



Just a Cup of Coffee PowerPoint Script

Slide 1 - Do you drink coffee? Tea? Maybe soda, or even water? The drink is not the important part of this presentation. It's all about relationships. Welcome to "Just a Cup of Coffee," an activity to help you and challenge you to reach out to your sisters in Christ in your congregation and build relationships with them.

Slide 2 - Here's an interesting fact about coffee: A new study out of Harvard University shows that women who regularly drink coffee have a 20 percent lower risk of depression than non-coffee drinkers. Now, this is not a commercial for drinking coffee, but an effort to encourage you to have a cup of coffee with the women of your congregation so that you can get to know them and share your enthusiasm for the Savior and the LWML.

Slide 3 - In the LWML, we sometimes struggle when it comes to involving women in younger age groups ... there are obstacles, both internal and external, that keep women from participating in the LWML. One of them, according to this statistic, is depression. It is notable that being depressed is not a normal part of being a woman and is not a weakness. Again, this is not an activity about depression, but an opportunity to inform you and get you to think about the women of your church. Up to 25 percent of them are experiencing a sad or difficult time that can lead them to withdraw from activities and the Word at your church. Take a moment to write down a few of the other obstacles/challenges that women face when it comes to participating in the LWML and church activities, then quietly pray about this.

Slide 4 - It is also interesting to note that according to Duke University and the University of Phoenix, we all have fewer friends than in the past, and 25 percent of people don't have anyone to talk to about important matters. So in other words, one-in-four of the women in your congregation has no one with whom to discuss the big things or the little things. Can you see the opportunity emerging here?

Slide 5 - Here is our challenge: We would like you to think for a moment and write down the names of some women in your congregation, up to four, that you would like to get to know better. We will take one minute to make the list now.

Slide 6 - Now that you have had time to think about this, it is time to narrow your list by removing some names. It would be really easy to have coffee with your friend Jan from choir, but that would not help build the relationships needed for your group to grow. Stretch yourself. Think of the women who have joined your church in the past three months. If you were to ask your pastor, he might tell you that if a new member doesn't "connect" to the church in some meaningful way, other than worship, she will probably walk out the back door and be another person on the inactive list within six months. This is your chance to help out! Or maybe there is a woman who you used to see in church or LWML all the time. Call her up and ask her to go out for coffee.

Slide 7 - Again, look outside your normal circle at church and think about women who may be struggling with a life change, women with young children, or older women who may enjoy an outing.

Slide 8 - Or how about women whose interests are different than yours, women of other cultures, or your pastor's wife?

Slide 9 – Now it is time to make our final list. The key is to make a list of people that you would like to get to know better, **not** women with whom you are already comfortable. Step out in faith!

Slide 10 - It is time to practice making a coffee date. Please stand up, find a partner, and return to a table. After saying “hello,” make a coffee date. Here is an example of what you might say: “Hi, I’ve noticed you around church for a long time and I really don’t know you!”

Slide 11 - Next choose a date, time, and place for your cup of coffee ... maybe next Tuesday at three at the coffee shop. Deciding the specifics indicates commitment.

Slide 12 - In this safe group, none of you probably got “no” for an answer, but in the real world you may. Rejection hurts. No one likes it, but try not to take it personally. People are busy and it is more likely about timing than about you. You are just back where you started.

Slide 13 - That is why we made a list. Move on to the next person. When you get to the right person, God will put together the details.

Slide 14 - So now, here you are in the presence of God and possibly a new forever friend. It is time for your coffee date. You are probably wondering what you will talk about ... relax. It is just coffee. Smile and say “hello.” Then ask some questions. Find out what is going on in your “coffeemate’s” life. Listen and learn about her family, job, hobbies, and interests. Avoid yes-and-no questions. Your job is to show an interest in her, not to tell her all about yourself. Sharing is good, but only if it is mutual. Have you ever been trapped in an unpleasant conversation where the other person shared a little too much about themselves? It is an uncomfortable place to be, especially if you are with someone you don’t know very well. Be careful not to become the center of the conversation! Instead, listen actively and restate and relate what she is sharing. Ask if she has prayer concerns. You can offer to pray for her privately and even to pray with her right there! We all too often say, “I’ll pray for you,” but never get around to it. Another caution: Do not share these prayer concerns with anyone without her permission. Thank her for having coffee with you and ask if she’d like to get together again sometime ...

