

## Ice Cream Social



*Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts...Romans 12:4-6a*

## We all scream for ice cream!!

*"I know that we are very different from other people in a lot of ways but in a lot of ways we aren't. My son still likes to play video games, he still enjoys swimming and he loves to eat ice cream. We may be more alike than people think."  
- a PURE mom*

Its summertime and the living is easy...or that is how the saying goes at least. For many families affected by disability, the change of schedule associated with summer is stressful. Services they may receive through their school, such as therapies, suddenly come to a halt. Social opportunities that the school year supplies also come to a sudden stop. Even if you can't plan a full-fledged

respite event during the summer months, consider hosting an old fashioned Ice Cream Social to give PURE families a chance to get out of the house and see friends.

### Decorations

Very few decorations are needed to have some of your PURE friends together to enjoy a



tasty treat. Focus on this being a time of fellowship and camaraderie more than an event that needs to be themed. But for those of you that "live to decorate" our Ice Cream Social Pinterest page has lots of great ideas for decorating a corner of your church or backyard.

**P** Perfectly created by a loving sovereign God, designed for His purposes

**U** Unique in his or her own gifts, blessings, talents, desires and contributions

**R** Receptive and responsive to our communication, touch and acts of love

**E** Eternal: there are no disabled souls

## Spiritual Lesson

Supplies: Bible, multi scoop Ice cream prop (can be a regular cone with several differently colored balls of tissue to serve as scoops or a drawing of a cone with pre-cut circles of differently colored paper to represent different scoops of flavor)

Read Romans 12: 4-6a . **Say: The Bible tells us that we are all made wonderfully different. Just like this ice cream cone! I bet all of us have our favorite kinds of ice cream.** (Begin naming your favorite flavors and why they are your favorite.) **Say: But sometimes when you want something really special, you put all of these flavors together into a big, special treat.**

That is what God did when he made us different. He created us with different colors of hair, different heights, different color of eyes and different abilities. Some of us can do things that others of us can't. (Name something you can't do that someone else can.)

But when you put us all together, we make a pretty special treat. I think that is what God wanted his church to be – a way to show the world that we can be different and still be wonderful together.

Close in prayer thanking God for our differences.

### Craft Ideas

An event like this doesn't always call for a craft, but if you're looking to have something set aside for your artsy crowd, here are a few simple suggestions:

- Ice Cream Cone Hand Prints: pre-draw a cone and turn their hands fingers down to make scoops on the cone.
- Pom Pom Cones: use pom poms to fill cones for their own colorful mix.

### Snacks

At an old fashioned Ice Cream Social, the snack is the main event! Plan ahead by having a variety of serve ware handy – plastic spoons and bowls for those who can't manage a cone. It wouldn't hurt to have plenty of wipes on hand for sticky fingers either.

If you are making ice cream sundaes, consider having a gluten-free toppings table. These can include fresh fruit, nuts (check for nut allergies) and even gluten-free chocolate shell. See our Ice Cream Social Pinterest page for gluten-free ice cream lists, recipes and ideas.

Be sure to consider allergies and specialized dietary needs (gluten free, casein free, low sugar, etc.) and offer an alternative snack. Applesauce and mandarin orange cups are good snacks to always have on hand. Remember that some participants will need to use a straw to drink so have them on hand as well. Clearly mark name tags so that volunteers can

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## Fun & Games

Since you've already bought cones for your ice cream, set aside a few for a fun Ice Cream Cone Relay. Simply place a small ball on the top of the cone (to look like a scoop of ice cream) and set up a course where the "ice cream cone" is carried without being dropped.

You can also put a new twist on an old favorite by playing "Pin A Cherry on the Top." Simply draw out a large ice cream cone with several scoops of ice cream on a large piece of paper or poster board. Cut out cherries from red construction paper and play this old favorite a la "Pin the Tail on the Donkey."

## Theme Stations

Use this easy event to pull out the camera and get some summertime photos of your



friends. Then use this great photo prop as a beanbag toss!

## Activity Stations

Be sure to keep some activities the same at each event. Soon PURE friends and buddies alike will have a list of the favorite things they do at every respite event. Here are a few ideas:

- Lego Station
- Nail Salon
- Puzzles & Board Games
- Video Games
- Sensory Stations

## Sensory Stations

Use colored pom poms and ice cream cones to have friends scoop the pom poms into the cones using an ice cream scoop. This is a fun way to learn to use a new tool. See our Ice Cream Social Pinterest Board for lots of other ideas for sensory play at your event.

## Supply List:

- Ice cream & toppings
- Gluten-free options for ice cream and toppings
- Serve ware (bowls,

Parties can be over-stimulating at times. Don't forget to have a Quiet Room designated as a place away from all the excitement where PURE friends can relax and take a break. Include low lighting and comfy seating for optimal relaxation!

cones, spoons)

- Wipes and paper towels
- Sensory Bin items
- Copies of pre-drawn ice cream cones for use in finger painting or hand print craft
- Extra ice cream cones and small balls for Ice Cream Cone Relay
- Activity Station supplies
- Ice Cream Cone props for Spiritual Lesson