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Retreat Ideas and Topics

The Repurposed and Upcycled Life (Repurposed Life. Renewed Joy!)

Description: The before and after of turning second-hand trash to treasure can be inspiring. But have you ever noticed how the life circumstances we'd rather discard can also be precious treasures from God when he repurposes and upcycles our greatest struggles? Discover renewed joy as we uncover the treasures in the trash and celebrate Jesus, the ultimate source of repurposed new life! Michelle will demonstrate some of her favorite shabby chic and trash to treasure decorating ideas and she'll also talk about how life's greatest disappointments and circumstances we'd rather discard can be precious treasures from God.

Key Verse: Isaiah 61:3 "To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for his own glory."

Grace for Life's Imperfect Moments

Description: So often we strive for perfection in our work and in our many roles as women. We endeavor to be June Cleaver and Martha Stewart all rolled into one with Better Homes and Gardens houses and model children. And then we're ashamed when we fall short. Great news! God's plan for us isn't self-made perfection. Instead, he wants us to become women who reflect the perfect light of Jesus, while we bask in his glorious grace. Laugh, cry, and be inspired as we embrace God's grace for life's imperfect moments.

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 12:9 "But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

Treasure in Jars of Clay: When God Uses Ordinary Vessels

Description: In ancient days, clay vessels were as common as our Tupperware containers or Ziploc bags for holding both everyday items like food or supplies and valuables such as jewelry or coins. Even the humblest of containers can hold great treasure! God has entrusted the gospel to us, ordinary people, and filled us with his supernatural power to do his work.

Key Verse:

2 Corinthians 4:7 “But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”

Braving the Broken Road

Description: Life is a journey with ups and downs and places where the road is difficult to navigate. The broken can be beautiful when we journey with Jesus! As we learn how to travel light, press on through difficulty and keep our eyes on Jesus, we can find joy along the broken road, and we learn how much we need each other. Be challenged and inspired for your own journey as we study God’s word, laugh together and commit to traveling life together.

Key Verse: Hebrews 12:1-2a “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross.”

Anchored in Hope

Description: To weather the storms of life, we need an anchor to keep us from drifting off course and to keep us from shipwrecking on the rocks of discouragement and despair. We have an anchor—the sure hope of salvation through Jesus Christ. Difficulty is sure to come, but when we are anchored in hope, we can choose to pout or praise in the middle of it. Because of God’s faithfulness and his promises, we can live in hope for what is to come.

Key Verse

Hebrews 6:19. “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”