

PANGCAKE PARTY

INTRODUCTION

This session is a fun event which can be used on or around pancake day. This session can be adapted to be used with children, families and intergenerational groups, perhaps as a fun social or special outreach event.

Each of the games have a clear pancake focus! You can use real pancakes for these, or to avoid food waste and food allergy issues, may prefer to substitute card circles for many of the games.

There is also a simple talk outline which can be used, together with a prayer response.

For smaller groups, we suggest running the activities one at a time, engaging the whole group. For larger groups, many of the games and activities can be run simultaneously, as a carousel of activities for participants to move between, before coming together for the talk.



1 Game: Hunt the Ingredients

Time: 10 mins

You will need: Pancake ingredients, assorted toppings, cooking equipment.

Activity: Before the participants arrive, hide the various ingredients, pieces of equipment and toppings around the venue (or if appropriate, outdoors!).

Challenge players to find the ingredients and gather them together in the centre of the room. (You could have multiple sets, one per team or all work together collaboratively.

Ask them if they can guess what we're doing tonight!

The Point: A fun game to introduce the theme.

2 Game: Would you rather?

Time: 5 mins

You will need: None

Activity: This popular game can be played with a specific pancake focus. Gather the players in the centre of the room and explain that you will give them a series of choices between two options; each time, they can indicate their choice by moving to one side of the room or the other. Questions can include:

Would you rather:

- American-style or traditional British pancakes?
- Sweet or savoury toppings?
- Chocolate spread or golden syrup?
- Hot or cold pancakes?

The Point: A fun pancake themed game.

3 Activity: Pancake Faces

Time: 15 mins

You will need: Small precooked pancakes, selection of sweets, chocolates, fruits and other toppings, paper plates, cutlery.

Activity: Gather participants together around a table and invite them to create their own pancake portraits, using the small pancakes and assorted toppings.

Once complete, you can photograph the Pancake face, before inviting them to tuck in!

The Point: To fun pancake activity.



4 Activity: Pancake Making

Time: 15 mins

You will need: Pancake ingredients, utensils, access to a hob,

Activity: Gather participants together around a table and help them to work together to make pancakes to eat together!

Please note, you will need to risk assess this activity for your context, and ensure that you have catered for allergies as appropriate.

The Point: To fun pancake activity.

5 Game: Toss the Pancakes

Time: 10 mins

You will need: Frying pans, card pancake shapes (paper plates will do!) or precooked pancakes.

Activity: Gather the players together in their two teams and distribute the frying pans and 'pancakes.' Invite them to have a go at tossing the pancakes. When they have had enough time to practice, challenge them to see how many times they can toss the pancake in 30 seconds.

Add the scored together. The team who have the highest combined score are the winners.

The Point: A fun pancake-themed game.

6 Game: Pancake Frisbees

Time: 10 mins

You will need: balloons tied to a length of string.

Activity: Line players up at one end of the room in two teams and mark a target on the ground (with masking tape). Challenge players in turn to frisbee their pancake into the target.

Repeat the game as time allows. The player whose pancake gets closest to the centre is the winner.

The Point: A fun pancake-themed game.



7 Talk: What's it all about?

Time: 10 mins

You will need: Large pancake, pancake ingredients

Activity: Gather everyone together and invite them to sit comfortably. Ask the group if they know why we have pancake day? Why is it called this? Explain that Pancake day is quite an old tradition, but it was originally (and still) called Shrove Tuesday. This is the day before lent begins, when Christians may confess their sins to the priest. We have pancakes today, because people would use up all the fun treat foods before lent begins when they would go without; like a last special treat day to use up all the things they would go without throughout lent, as we prepare for and wait for Easter.

Ask the group if they have decided to give anything up for lent. Explain that we do this to help us to remember Jesus's 40 days in the wilderness; and to prepare ourselves for the events of Easter when we remember Jesus' death and resurrection. Nowadays people may choose to give something up, to make more time or space to spend with God, or take something up; a new action to help us to spend time with God, maybe reading part of the Bible or praying in a different way.

Explain that we've had a lot of fun celebrating today; all the fun of pancakes and treats; but Pancake day is not the main event! At the end of lent comes Good Friday and Easter Sunday; and that really is something to celebrate. So what about us; are we prepared to give something up or take something up to help us in our walk with God this lent?

The Point: To explore the meaning of today and what it may mean to us.

8 Prayers: Pancake Prayers

Time: 10 mins

You will need: Paper circles, pens, frying pans.

Activity: As you draw the party to a close, give everyone the chance to respond in prayer. Distribute the paper circles (pancakes) and pens and invite them to write, draw or doodle their prayer. They may wish to pick up on the idea of asking for God's forgiveness, or of committing to take something up or give something up; or you may choose to make this an open prayer time.

When everyone has had time to write down their prayers, gather them together in the frying pans, and bring them to the front to pray together for everyone there.

The Point: To respond in prayer.