Slide 15 - ... in other words, make another coffee date!

Slide 16 – It’s time to practice. Here are some ideas for your conversation. You could talk about the weather; ask questions about her family and interests, or about church. Remember not to be too pushy. If she skirts a subject, it is probably because she is not comfortable talking about it, or maybe she isn’t ready.

Slide 17 – Maybe you can talk about last Sunday’s sermon. Don’t forget to ask if she has prayer concerns; offer to pray together. Ask if you can get together for another cup.

Now choose, with your partner, who will be the inviter and who will be the guest. Remember, the job of the inviter is to listen actively and find common ground, not to dominate the conversation.

Slide 18 - Please read this verse with me:

You are the light of the world. A town can’t be hidden when it’s built on a hill.
(Click)

And you don’t light a lamp and put it under a bucket but on the lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. (Click)

So let your light shine before people that they may see the good you do and praise your Father in Heaven (Matthew 5:14-16 Beck).

Your faith will come through in your words and actions. Even a cup of coffee is an opportunity to let the light of Christ shine in you. The simple act of listening and showing compassion shows how God is working through you. Most of us know the song “This Little Gospel Light of Mine” ... let’s get out our Gospel lights and sing the first verse.

This little Gospel light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
This little Gospel light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
This little Gospel light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
Let it shine/All the time/Let it shine.

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What is God doing in your life? In your new friend’s life? Let His light shine through you for all the world to see.

Slide 19 - Now let’s practice having our second cup of coffee. Switch jobs; the “inviter” becomes the “guest” and vice versa. Begin with a greeting and practice again. Greeting your friend warmly may or may not include a hug. Some women simply are not “huggers.” Be sure to read the body language of your friend, or ask. Some women are huggers and will appreciate the interaction. Once you spend time with her, you will figure it out. After you say “hello,” talk about your previous conversation. If it feels comfortable, ask about any struggles she is having. This is also a good time to plan an activity together.

Slide 20 – Don’t forget to follow up with her and be a friend. Just like some women are not huggers, some are not talkers, especially young women. Ask “What is the best way to keep in touch?” Maybe it is texting or emailing instead of calling. It is very important for you to be flexible and try to communicate in the way that is most comfortable for your new friend. Also, get an address because everyone likes to get mail. You can send a card, and maybe send a Mustard Seed Devotion.

Now, I must caution you not to have unrealistic expectations or be in this for yourself. That will lead to disappointment or misunderstanding. Your new coffeemate may not respond in your time, but in God's time. Times are changing. Be patient with the women with whom you are having coffee. They may not yet know the value of your time together. God knows what each of you needs and He will give the benefit. He also knows the value of a personal relationship. Look at the one He has with you!

Slide 21 - When we leave our comfort zone and step out in faith, we meet new people who need to be encouraged and served. We can then ask them how we can help and what they need. We can set a godly example by sharing our faith and being kind and caring. God has the tools needed and skills to help us build relationships, and He will give us the words and coffee (or diet cola) we need.

Slide 22 - Once trust is built, the chance to share how wonderful your LWML experience has been will emerge. You can then share your Savior and your LWML story. You will also have a new friend with whom you can share your prayer concerns, time in the Word, and maybe eventually serve with in the LWML.

Be patient. Just as stepping out in faith requires patience, building trust takes time. Friends share experiences and time together. If we build relationships first, groups will grow. When we serve the Lord first, everything else will fall into place.

Slide 23 - The LWML is a sisterhood. In order for our organization to grow, we need to focus on relationships instead of memberships. Be a friend. Friends and faith go together like peanut butter and jelly ... a great combination!

Time together is a great opportunity to find out what your new friend might be interested in as far as involvement. Many women are not interested in long-term commitment to a project, but may be willing to volunteer for a one-time event if offered the chance. Women need to have a good reason to leave their families and other activities and groups with which they are involved. Their time is important and most cannot agree to long-term commitments, but they are excited to have the opportunity to serve the Lord. You can be the person who helps them and mentors them, listens to them, and shows them. This is an opportunity to be not only a friend, but a sister in Christ.

Slide 24 - Please read with me the Mission Statement of the LWML:

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

Let's be affirmers and enablers. Let's work together to build personal relationships and friendships with the women in our congregations. By doing this we can fulfill our mission statement to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world. And let's start with *Just a Cup of Coffee*. Thank you. (*click*)