women. Each kit includes two pieces of precut fleece that is custom printed with the message "Jesus Loves Me" in both English and Spanish.



If you have enough time before your event, gather brochures or pictures from the place where the blankets will be given as gifts. It personalizes the giving when women can see the faces of women or children who are likely to receive these comforting gifts.

Blanket of Love

1. Blanket on Blanket

Lay one sheet of fleece on top of the other, so the wrong sides are on the inside. If you are using fleece that has not been pre-cut, make cuts into both layers of fabric, so that the cuts are 4 inches deep and 1 inch wide.

2. Fringe

Line up the fringes that are closest to the corners. Beginning at the corners, tie one piece of fringe from the top piece of fleece to one piece of fringe on the bottom piece of fleece. Tie tight knots, but try not to stretch out the fringe pieces. Tie edges until you have about 1 foot left on one side of the blanket.

3. Hearts

Cut one heart shape from the felt, and insert this inside the layers of fleece. Take a moment and pray for the child who will receive this blanket. Even though he or she won't know of this secret message of love you've tucked inside, pray that this child will know God's love when using this blanket.

Continue tying until you run out of fringe.



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Giggle Jars

• \$

- Takes about 30 minutes
- Sure to make you laugh!

Supplies per woman:

- small glass jar with a lid
- 20 empty gelatin capsules (find these at your local pharmacy)
- photocopies of the “Giggle Sheet” on page 14 (For added fun, copy these on brightly colored paper!)

Supplies per table:

- toothpicks
- pens
- scissors

The old adage “laughter is the best medicine” may be more true than we realize. In addition to just making you feel happier, some studies suggest that a good hearty laugh can help reduce stress, lower blood pressure, boost the immune system, protect the heart, and improve brain function.

So now it’s time to record and share funny clips from your own lives! For this craft everyone will join together in creating jars of laughs-to-go called “Giggle Jars.” These are containers of tiny capsules for women to open up and chuckle at when they’re in need of a good laugh! These jars are great to have on hand to give as a gift to encourage women in your congregation, to pass along to ladies who need a laugh every day, or to give to anyone who needs a reason to smile.

When setting up for your event, make one or two Giggle Jars to show as samples. Make sure to place enough supplies at each table so every woman can make a Giggle Jar. These can be collected at the end of your event to give away to those in need of a smile. Just open up a Giggle and have a laugh!

Tip

For added fun, decorate your Giggle Jars with stickers, ribbons, feathers, or permanent markers.

Don't have time to gather all the supplies needed for this craft? Make it easy by ordering Giggle Jar kits that include the capsules, jars with lids, and preprinted paper slips at www.group.com/women.

Giggle Jars

1. Fill Out the Giggle Sheet

Look at the "Giggle Sheet" (that fun handout on your table). Before you start your craft, choose one of the unfinished sentences on the "Giggle Sheet" to answer aloud with those sitting near you. When everyone has had a turn and the laughter slows for a moment, go ahead and complete one "Giggle Sheet."

2. Cut and Roll

After you finish your "Giggle Sheet," cut it into smaller slips as indicated. Choose your favorite 20 slips from your own collection, and make these into Giggles.

Take one slip of paper, and roll it tightly around the end of a toothpick. Then insert the rolled slip into an opened gelatin capsule, and replace the other half of the capsule to make one Giggle.

3. Mix and Fill

When a few other women around you have finished making their 20 Giggles, mix your Giggles with theirs. Then count out 20 Giggles from that mixed pile to put into your own Giggle Jar. This will give you a mixture of Giggles created by yourself and others.



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Giggle Sheet

Finish the sentences or fill in the blanks to make someone giggle.

The movie that always makes me laugh is ...

The name Isaac means "he laughs."
What's a name that makes you laugh?

If the shoe fits...

Roses are red, violets are blue...

When the going gets tough...

I was embarrassed when...

Too many cooks...

The funniest outfit I ever wore was...

A penny saved...

My favorite game to play for laughs is _____ . Try it today!

A stitch in time...

The funniest question I've heard a child ask is...

I once laughed so hard I...

To be funny I once wore...

The goofiest way I ever wore my hair was...

The TV show that makes me laugh the most is...

Use these if you run out of ideas, or make up your own.

"He will once again fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy" (Job 8:21).

Proverbs 17:22 says, "A cheerful heart is good medicine." To whom can you give a dose of laughter today?

Need a smile? Blow soap bubbles out your window!

Need a chuckle? Whistle while you work...or play

Need a giggle? Jump in the snow, in a pile of leaves, or into a mound of pillows!

Spin around until you get dizzy.

Tickle your funny bone by singing in the shower. Loud!

Make up a silly poem, and read it to a friend.

Amuse yourself—talk to everyone in "pig Latin" for 10 minutes



THIS IS A SAMPLE
The number of pages is limited.

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