

EASTER STORY COOKIES

Making these cookies on the eve of Easter is a wonderful way to gather the family and remember the reason we celebrate Easter. This recipe has been around for a long time and many of you may have already seen or done this, but I wanted to share it with you, just in case you may not have seen it.

Let's get started, you'll need: a bowl, mixer

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| 1 cup whole pecans (or use chocolate chips to keep nut-free) | zipper baggie |
| 1 tsp. vinegar | heavy wooden spoon |
| 3 egg whites | parchment paper & cookie sheet |
| pinch salt | tape |
| 1 cup sugar | Bible |



Preheat oven to 300 degrees. This is important! Don't wait until you're half done with the recipe!

Place pecans or chocolate chips in zipper baggie and 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 eternal life.

Read John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into 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. In a moment, add 1 cup sugar slowly to the bowl. 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 for 12 to 15 minutes, slowly adding the sugar, until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes 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 parchment paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that 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. For gas ovens, you can leave the oven on for about 8 minutes longer. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed.

Read Matthew 27:65-66.

All help clean up. NOW it is time to 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 and 22.

On 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 Matt. 28:1-9