

Hostess Handbook

Want to get started? Faithfully follow these eight steps:

1. The prelude to all other steps is this: PRAY! Ask God to show you a sign that He is leading you toward being a Sweet Monday hostess. Pray for wisdom and guidance -- and ask Him, if possible, to send you a helper!
2. If feasible, attend a Sweet Monday near your home. Seeing is believing! You can pick up tips and enlist the support of another Sweet Monday hostess.
3. Visit www.sweetmonday.org and register as a hostess.
4. Decide on date, time, and location that would be convenient for you (and your family) to host Sweet Monday. If you cannot do it in your home, try to find a location in which you can create a homey atmosphere. Plan on about an hour and a half (7 to 8:30? 7:30 to 9?). And remember: Your gatherings do not have to be on a Monday!
5. Realizing that we all are creatures of habit, be consistent on date, time, and location. For instance, Sweet Monday is always the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Jane's house.
6. Plan your first meeting.
 - Pick a theme – four are included in “Getting Started” on the Sweet Monday website. Also, each SM book contains at least a dozen themes
 - Decide on one dessert and one candy to serve
 - Purchase a small blank book for sign in – great resource for names, addresses, phone #s and e-mail addresses for women who attend.
7. Invite women. Do this by email and/or social media – or by the old-fashioned way of knocking on doors! Always provide an address and/or directions. Also,
 - Post notices in the break room at your office, in churches and in church and neighborhood newsletters.
 - Signs in your neighborhood can be effective, too, if allowed.
 - Keep invitation cards in your car so that you can invite women you see at meetings or in the grocery store, post office, or bank.Before long, word of mouth will have your home filled with the wonderful hum of women laughing, learning from each other and leaving with an introduction to Christ.

8. Use the Sweet Monday office as a resource. Call 804-754-4333 or email info@sweetmonday.org.

Tips for a no-sweat Sweet Monday:

- Sweet Monday is not about selling any products or businesses, but “reaching out to women one sweet invitation at a time for Christ.” What Sweet Monday IS about is fun, faith, fellowship, and food plus the sharing of ideas and a non-threatening way to introduce women to Christ!
- Tell women they don’t have to bring a thing except a friend or two or three...
- Use nametags, personalized with stickers or small pictures appropriate to theme, if you have the time and/or inclination.
- Welcome the women. Depending on group size, attendees may introduce themselves with their name and a personal tidbit relevant to the theme of the evening. Always recognize first-timers.
- Make announcements during the welcome. Tell about the sweets theme, and announce the next month’s date, theme, and time.
- Generally, plan on eating and mingling for the first 20 to 30 minutes. This gives latecomers time to arrive before the program begins.
- Remember to make DECAF coffee available.
- Take pictures and display them. Keep a scrapbook if you would like. Maybe one of your regular attendees would volunteer to use her creative skills in this way.
- Distribute small cards with the months of Sweet Monday, dates and themes, for women to use as invitations and as a reminder. You can download and use the Sweet Monday logo and invitation template at www.SweetMonday.org.
- Try to keep the devotional short and sweet (5 to 10 minutes), and as tied as closely to the theme as possible. At the end, say, “If you have any questions and want to know more about a personal relationship with God through Christ, please talk to me afterward or contact me by phone or email or Facebook.”
- Don’t worry if you get nervous about hosting. It’s natural even though we strive to make the process as simple as possible and have no strings attached!

- Never forget: The Lord is using you in a special way, and He knows we can't give out what we don't have. He promises to give us everything we need. Turn to his word and talk to Him daily – especially on Sweet Monday meeting days! He will guide us and never leave us.

Sweet Monday is as Simple as ABC

Abide in Christ...and you will bear much fruit. John 15:5 (Remember, fruit is *sweet*.)

Bring anyone without asking permission.

Candy (sweet!) available to take home and share.

Dessert to match *Sweet Monday* theme, along with decaf coffee/tea.

Eternity always in mind.

Fun and **F**aithfulness can go together.

God's word does not return void.

Hospitality is modeled as grace and the *Good News* are extended.

Introducing women to Christ in a non-threatening way, one sweet invitation at a time.

Jesus is always present! He is the best part and does all the hard work.

Keep a sign-in book.

Lots of laughter. *A joyful heart is good medicine.* Proverbs 17:22

Monthly meetings to accommodate women's busy lives.

Neighbors all invited, and **N**o need to RSVP.

Open our homes or churches.

Promptly ending each meeting at the designated time.

Quickly cleaning up because we've kept it simple.

Reaching out to women for Christ is our *Sweet Monday* mission.

Simple, **S**weet and **S**alty characterize our meetings, during which we **S**ow broadly.

Truth of God's word is always shared.

Used by God as we fulfill women who long to know **W**ho we know.

Value each **V**olunteer who offers help.

Women of all ages and stages in life are encouraged to attend.

X-tra sweet leftovers go to neighbors, the church, a child's lunchbox, etc.

Yes -- you can easily make *Sweet Monday* your own.

Zesty. *We are the salt of the earth.* Matthew 5:13