

## **Birthday Party in a Nursing Home**

April, Week 4

By Susan Bryant

### Materials:

- construction paper
- markers
- napkins
- plates
- cups
- forks
- cakes
- sugar free soft drinks

### Objective:

Children will learn that even those who are elderly are important to God and should be treated with respect and kindness.

### Preparation:

1. Contact a local nursing home for permission to host a birthday party. Ask the number of residents who will be celebrating birthdays that month and how many would be expected to attend the party. Determine a suitable date and time.
2. Ask for volunteers at your church to provide the cakes and soft drinks for the party.
3. Secure drivers to transport children to the nursing home for the party and one or more volunteers to help prepare the food and drinks to be served.

### Procedure:

1. Have the children create birthday cards for each of the residents who will be celebrating birthdays that month. Share appropriate scripture verses that can be written on the cards

(suggestions Isaiah 46:4, Job 12:12, Psalm 92:12-14, 2 Corinthians 4:16-17).

2. Prepare the children for their visit to a nursing home, since many have never visited a nursing home.
3. Brainstorm with the children songs they could sing and Bible verses they could recite to the residents.
4. Have appropriate release forms completed for each child prior to the visit to the nursing home.
5. At the nursing home:
  - a. Lead the children in singing songs and reciting Bible verses while volunteers cut the cakes and pour the drinks.
  - b. Sing "Happy Birthday", have the children distribute the food and birthday cards.

\*Do not take pictures of the children with the residents until you have ascertained if this is permissible at the nursing home.



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