

Module 3: Whatza Cookin' Centers – Firecracker Fred's Special on Red

Firecracker Fred's Special on Red is designed to be one of six learning centers. It is designed to children, youth and adults discover whatza cookin' with Pentecost Day. Participants will make ceramic coasters or "hot" plates to celebrate the awe and wonder of God's presence and activity on Pentecost.

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 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 them 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 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:

- Ceramic tiles – 4 ¼" x 4 ¼" for coasters, 6"x 6" for hot plate
- Cork adhesive tabs
- A can of acrylic spray
- Multi-colored permanent markers
- [Reference sheet for Pentecost](#) (PDF file)
- [Great Commission reference sheet](#) (PDF file)
- ["Whatza Cookin'" sign design](#) (PDF file)
- [Church Year Wheel](#) (PDF file)
- One ½ " x 14 -18" strip of red 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. Allow time to coat the ceramic tiles with acrylic spray before you begin this craft activity.

The facilitator for this center may consider actually portraying Firecracker Fred. 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 red 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 reference to Pentecost with a red 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 red balloons to make it more festive.

Use the following instructions to make a coaster or hot plate.

Preliminary Tasks:

- 1) Decide whether this will be an individual or group/family activity. Consider the number and the size of the tiles accordingly.
- 2) Find a place with open-air to cover the ceramic tiles with acrylic spray. Cover sufficient time to dry before beginning your craft.

Participant Involvement:

- 1) Place cork tabs on the bottom of the ceramic tiles.
- 2) Select a few permanent markers to decorate the tile. Print the word “celebrate” on the tile and use coordinating colors to add festive borders, swirls, hearts, dots and dashes.
- 3) Depending upon the size you choose, the tile may be used as a coaster or hot plate.

Refer them to the stir-factor sheet in their “Reasons for the Seasons” Party Planners as you share some of the characteristics of Pentecost Day. Point out that this day marks a time to celebrate the awe and wonder of God's presence in the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is also known as the birthday of the Church.

Activity:

Introduce yourself and the days in the Church Year that are featured at your Whatza Cookin’ Learning Center. Point out the significance of the color “red.” 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. Point out that 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 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 red and the season of Pentecost, which begins with the festival of Pentecost, fifty days or seven Sundays after Easter and continues through 23 Sundays.**

Engage participants in a brief discussion about why the color red might be associated with the season of Pentecost. Suggest that it was chosen to represent the tongues of fire that appeared above the heads of those who were present when the Spirit of God descended upon those gathered. Take a moment to review Acts 2:1-4 which describes the first festival of Pentecost. Refer to the Great Commission reference sheet (PDF file) as you recognize the power of the Holy Spirit to equip and inspire people of all ages to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, through word and deed.

Invite participants to engage in the craft activity as you have planned and prepared for it. Encourage them to display their coasters or hotplates as a reminder to celebrate the awesome wonder of God's presence and activity on Pentecost Day and every other day throughout the year.

Briefly review the essential ingredients of this season as you invite participants to describe Firecracker Fred's Special on Red on their “Stirrin’ Up a Celebration” menu cards. Distribute the red 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 Pentecost in the “Reasons for the Seasons” Party Planners and invite participants to consider some ways they might celebrate this season at home.