Mystery Party

Party Overview

Come hungry because a mystery meal will start this party off. Girls will order from clues, not knowing exactly what they are picking. Pick carefully because a five-course meal will be brought based on their choices which include not just their food, but also their silverware and drink. Mystery games will be played. During the devotion girls will learn God's name "El Olam," which means "The Eternal One," and ponder the mystery of how God has no beginning and no end.

Welcome the girls

Play, **"Who is on My Back?"**

Using only questions that can be answered with "yes" or "no," figure out the name that is on your back. *(Have names written on masking tape and put one name on each girl's back. Options: Sherlock Holmes, Santa Claus, Peter Pan, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Shrek, Snow White, Minnie Mouse, Nemo, Elsa, put one girl's own name on her back, etc.)*

Mystery Meal

(Seat everyone at the table. Pass out a menu, two order forms and pencils.)

Here is the menu we will be serving today. Also, here are two order forms for everyone. Fill out your order form twice. One will go to the kitchen, and one you will keep here, so when each course is brought to you, you will know what the items were called. When you order, please be aware that you are ordering your silverware, napkin, drink and all your food. You want to think what each item might be and order appropriately. You might get food before you have any silverware to eat it with, and there is no trading, or borrowing. You may only eat and use what is brought to you!

After you have ordered, and while you are waiting for your courses to be brought, there are rolled up mini mysteries in front of each of your places. You may open them up, one at a time, read the mystery out loud and see if everyone can figure out the answer. The answer is in the folded-up paper inside. Have fun.

Menu Order Form

Name _____

Course #1 _____ _____ _____ _____

Course #2 _____ _____ _____ _____

Course #3 _____ _____ _____ _____

Course #4 _____ _____ _____ _____

Course #5 _____ _____ _____ _____

Would you prefer water _____ or Sprite_____?

From this list of items, choose the items you would like brought in each course, and place the item's number on your order form.

1. The weapon
2. Case closed
3. Foiled again
4. The accomplices
5. Caught hiding in the bushes
6. Hot on the Trail
7. Covering up the evidence
8. Cold case
9. Caught in the act
10. "This is a stick up"
11. One eyed bandit
12. Clean up the case
13. Pieces of evidence
14. Dynamite
15. Break the case wide open
16. The magnifying glass
17. String them along
18. Solid evidence
19. A sticky situation
20. The lineup

Menu Key

1. The weapon: knife
2. Case closed: toothpick
3. Foiled again: dessert (Klondike ice cream bar in foil wrapper)
4. The accomplices: ketchup/mustard
5. Caught hiding in the bushes: lettuce
6. Hot on the Trail: Hamburger
7. Covering up the evidence: cheese
8. Cold case: drink
9. Caught in the act: fork
10. "This is a stick up": carrot sticks
11. One eyed bandit: pickles
12. Clean up the case: napkin
13. Pieces of evidence: French fries
14. Dynamite: beans
15. Break the case wide open: bun
16. The magnifying glass: spoon
17. String them along: celery stick
18. Solid evidence: Jell-O
19. A sticky situation: mint
20. The lineup: straw

Games for after eating:

Wink

(*Sit all the girls in a circle.)* Close your eyes, while I walk around behind you. I will tap one of you on the shoulder. The one I tap will be the killer who kills by winking. After I've tapped someone, I'll tell you to open your eyes and the game will begin. You must stay in your seats and just look at each other. The killer will wink at someone, trying to do it when no one else sees. If you are winked at, you will say, "I'm dead." But if you see who it is that is giving the wink to someone else, you say, "I've solved the case. The killer is _____." Then I'll select another killer. If you want to make it harder, if you get winked at, wait a moment before declaring it, so everyone doesn't see who was looking at you.

Huckle Buckle Beanstalk

(The girls will remain seated – they don't have to be in a circle anymore. Show them a small item, like the top of a pen, a coin, an eraser, anything little. If they don't know the game, explain it.) I will show you how to play "Huckle Buckle Beanstalk." All of you will close your eyes. I take this little _____ and I walk around the room and put it somewhere where you can see it. I will walk and make some noise and walk even after I have put it somewhere.

Then I'll say, "Ready," and you all open your eyes. Remain seated and just look. Where is the item? The person who first spies it gets to hide it next. *(Play as many rounds as the girls are having fun with the game.)*

Who Am I?

