

Easter Story Cookies

1 c. whole pecans

1 tsp. vinegar

3 egg whites

1 c. sugar

ziplock bag

1 pinch salt

mixing bowl

electric mixer

wooden spoon

Bible

tape

Evening before Easter: Preheat the oven to 300°. Place pecans in ziplock bag & let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, he was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19.1-3.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19.28-30.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10.10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt onto each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23.27.

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Psalm 34.8 and John 3.16.

Beat with a mixer on high speed until soft peaks form. Explain that the color white represents - in God's eyes - the purity of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1.18 and John 3.1-3.

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheet. Explain each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27.57-60.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door, and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of tape to seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27.65-66.

GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16.20, 22.

Easter Morning: Open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28.1-9.