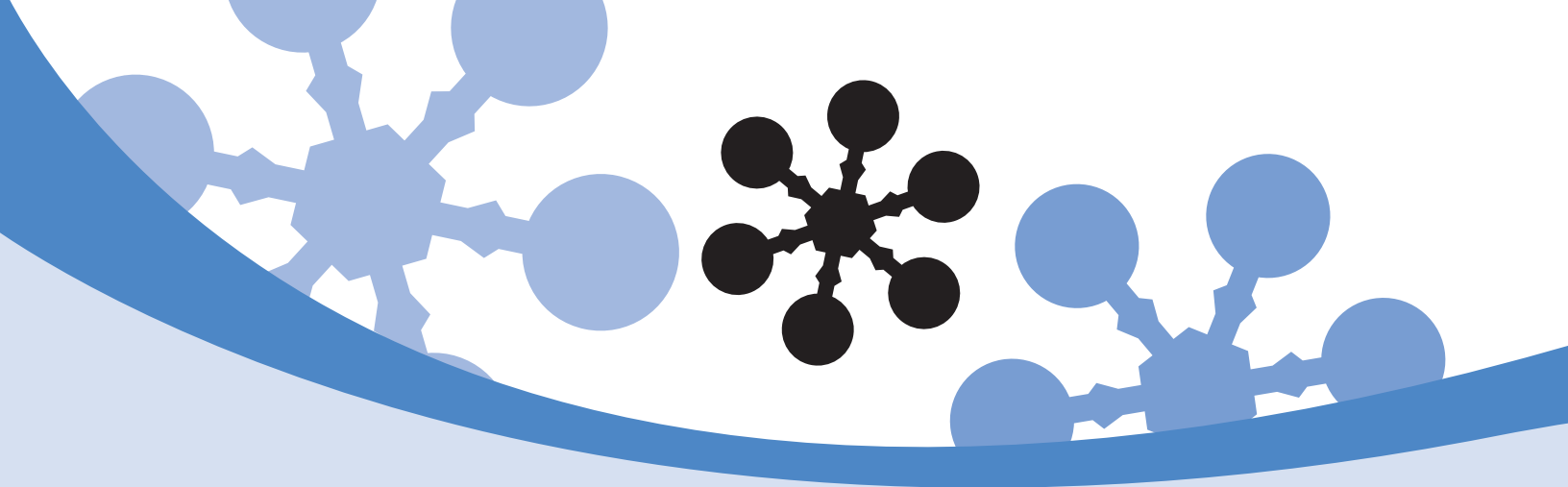




Pray & Play



playgroup
with a purpose!



“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

—Mark 10:14, NIV

Leader's Guide



www.stonecroft.org/prayandplay

10121 Grandview Road
P.O. Box 9609
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Connecting women with God, each other, and their communities

What is Pray & Play?

A gathering designed to connect women, mothers, and children to learn and be encouraged in their faith through devotionals and prayer

Pray & Play is Playgroup with a Purpose!

Four main components of Pray & Play:

- Devotional and Discussion
- Prayer
- Building Blocks of Faith
- Play Time

Stonecroft Ministries

Our mission is to equip and encourage women to impact their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Through small group Bible study and outreach groups across 64 countries, Stonecroft Ministries equips and encourages women of all ages, stages, and faces. Stonecroft's culturally-relevant ministry materials and resources are grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and help develop individuals into leaders who make each day count for eternity.

- *Stonecroft Bible Studies* guide participants simply, yet profoundly, into a rich relationship with the One who has so much to say to them.
- *Stonecroft Biblical Training Tools* include **AWARE** Evangelism (**A**lways **W**atch **A**nd **R**espond with **E**ncouragement).
- *Stonecroft Life Publications* clearly explain the life-changing Gospel message. (See "Good News" on page 39 of the Pray & Play Devotionals.)
- *Training Events* equip women in evangelism, prayer, and leadership.
- *Tens of thousands* of dedicated volunteers across America and in 64 countries, supported by Stonecroft's field and Home Office staff, positively impact their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Learn more about Stonecroft Ministries now! Visit us at stonecroft.org or call us at 800.525.8627.

What does a Pray & Play look like?

Mom Mentor Guides

As They Mentor and Build Women Leaders for Pray & Play Groups:

- The Mom Mentor Guide is a seasoned mother who desires to encourage younger mothers in their faith.
- The Mom Mentor Guide may lead the devotional and discussion time, and can also mentor the Mom Leader Guide in facilitating group discussion time.
- She models for other mothers how to facilitate a Pray & Play group.
- She encourages other mothers to join in discussions and shares her own life and leadership experiences.
- She may lead the prayer time.

