

leader's
resource



jim burns

general editor

CD-ROM INCLUDED

uncommon youth parties



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THEME PARTIES

theme: \ˈthēm\ **1a:** a subject or topic of discourse or of artistic representation **b:** a specific and distinctive quality, characteristic, or concern **2:** a written exercise: composition **3:** a melodic subject of a musical composition or movement

Parties are a great way to reach out to students, help them feel they are part of the group, have some fun together and create a moment that will help them connect with the truth of God's Word. Each party will provide you with an opportunity to impact your group members on a variety of levels: socially, emotionally and spiritually. Having a clear purpose in offering these events is vital to their success.



air band festival

description

This is a fun alternative to a talent show. All the group members can be involved. Most teens love music, so it will be something they will be excited about doing.

key verses

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs” (1 Corinthians 13:4-5).

location needed

a room with a stage

materials needed

band sheet (found on page 12)
loud sound system (able to play the music that the students bring)
index cards
pen
hat
several prizes
Bibles

preparation

One week before the party, give the performers the key verses in 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (write the verse out for them on index cards or have them write it down). Make sure you give the groups the passage at the same time so they have an equal amount of time to work on their performances. You will also need to select a volunteer to emcee the event.

Instruct the performers to pick a song that they think best shows what the verse says. This can be a loose tie-in—but they have to have some rationale for picking the song. Tell the group members that they will be lip-syncing the song in front of the group during the air band festival. In addition, inform the participants that you must approve all songs and costumes *before* the party, and make it clear what costumes, lyrics and gestures are deemed acceptable for the performances. Have the performers give you their music at least two days before the party. Also let the students know that they will be explaining their choice of song after the performances.

Have the group members sign up to bring different types of party food. Before the party begins, you will need to write on an index card one different number for each group that will be performing. Put these cards into a hat. Have a copy of the band sheet and a pen with you.

the event

As the group members arrive, ask them to drop off their food at the party table and sit in the audience area. Let them know they can snack from the party table when they are not on stage. Go over any other rules you want to establish—such as no throwing food on the stage, crowd surfing or moshing.

When everyone is settled, ask each group to draw a number from the hat. Write the number they have selected and their band name on your band sheet. This will determine the order in which the bands will perform. Give the completed band sheet to your volunteer emcee and have him or her begin the show. The emcee will announce each performer or group before they come up on stage.

When all of the performances have finished, have the emcee award prizes by asking the audience to clap for the best performer(s) in the following categories:

- best costumes
- best make-up
- best song
- best moves
- most realistic lip-sync

After this, read 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 aloud. Award a prize to the group that you feel best showed what the Scripture meant.

closing devotion

After the winners have been announced, explain that there are many kinds of love. There is the love that a mother feels for her child—like their moms feel for them (allow time for the collective “ahhhhhh” to subside). There is the love between brothers and sisters (they can admit it—they really do love their siblings). There is the romantic kind of love that some of them may have felt (and others are probably not interested in right now). Then there is the kind of love that God has for each of us.

This type of love is known as *agape* love, and it is a higher form of love than all the others. This is actually the word for “love” that Paul uses in this passage. *Agape* love is a form of love that God has for us and that we are to have for others. It refers to the self-sacrificing love that God had for humanity when He chose to send His only Son to the cross to die for our sins. God extends this love to us even though we don’t deserve it and can never hope to earn it. It is a free gift, because “God is love” (1 John 4:8).

Many of the popular songs we hear today talk about “true love” and say it will last “forever.” Unfortunately, relationships end and what we thought was love fades away. But God’s *agape* love is eternal. It is the only form of love that truly lasts forever—and forever is something we just can’t even begin to understand.



everybody likes a party!

There is nothing quite like the fun of youth group parties. Teens laugh together, complete fun challenges and make memories. It is even better when these events include a meaningful message for young people to take home. Perhaps you want to create this type of experience for your youth group, but you feel like you are constantly racking your brain for new things to try. This is where *Uncommon Youth Parties* can help. This resource contains 16 all-encompassing theme parties, 20 holiday parties and events, and 10 special events to try out with your group. Each party contains planning tips, directions for fun activities, and devotional messages to tie everything together and point your group members toward Christ. Try out the plans for celebrating events such as a group member's birthday, or appreciating God's creation under a starry sky, celebrating Jewish holidays such as Passover and Hanukkah, or even devoting a night to focusing on the problem of poverty. If you are ready to do your youth parties in a new way and cultivate fellowship and outreach in your youth group, check out *Uncommon Youth Parties* today!

- More than 40 parties and events to tailor to your youth group
- Reproducible planning guides, worksheets and evaluation forms
- Includes CD-ROM with easy-to-print files of every party and event
- Edited by Jim Burns, one of today's leading authorities on youth ministry

I don't know anyone who knows and understands the needs of the youth worker like Jim Burns.

DOUG FIELDS

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I heartily recommend these studies.

RICK WARREN

Author of *The Purpose Driven Life*



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