



Let's Have a *Purse* Party!

We are so excited that you've decided to host a Purse Party! This is not your typical party and of course you're not a typical hostess. This is a party with a purposeful twist! Purse parties are designed to bring a group of women together to share the stories and experiences that they carry in their life container...their purse.

Follow the Purse Party planning guidelines below to prepare to host your first purse party.

1. HOSTING OPTIONS...

You can choose to host your purse party with a small group of friends or make it a larger event. Either way it will be phenomenal!

2. INVITE...

Determine the date and time you would like to have your Purse Party and invite the members of your book club, women's group/ministry or a group of friends looking for a different experience. **Be sure to tell the ladies to bring a purse that represents the season of life that they are in right now.**

You may also choose to book one or all the authors for your event to speak about their stories (Please contact dparker@gemmakers.org for booking details)

3. ORDER...

Order your copies of *"If Her Purse Could Talk"* book for each guest from one of the authors or directly from www.IfHerPurseCouldTalk.com. You can also send the link directly to your guests to order on their own. ****Make sure you allow plenty of time between ordering the books and the actual date of your purse party. You'll want to give the ladies plenty of time to read the book prior to the event.**

Distribute the books prior to the purse party.

4. PREP...

Space - Prepare your space with fun purse décor. You can get a lot of fun stuff from your neighborhood dollar store or order a few fun purse decorations online (Amazon, Etsy, etc.) You can even use some of your purses as decoration. Get creative!

Food – the type of food and drinks you serve will largely depend on the time you have your party. You can do a lot with a purse theme! Cupcakes with purse decorations, “purse passion” mocktails/cocktails (you decide), fun finger foods and sweet treats or you can do a full spread. The sky is the limit. Have fun!

Purse Vendor - You may also choose to invite a purse vendor to your party for the ladies to be able to purchase new purses.

Purse Swap/Donation- You may also consider having a purse swap where the ladies bring gently used purses to swap or to donate to women’s shelters. If you have a purse swap, advise the women to write an encouraging note/prayer to the future carrier of the purse and place it inside. This is so powerful!

5. KICKOFF...

To kick off your purse party start with this fun ice-breaker:

- Ask the women to look in their purse and pull out the most unique item in their purse. Have them explain the item and how and why it’s in their purse.
- Vote on the most unique item and award a prize to the winner.

6. ENGAGE...

- Hand a 3x5 index card to each woman and ask them to write their response to the question *“If your purse could talk, what would it say?”*. They do not have to put their names on these response cards.
- Collect the cards and put them in a bag or box. Ask a volunteer to pull a card out of the bag and read it aloud to the group. Ask guests to share their thoughts about the response and how they can relate. Tell the ladies that throughout the course of the party we will pull a card out and discuss it.
- You can also choose to pair the ladies up and have them discuss the responses on their cards, especially if you have a large group.

7. DISCUSS...

Ask the women to share their thoughts about the book. Here are a few questions to help you start the discussion.

- What inspired you?
- What surprised you?
- Which story could you relate to the most?
- Where did you see yourself in the stories shared in the book?
- What was shared in the book that gave you an “aha” moment?
- What touched you the most when reading the stories shared?

8. SHOWCASE...

Ask the ladies to bring out the purse they were asked to bring with them. Give them a couple of 3x5 cards and encourage them to think about their purse as the life container that contains the contents of their heart. Ask them to use the cards to answer the following questions:

- If your purse could talk, what would it say?
- What do you want to remove from your purse that’s too heavy to carry into the next season of your life or is no longer serving a purpose?
- What do you want to put in your purse that will bring you increased joy and vastly improve the quality of your life?

Ask the ladies to share with a partner. Give them about 10 – 15 minutes to share and then ask for a couple of volunteers to showcase their purses; describing how their purse represents the season of life they are in and what they wrote on their index cards.

9. WRAP UP/PURSE PRAYERS...

End your Purse Party by thanking the ladies for coming and participating. Here are a few ways to end your party:

- **Purse Prayers** – form a large circle and designate someone to pray a powerful prayer over the guests before leaving
- **Group photo** – take some fun group photos and post them in our *If Her Purse Could Talk Facebook Group Page* media page with the hashtag [#IfHerPurseCouldTalk](#).
- **Goodie bags** – give your guests cute little goodie bags with treats. If you can find purse shaped gift bags that would be great!