

Apron Pockets

All readers will wear an apron with pockets and should have various items in the pockets. All should have looks of worry & depression & unhappiness.

- #1 I like aprons with pockets, don't you? I am always picking up stray items that need to be taken upstairs or down, small toys under foot, bits of thread, small stones (sure evidence of two boys), and lists in my husband's handwriting that I can't throw away until I check them.
- #2 I've often thought that my mind must have apron pockets too. I pick up all sorts of random thoughts, reflections, inspirations, doubts, worries, and determinations during the day. At the end of the day I usually take my kitchen apron off and sort out whatever remains to be put in its place to be thrown away. If I forget to do this I may be annoyed the next morning by a neglected pin or a bit of trash.
- #3 My mental apron pockets need emptying at the end of the day too. A lot of sorting out goes on during the day, but there are always a few leftovers. The leftover plan for the future or a memory of a happy surprise will not cause discomfort in the mental pocket, but tucked away worries, doubts and angers have a way of becoming irritating before morning.
- #4 The Christian has a wonderful opportunity to empty mental pockets at the end of the day in prayer. God never intended for us to carry either fears or aspirations alone. All of these things can be put before him, and you and I can know the rest that comes only through Christ.

Everyone gathers around a table and empties the items from their apron pockets into a large bowl, looking happier and more relaxed as the "burdens" are unloaded.

- #5 In the message from the prophet Isaiah we learn all who wait upon the Lord will have renewed strength. In Christ, we find refuge; we need not fear the terror of the night, or the trials of the day. His angels will guard us and take away the items we gather in our apron pockets. We will be renewed and given new breath and he will take away our burdens and give us rest. He holds us in the palm of his hand.
- #6 Let us pray: Thank you Father, for the privilege of emptying a tired mind before you. May I not try to carry today's burdens into tomorrow. Amen.