Mom Leader Guides

As They Lead and Develop Pray & Play Groups:

- The Mom Leader Guide is a young mom with children who has a heart to reach out to other women, moms, and children.
- The Mom Leader Guide leads and facilitates the Pray & Play group when they meet, working with the Mom Mentor Guide for additional support and encouragement.
- The Mom Leader Guide often is the mom who initiates the start of a new Pray & Play group. She plans the times to meet and encourages the groups to keep meeting.
- She encourages other mothers to participate in conversations.
- She or the Mom Mentor Guide may lead the prayer time.

How do I get started?

- Become aware of young mothers around you—in your neighborhood, community, church, preschool, or other playgroup, for example—and invite them and their children to join your Pray & Play group.
- Pray & Play groups are usually started by word of mouth, but invitations are also a good option. (See “Sample Invitation,” page 9.)
- Decide on a day and time that works best for you and the attendees.
- Choose a location that can easily accommodate the size of your group. Some possibilities:
 - A local park
 - A church
 - A private home
- Consider meeting at a different home each time.
- Fill out the Tell Us About Your Pray & Play Group form found online at www.stonecroft.org/prayandplay.
- Plan your Pray & Play meeting format. (See “Sample Agenda,” page 8.)
- Print out Let’s Stay Connected cards to use at your first meeting. (See “Sample Let’s Stay Connected,” page 10.)
- Plan to e-mail or mail a Follow-Up Letter to each new mom who attends. (See “Sample Follow-up Letter,” page 11.)
- Visit www.stonecroft.org/prayandplay or call 800.525.8627 for assistance in ordering Pray & Play devotional materials.
- Contact your local Stonecroft representative for more information.

Greenhouse

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." — Romans 12:2, NIV

"I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past—stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors have told us." — Psalm 78:2-3, NLT

"[God] decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children." — Psalm 78:5, NIV

"We will not hide these truths from our children." — Psalm 78:4, NLT

"So the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands." — Psalm 78:6-7, NLT

Devotional

Is my home a greenhouse where souls are refreshed with the water of the living God?

Have you ever gone to a country nursery, one that is charming, inviting, lush, and well watered? While strolling around looking at shrubs and plants, a greenhouse catches your eye. What are they growing in there? What fantastic blooming plants are thriving in this temperature-controlled building, a building within the nursery, yet set apart?

Your home is much like a greenhouse: in the world but not of the world, a cultivating center where hearts are nurtured while learning godly character and biblical truth. Lives are protected from the storms of life; souls are watered with the Word of the living God. Nutrients are given to the soil of your families' hearts to keep them soft and teachable. It is a place of safety, peace, instruction, discipline, and unconditional love.

This greenhouse is where you daily and consistently strengthen each individual living there, providing them time to grow strong, secure, and independent. Allow the sun (Son) to shine through the windows; this will bring light to every situation and warmth to every room.

This greenhouse is where you teach your children to know and love God. Then they will put their trust in Him and tell their own children the mighty deeds of their Lord.

- How is your house safe from the rest of the world?
- Share a time when you were able to share God's love with your children.
- How can we teach our children to put their trust in God and not forget His deeds but keep His commands?
- What are some ways that you daily teach your children God's Word?

Building Blocks for Your Children

From "Seeds" (Author Unknown):

A little seed for me to sow
 A little earth to make it grow
 A little hole, a little pat,
 A little wish, and that is that,
 A little sun, a little shower.
 A little while—
 And then, a flower!

Discuss with the children what it takes to grow a plant from a seed. You can demonstrate this by having some sunflower seeds, a small pot with soil, and a watering can. Talk to them about how we need to be watered with the Word of God daily in order to grow spiritually.

Share a story of when you took a stand for God or another person.

- Were you scared?
- What was the outcome?

Discuss with your child how taking a stand for God might mean they have to explain why they attend church or Sunday school, or why they pray.

- Remind them to do everything with gentleness and love.
- Remind them they are never alone; God will help them.

Verse to Remember

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." — Romans 12:2, NIV

Prayer Time

Let us worship the Lord in His greatness and holiness, praising Him for providing and protecting us.


