

Module 3: Whatza Cookin' Centers – Ned the Cook's Special on Purple

Ned the Cook's Special on Purple is designed to be one of six learning centers. It is designed to help children, youth and adults discover whatza cookin' with the season of Lent. Participants will make identity cards to honor the life and ministry of Christ.

Kitchen utensils will be used to create a sense of continuity between the theme and the content of each learning center. Color-coded strips will be used 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 card 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 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 signs to distinguish between the gathering activities and the learning centers. A "Whatza Cookin'" 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:

- Copies of the "Who Do You Say that I am?" Identity Card A-B (PDF file)
- Reference sheet for Lent (PDF file)
- "Whatza Cookin'" sign design (PDF file)
- Church Year Wheel (PDF file)
- One ½ " x 14-18" strip of purple cloth or crepe paper per individual or family
- Markers
- Scissors

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 Ned the Cook. 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 piece of purple 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. 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 and highlight or outline the season of Lent with a purple crayon or marker. (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 purple balloons to make it more festive.

Use the following instructions to make an identity card.

- 1) Copy the "Who Do You Say that I am?" Identity Card, sheets A-B, back-to-back on medium-weight card stock. Make one copy per family or participant.
- 2) Cut around the portrait of Jesus to give it a special effect.
- 3) Color the portrait of Jesus

Refer them to the stir-factor sheet in their "Reasons for the Seasons" Party Planners as you share some of the characteristics of the season of Lent. Point out that this season identifies a time to reflect upon the significance of the life and ministry of Christ.

Activity:

Introduce yourself and the season associated with your Whatza Cookin' Learning Center. Point out the significance of the color "purple." Explain that colors are often used to identify things, e.g. an athletic team or a national flag. And, just as the color green is related to 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 season will stir up some thoughts about the color purple and the season of Lent.**

Engage participants in a brief discussion about why the color purple might be associated with the season of Lent. Suggest that it represents the pain and suffering of Jesus leading up to the crucifixion as well as the brokenness of people and the world under sin. Note that purple is also the color of royalty which keeps us mindful that Christ's resurrection prevails over sin, death and the power of the devil. Refer to Romans 6:4. Share that the season of Lent includes forty days and 6 Sundays. It is set aside to reflect upon the life and ministry of Jesus in our personal and corporate lives.

Invite participants to engage in the craft activity as you have planned and prepared for it. Encourage them to use their identity cards as an easy reference for daily or frequent Bible reading during Lent and every other day of the year.

Briefly review the essential ingredients of this season as you invite participants to describe Ned the Cook's Special on Purple on their "Stirrin' Up a Celebration" menu cards. Distribute the purple 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 sheet on Lent in the "Reasons for the Seasons" Party Planners and invite participants to consider some ways they might celebrate this season at home.