(Give everyone a pen and a copy of the game. The three interesting facts about each girl that you collected before the party, will have been put on this paper. Do not put all three facts of each girl together.) You must find who said what. Write down the name of the correct girl behind each clue. This is the only rule; you can only ask one question to someone before moving to someone different. You can come back to that person, but again, can only ask one question. *(The following is a copy of the game that was used in a party of eight girls. It is just an example, since your game will have items from your girls. It is very important to have available a list of the items that each girl turned in, because they may forget what they turned in!)* Have some fun discussion time talking about certain things on the list after everyone has finished.

Who Am I?

1. My favorite animal is a horse. _____
2. My favorite food is angel hair spaghetti. _____
3. I don't care for typical breakfast foods but would rather have leftovers; except for a big plate of grits. _____
4. I remember everything that I read. _____
5. If I could vacation to a foreign country it would be Australia. _____
6. I'm addicted to decorating shows on TV. _____
7. I love to write stories. _____
8. I have two Grandmas that have lived to be 99 years old. _____

9. I about died when I got my ears pierced. _____

10. I like to hang out with friends and giggle. _____

11. I have a friend living in Hawaii. _____

12. I want to go swimming with dolphins. _____

13. I love making jewelry. _____

14. I could recite the birthdays for our whole extended family when I was only two years old. _____

15. If I could vacation anywhere in the world, I would go to Disney World in Orlando. _____

16. I can sometimes be found watching TV instead of doing my schoolwork. _____

17. I want to work with animals when I grow up. _____

18. I love to bake goodies. _____

19. My favorite activity is swinging. _____

20. If I could relocate anywhere, it would be to a large farm, with every imaginable farm animal, & I would probably sleep in the barn. _____

21. My favorite flower is a tulip. _____

22. I have a stuffed animal named Katie. _____

23. I won a trip to New York when I was four years old. _____

24. I can never have enough stuffed animals. _____

Devotion

The name of God we are looking at today is, "El Olam." (EL o-LAM) This name is translated "eternal," "everlasting," "forever." God is El Olam, the Eternal One. Since He doesn't have a beginning, He has already existed for millions and millions and millions of years; even billions and trillions of years. And He will continue living that long into the future, and then more, because He will exist forever.

It is hard to get a grasp on what eternal means. In our world, things have a beginning and an end. You are born, you die. The sun comes up, your day starts. The sun goes down, eventually you go to bed, and the day ends. The week comes to an end, the month ends, and the year ends. School ends. Summer vacation ends. Christmas vacation ends. Our mind thinks in terms of things that begin and end.

But God is eternal. He has always been, and He always will be. He doesn't have a beginning. He doesn't have an end. This is a mystery to our minds. Since we are doing a mystery party today, this is a good name for us to look at.

Here is a measuring tape. *(Have someone hold one end and stretch it out.)* You're holding one end of the tape, and we are stretching it out across the room. But pretend that you can see this measuring tape going all the way to the moon and beyond. It goes way past the moon, until it's hard to see, but you know it keeps going. Now look at the measuring tape, this little bit right here at the beginning, up to the 1/8" inch mark. That's your life span here on earth, and all the rest of the measuring tape – to the moon and beyond – that's how long you'll live in heaven with Jesus. You'll live in heaven forever. Our life there with God will never end. It's hard to fathom that. It's a mystery that we'll only solve and understand when we get to heaven.

If you have asked Jesus to forgive your sins and be your Savior, then you have been promised eternal life. You will exist for millions and millions of years in heaven. And you will still be living in heaven a billion years from now. And you will still be living in heaven a trillion years from now. A zillion years from now. What a mystery!

Knowing that you are going to spend eternity in heaven, how should you live your life today? Get to know God better by reading the Bible. Do what it says to do in the Bible. Pray because that's you talking to God. You can store treasure in heaven by telling others about Jesus; treasures that will be there forever. Live your

life here on earth in such a way that looking back on it for eternity, you will be proud of how you lived on earth.

Misc. Notes

It is best to have the kitchen blocked off so the girls do not know any of the food options they will be eating.

If organized, the meal can be done with only two people, but three is better.
In the kitchen have things arranged as much as possible by number, and have the number marked by each item.

Play the board game "Clue." at the end of the party if there is time.

Decorations

Buy a roll of yellow caution tape from a home improvement store. Make a big X over the front door with the caution tape. Put some on the bushes outside, and around the house inside.

With chalk, draw footprints on the driveway going up to the front door.

For the table centerpiece use a black tablecloth with the Clue game pieces and board in the middle.

