



12 Great Meeting Ideas

1. **January – Take Charge:** Lift the fog of disorder in one area of your life! Our lives feel out of control after or child dies. It's difficult to plan anything or follow through. In order to clear some of the web of grief we can take one small step toward order. Think of that drawer, that medicine cabinet, the pantry, a small closet. Baby steps = let the Lord lead you and lift you. Discuss an area that you can attack. How much time do you need? Why this area? How do you think you will feel when completed?

"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."
Colossians 3:14

2. **February – The Power of Prayer:** Save up tin cans removing the labels. Purchase colorful adhesive shelf paper or use wrapping paper and glue along with adhesive name badges. Cut the paper to fit the can and glue/stick onto the can. On the name badge write "GOD CAN!" On strips of paper write out prayers that are not yet answered, goals difficult to achieve yourself, desires of your heart. Discuss as a group some that are not too personal to share – explain why it is your heart's desire. Put the prayer request in the can and turn it over to the Lord.
3. **March – Circles of Love Meeting:** Break into groups according to the incident of loss – suicide, drugs, accident, illness. Choose a leader for each group. Provide the group leaders with two discussion topics. Allow adequate time according to the size of your groups for each mom to share on the topics. Come back to the main group and have the leaders share some of the responses. Questions: What am I struggling with the most right now? What are some things I have done to help others in the family cope with this loss? What have others done for me that has been the most helpful? What's my primary prayer request for my group-moms to pray for me?
4. **April – Preparing for Mother's Day:** Either break into small groups or have open discussion of how to be prepared for this day celebrating our being a mom.
5. **May – The month for a Umbrella Ministry conference:** Rather than meet encourage moms to attend the conference in their area.

6. **June – Craft Meeting:** Buy inexpensive small blank-page books. Have moms bring random photos of their child to fill a small book. Have cutouts, stickers, small gems, etc to glue onto pages and cover. Have moms share their photos and tell a story about the picture.
7. **July – Annual Moms’ Walk:** Select a location appropriate for a short meeting and a morning walk together. Plan to have a guitarist to do some praise songs, some nibbles and coffee to nourish and a verse on moving forward that can be read and expounded upon briefly before the walk. Bring bubble blowers, a beach ball to bounce around the circle – fun ideas for a morning gathering outdoors. This meeting might include spouses or siblings or support friends or just your moms.
8. **August – Study “One Thousand Gifts” by Ann Voskamp:** Encourage your group to purchase and read this uplifting book. Have available cheap note pads that moms can start writing their thousand gift lists. Go around and allow time for each mom to share an unusual “gift” they uncovered in their daily lives. If you want to make this a 3-meeting series you can access the study which includes video appropriate for a series of meetings. This is a great study.
9. **September – Rocks of Remembrance:** Collect or purchase 3- 4 inch smooth flat rocks and permanent markers. Relate the verses of Joshua 4 where the lord has the Israelites gather rocks of remembrance because they are forgetful people. Provide moms with a list of encouraging scriptures they might want to remember when days are tough. Let them pick the scripture number and put on their rock. Let each mom read their scripture and relate what it will remind them of in the days ahead. Suggest the rocks be placed in a visible place in their homes so they can also share their scripture with family and friends.
10. **October – Family and Friends Meeting:** Find a location where your moms can bring their spouses, older siblings and support friends to attend the meeting with them. Ask a couple whose loss occurred some time ago and have them share how husbands and wives grieve differently. They can tell the story of their child and then relate how they walked together yet separately out of that valley of grief.
11. **November – Preparing for the holidays:** Grief Share has a very good program for the holidays with good suggestions for changing things up from the way “it’s always been.” Possibly purchase inexpensive plain ornaments or crosses that can be decorated or painted for the holidays. Suggest these be hung in a place that will remind the mom what Christmas is truly about – a savior for this world of trials and troubles. As the ornaments are being decorated share small blessings that are encouraging them and that instill a sense of gratitude this Thanksgiving season.
12. **December – Fellowship is a great healer:** Consider no meeting or just a potluck lunch or couples dinner to come together for support. This can be the Christmas fellowship meeting.