

CBWC Women in Focus Ministry Idea

Gems in Clay Jars: This is an evening event idea that encourages women to share their stories. Here is an outline of the evening and the story written by Marleen Bahr as an additional resource.

“Gems In Clay Pots”

Welcome, Name Tags, Reception: (A variety of finger foods were served) View Creative Displays brought by women of art projects they have created.

Gather for Worship Songs Scripture reading: II Corinthians 4:7-10 **Special Music Selection Poetry** read by some women who had personally written it. **Song** before our main feature: “Change My Heart, O God” **Main Feature:** “Beauty through Brokenness”

(A reading and dramatization by Marleen Bahr)

Beauty Through Brokenness

One morning, I visited the Potter’s house. In His hand He held a plain, somewhat unattractive jug. It looked cracked and had obviously been reconstructed. By the twinkle in His eye I knew there was something unique about this jug. “What’s the story on this pot?” I questioned.

“This is one of my favorite containers,” he responded with a smile. “To me it’s beautiful! Originally I fashioned it to water my seedlings. I used it to give daily care and attention to my tender young plants. But this little pot seemed to have a mind of its own. I never knew where I’d find it. Many times I’d discover it admiring the bigger, more colorful planters made to display the full beauty of my mature blooming plants. When I returned to it and refilled it for daily use it appeared to be less than pleased. Soon I was looking for it again.”

“Why didn’t you make me bigger and more colorful? I would have preferred to be a vessel of honor and beauty, fit to display the best of your flowering plants. I don’t hold much water and it’s so dull and boring in this corner. When will you use me to water the bigger plants?”

“I held the pot close and lovingly explained, ‘But you are indispensable to me. The time will come, when all these little plants will grow and blossom into beautiful plants all because of your faithful care.’ One day, the little clay jug accidentally fell to the cement floor. You

guessed it. There it lay broken, splintered and shattered. My teardrops fell on the broken pieces as I tenderly gathered them one by one and placed them gently onto a tray. Carrying it carefully to my workbench I knew this would be my project for a long time. Gradually, with intricate care, I rearranged, glued and filled in the larger cracks. Eventually, I recreated this unique watering jug. It is very useful to me. I still use it for watering plants - even the bigger ones from time to time. It doesn't seem to have the same need to flit about from place to place. It seems to be more content and at peace. I have given this jug a new purpose for being. It now has a specific mission. However, you will need to wait till its dark to see the full effect of this special task."

In the evening I returned to the workshop and greenhouse. As I opened the door and entered the dark cool stillness, I was met by rays of colorful, inviting light. There stood the potter holding up a radiant jug. Was this the same clay pitcher we had been discussing earlier? He had placed a light inside and was using it to illuminate his every task. Each piece seemed to blend with the other to create pictures of attractive beauty. It was then I saw the form of the cross and the outline of the Potter's face. I learned an important lesson that day. The beauty of the Lord is reflected best in our brokenness.

Closing Exercise: Presenting Our Brokenness to God (optional) Quiet music while women write down things they consider to be brokenness or pain in their lives and bring what they've written to the front, rip it up and drop it into a ceramic planter. This act symbolizes a letting go so God can begin to do a further healing in their lives. They may wish to kneel at the front for prayer or just return quietly to their seat.

Prayer for Healing of Our Memories & Hurts (Prayer leaders available)
When everyone is back in their seat we close by singing:

Closing Song "I'm Trading My Sorrows"