Check out mystery books from the library and lay them around. Books like "I Spy" or "Minute Mysteries" are good.

Put up wanted posters. Each one could have a picture of a girl who is attending the party.

Cut a big question mark out of colored paper and put it on a wall or the front door.

Prizes

Disappearing ink makes a good prize for the first girl who finishes the "Who Am I?" game, and the person that ordered most correctly at the meal.

Take home favors

Attach a tag to a shiny, silver gift bag. The tag should read, "Top Secret – Spy Kit." Put in a pair of sunglasses, a magnifying glass and some gum. Explain how early detectives were called "gum shoes," because they walked so much trying to solve mysteries. And detectives are known for wearing dark glasses to disguise their identity.

Invitation

Shhhhhhh!!!!

Our next party will be a Top-Secret Mystery Party.
Date: _____
Location: _____
Time: _____
Come hungry as lunch will be served. Girls will guess what they should order for each course from clues on a menu. Other sleuthing games and challenges will be played. Please bring $_____.

At least a week before the party, please give me some information. Pick 3 interesting facts about yourself that probably no one knows. These will be used in a game. E-Mail or text these three items to _____. This mystery party will be great fun! I can't wait!

Mini Mysteries, for use during the mealtime:

(Print these mysteries and roll up the papers, tying them with ribbon. Put them on the table so the girls can open them during or after the meal. Have the answer printed on a separate piece of paper and folded up inside each. This way the girl reading the mystery can also read the answer.)

Solve this **Mini Mystery**:

Andy's mom has four children. The oldest was a boy named Andrew. The second was a girl named Alex. The third was a girl named Alexandria. The fourth was another boy. What was his name?

(Andy)

Solve this **Mini Mystery**:

Susan and Shelly have the same mom and dad. They look exactly the same, and they have the same birthday. However, they are not twins. How is this possible?

(Susan, Shelly and their sister Samantha are triplets, not twins.)

Solve this **Mini Mystery**:

A teacher left an answer key to a quiz on her desk. When she came back later, the answer key was gone. She asked the three students who had access to the room if they had seen it. The first student said, she had seen it, but that she hadn't touched it. The second student said she had seen it but thought the breeze from the window might blow it on the floor, so she anchored it under a book. The third student said she saw it after the breeze blew it off the desk, so she opened the book that was on the desk and put it towards the front, between pages 3 and 4. The teacher looked, but it wasn't there. Who is lying, and how do you know?

(The third student is lying because it is impossible to put something between pages 3 and 4 of a book, because odd numbered pages are always on the right, and you have to turn the page to get to page four, therefore it is impossible to put something between pages 3 and 4.

Solve this **Mini Mystery**:

A father and his boy are driving in a thunderstorm. They have an accident and are both rushed to the hospital emergency room. The physician comes into the room and says, "I can't treat this boy, he's my son." How is that possible?

(The physician was the boy's mother.)

Solve this **Mini Mystery**:
A man lives on the fourteenth floor of an apartment building. Every morning he takes the elevator down to the lobby and goes to work. When he comes home, he gets in the elevator and presses the sixth-floor button, gets out of the elevator on the sixth floor and walks the stairs the rest of the way to his apartment. Why doesn't he take the elevator all the way up to his floor?

(Because he's a midget and the sixth-floor button is the highest he can reach.)

Solve this **Mini Mystery**:
David's father has three sons: Snap, Crackle and _____?

(David)

Solve this **Mini Mystery**:
A bus driver is going up a one-way street the wrong way. Part way up the street a police officer sees him, but simply waves. Why doesn't the police officer give him a ticket for going the wrong way on a one-way street?

(Because the bus driver was walking.)

Solve this **Mini Mystery**:
I have eyes but cannot see. I have ears but cannot hear. I have a mouth but cannot talk. I do not change. I will always look the same. Why?

(I am a portrait)

Take Home Paper

El Olam

The first time we see El Olam in the Bible is in Genesis 21:33, "Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of El Olam (the LORD), the Everlasting God."

"The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Deut 33:27 (NKJV)

"Now to the King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen." I Tim 1:17

Pray,
"Dear El Olam, the Eternal God. I cannot understand how You have always existed, that You have no beginning. And I cannot understand how You will always exist, that You have no end. But thank You for dying on the cross so I will be able to live in heaven with You forever and ever. Help me to live today, in such a way that I will get to know You better and that I will be storing up treasure in heaven. Amen"