Pray for:

Our Children
 Our Marriages
 Our Neighbors
 Our Schools
 Our Churches
 Our Nation and Leaders
 Special Requests

Sample Agenda

- Welcome
- Distribute and collect Let's Stay Connected cards
- Hand out Pray & Play Devotionals
- Mom Mentor Guide or Mom Leader Guide leads devotional, including:
 - Building Blocks for Children
 - Verse to Remember
 - Prayer
- Play Time with moms and kids

Sample Invitation



The invitation features a green and blue wavy background. At the top left, there is a purple molecular-style graphic. The text 'Are you looking for?' is in green, followed by a list of benefits: 'New Friends?', 'Encouragement for your marriage?', 'Building blocks of faith for your children?', and 'Prayer Support?'. The main title 'Pray & Play' is in large white letters with a purple ampersand. Below this, the subtitle 'A Time of Encouragement for Young Mothers and Their Children' is in blue. The invitation includes fields for date, time, and location, and contact information. At the bottom, it says 'it's a playgroup with a purpose!' and includes the Stonecrock Ministries logo and website URL.

Are you looking for?

- New Friends?
- Encouragement for your marriage?
- Building blocks of faith for your children?
- Prayer Support?

Pray & Play

A Time of Encouragement for Young Mothers and Their Children

Please join us: **(INSERT DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION)**

Come bring your children and enjoy a time of connecting, discussion, and FUN!

For directions or more information, contact: **(INSERT LOCAL CONTACT INFO)**

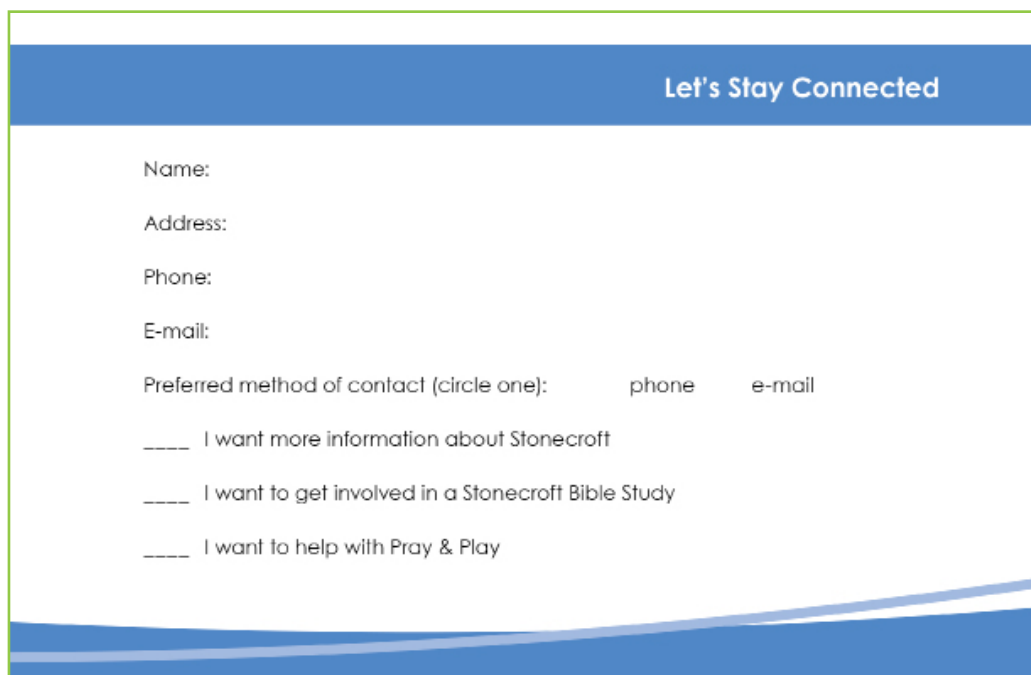
it's a playgroup with a purpose!

STONECROFT
MINISTRIES

www.stonecroft.org/prayandplay

Go to www.stonecroft.org/prayandplay to personalize and print out your Invitations.

Sample Let's Stay Connected



The image shows a sample of a 'Let's Stay Connected' form. The form has a blue header with the title 'Let's Stay Connected'. Below the header, there are several fields for contact information: 'Name:', 'Address:', 'Phone:', and 'E-mail:'. There is also a section for 'Preferred method of contact (circle one):' with two options: 'phone' and 'e-mail'. At the bottom, there are three checkboxes with corresponding text: '___ I want more information about Stonecroft', '___ I want to get involved in a Stonecroft Bible Study', and '___ I want to help with Pray & Play'. The form is set against a white background with a blue decorative wave at the bottom.

Go to www.stonecroft.org/prayandplay and print out enough Let's Stay Connected cards for each member of your group. After you collect the cards, keep track of them to follow-up and contact each mom.

Direct those who request information about Stonecroft Ministries to page 7 of their Pray & Play Devotionals.

Sample Follow-Up Letter



Go to www.stonecroft.org/prayandplay to personalize and print out your Follow-Up Letters.