

Module 3: Whatza Cookin' Centers – Bernie's Special on Black

Bernie's Special on Black is designed to be one of six learning centers. It is designed to help children, youth and adults discover "whatza cookin'" with Good Friday. Participants will make personal place cards to reflect upon what Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, has done for them.

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 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 highlight 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 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 workshop on the bottom half of the hat.

Approximate time: 10 minutes

Equipment and Supplies:

- "Just to Think of the Cross" personal place card sheets (PDF file)
- Whatza Cookin' sign design (PDF file)
- Reference sheet for Good Friday (PDF file)
- Church Year Wheel (PDF file)
- One ½ " x 14-18" strip of purple cloth or crepe paper per individual or family

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 Bernie. 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 black cloth or crepe paper strip for each individual or family to attach to a Stirrin' Spoon. . You may wish to write the name of the season on each strip or give participants the option to do so. Layout a few extra Stirrin' Spoons for participants who did not participate in the Special Guest Check-in gathering activity.

You might wish to display an enlarged copy of the Church Year Wheel to identify where Good Friday is located between the seasons of Lent and Easter or refer to the one in the "Reasons for the Seasons" Party Planner. (There is a copy of the wheel on the back page of the "Reasons for the Seasons" Party Planner, so this would not be absolutely necessary.) You might also decorate this center with black balloons to make it even more festive.

Use the following instructions to make a "Just to Think of the Cross" personal place card.

- 1) Cut the "Just to think of the Cross" personal place card sheets into four cards
- 2) Fold each card according to the arrow indicators to make a small table tent.
- 3) Cut along the outline of the cross, above the fold line. Begin by cutting slits across the fold line to ease the scissor into the process.
- 4) Straighten the top of the cross to define a cross design on both sides of the card.
- 5) Take a moment to read through the Bible verse.

Activity:

Introduce yourself and the day associated with your Whatza Cookin' Center. Point out the significance of the color "black." Explain that colors are often used to identify or represent things, e.g. an athletic team or a national flag. 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 copy of the Church Year Wheel or refer to the one in the "Reasons for the Seasons" Party Planner. Note that the church has a special way of looking at the calendar year. 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 will stir up some thoughts about Good Friday and the color black. Point out that it occurs during the week following Palm Sunday (the day Jesus rides through the streets of Jerusalem with crowds cheering for him like royalty.) The Monday to Thursday prior to Good Friday build with tension and anger toward Jesus as church and government leaders discredit the person and the ministry of Jesus. Thursday night, after Jesus shares his last supper/first communion with his disciples, his closest followers and friends, one of his own disciples made a deal to turn him in. Living on this side of the resurrection though, we know that Good Friday is not the end of the story, but the necessary means to a new beginning! New lie in Christ. Refer to John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. If time permits, scan through Matthew 27: 32-54 and highlight the events of Good Friday.

Engage participants in a brief discussion about why the color black might be associated with Good Friday. Suggest that it is the color that represents "death" which is befitting the crucifixion of Jesus. Introduce Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God" and invite participants to observe a moment of silence to reflect God's amazing love for them that made it possible for them to have a fresh new start!

Invite participants to engage in the craft activity as you have planned and prepared for it. Encourage them to display their personal place cards in places where they will be prompted to stop to humbly acknowledge what Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior has done for them on God Friday and on every other day through the year. .

Note: There isn't actually a Stir-factor sheet for Good Friday in the "Reasons for the Seasons" Party Planner, but, without it, and the resurrection day that follows, our faith would not be the same. Jesus' death and resurrection marks his victory over sin, death and the power of the devil, which give us the possibility of new life. Good Friday is a sad day, but it turns out to be a very good for us.

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