

Module 3: Whatza Cookin' Learning Centers - Chef Sven's Special on White

Chef Sven's Special on White is one of six learning centers. It is designed to help children, youth and adults discover whatza cookin' with Christmas and Easter. Participants will make ornamental heart bouquets to celebrate God's love and presence everyday of their lives.

Kitchen utensils will be used to create a sense of continuity between the theme and the content of each learning center. Color-coded strips may be attached to wooden or paper "Stirrin' Spoons" to highlight the key learning at each learning center. "Reasons for the Seasons" Party Planners include a "Stir-factor" sheet for each season along with several ideas for celebrating each one at home. The "Stirrin' Up a Celebration" menu cards will engage participants in learning some of the essential ingredients associated with each season. "Happy New Year" Party Packs are suggested to transport crafts and other learning materials. The "Please Wait to Be Seated" Gathering Activities are designed to introduce and distribute these resources for participant use as they move through the Whatza Cookin' Learning Centers.

The Leader's Notes for this activity, along with any needed preparations and supplies, are outlined below. A Program Planning Grid (PDF file) is available to assist you in coordinating the details and tasks involved. You may wish to display a sign to distinguish between the gathering activities and the learning centers. A "Whatza Cookin'" pattern/sign design (PDF file) is provided for this purpose. You may wish to print the name of the learning center on the bottom half of the hat.

Approximate time: 10 –15 minutes

Equipment and Supplies:

- Rolls or sheets of plain and designed gift wrap - in the colors of the Church Year, e.g. blue, green, white, purple and red.
- Green florist wire, 12" stems or cuttings from a roll
- Tape and Glue sticks
- [Church Year Wheel](#) (PDF file)
- [Heart pattern sheet](#) (PDF file)
- [Whatza Cookin' sign design](#) (PDF file)
- [Reference sheets for Christmas and Easter](#) A-B (PDF file)
- One ½ " x 14-18" strip of white cloth or crepe paper per individual or family

Leader's Notes:

Scan through the activity outline and adapt your plans to honor the time you have scheduled for your overall event. You may wish to recruit a few people to complete some of the initial steps involved.

The facilitator for this center may consider actually portraying Chef Sven. A costume might simply consist of a chef hat (see pattern), a nametag and an apron, along with a few props, e.g. a large bowl and a spoon.

Cut one white cloth or crepe paper strip per family or participant. You may wish to write the name of the season on each strip or give participants the option to do so. Lay out a few extra Stirrin' Spoons for participants who did not participate in the Special Guest Check-in gathering activity.

You may wish to display an enlarged copy of the Church year Wheel to highlight or outline the season of Easter. (There is a copy of the wheel on the back page of the Reasons for the Season Party Planner so this would not be absolutely necessary.) You might also decorate this center with white balloons to make it more festive.

Use the following instructions to make an ornamental heart bouquet.

- 1) Determine the purpose of bouquet. Do you want participants to design their bouquets to highlight the seasons of Christmas and Easter, identifying your bouquet to be white or, would you like them to highlight all the colors of the church year?
- 2) Trace the heart pattern onto sheets of gift wrap; honoring the colors you have chosen to use.
- 3) Cut out and match hearts into pairs.
- 4) Lay out one paper heart, inside up. Center and tape one end of the green florist wire to the heart.
- 5) Spread glue all over the heart and align the other heart as you adhere it.
- 6) Fold a piece of plain white paper into a cone-shape. Use it as a holder for your ornamental heart bouquet.

Refer them to the stir-factor sheet in their "Reasons for the Seasons" Party Planners as you share some of the characteristics of the seasons of Christmas and Easter. Point out that these seasons mark a time to celebrate God's love and presence through the birth and resurrection of Jesus.

Activity:

Introduce yourself and the seasons associated with your Whatza Cookin' Learning Center. Point out the significance of the color "white." Explain that colors are often used to identify things, e.g. an athletic team or a national flag. There are also colors that represent the seasons for the calendar year. And, just as the color green is related the season of summer because it is a time when many seeds grow and flourish and the color "white" is related to winter because many people encounter and experience snow during this time, the church uses colors to identify and interpret the life and ministry of Jesus throughout the calendar year.

Display an enlarged Church Year Wheel or refer to the one on the back page of the Whatza Cookin' Party Planner. Note that the church has a special way of looking at the calendar year. Point out that Christians associate the life and ministry of Jesus with specific days and months of the year. Some of the days or events of the church year are the same as a calendar year, e.g. Christmas and Easter, but some of them are just recognized in the church, e.g. the days before Christmas, which are marked as a time to get our hearts ready for Jesus. Those days are called Advent.

Note that each of the Whatza Cookin' Learning Centers will highlight one or more of the days or seasons of the church year, according to their designated color. This center is designed to stir up some thoughts about the color white and the season of Christmas, which begins on Christmas Day and lasts for 12 days and the season of Easter, which begins on the evening before Easter Sunday and continues for fifty days.

Engage participants in a brief discussion about why the color white might be associated with the seasons of Christmas and Easter. Suggest that it represents hope and new life through the birth, resurrection and long awaited second coming of God's Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Briefly highlight the Christmas story in Matthew 1:18-23 and the Easter story in Mark 16:1-7.

Invite participants to engage in the craft activity as you have planned and prepared for it. Encourage them to display their ornamental heart bouquets in potted green plants or vases of fresh flowers to celebrate God's gracious love on Christmas, Easter and any other day throughout the year.

Briefly review the essential ingredients of this season as you invite participants to describe Chef Sven's Special on White on their "Stirrin' Up a Celebration" menu cards. Distribute the white strips of cloth or crepe paper and encourage participants to tie or glue it onto their end of their Stirrin' Spoons.

Refer to the stir-factor sheets on Christmas and Easter in the “Reasons for the Seasons” Party Planners and invite participants to consider some ways they might celebrate these special days at home.