

The Love Mirror



Best Use As a Valentine's Day celebration activity

Ingredients Needed


- * A snack or dessert that can be fed to someone else with a fork or spoon, such as ice cream, pie, cake, etc.
- * Kraft paper, markers, and scissors
- * A Bible

Nutritional Value Demonstrates how real love is unselfish

Serve It Up Follow these steps for a great experience:

1. First, invite the child to sit about three feet directly across from another family member, so the two are facing each other in a mirror-image manner.
2. Appoint one of them the looking-in-the-mirror role—meaning he will decide what movements to make—such as scratching his head, sticking a finger in his ear, making a silly face, etc.
3. Appoint the other the mirror-on-the-wall role—instructing her to act like a mirror by mimicking every move of the other. (You may want to demonstrate first—but make it fun as you do.)
4. Keep track of how often the “mirror” successfully reflects the actions of her partner—then switch roles. This will show both how challenging it can be to remain focused on the actions and expectations of others.





5. Read 1 Corinthians 13 together describing the characteristics of true love. Discuss how remaining sensitive to and responding well to the needs and expectations of others is one way we mirror the love of Christ to others.

6. Now serve dessert, but make a rule that no one can eat their dessert by themselves. They must feed one another in an unselfish fashion. Whoever becomes selfish by feeding himself loses his dessert. (You may want to emphasize this point by having Dad or Mom cheat and get his/her dessert taken away!)

7. Finish up by having the children create a homemade Valentine's card for a grandparent, uncle, friend, or someone with whom they want to share their love.

8. Memorize the jingle "Unselfish love is from above."



Memory Pantry

Attach a picture and jot down what happened to remember later or to share a taste with others.

A large, rounded rectangular area with a yellow border and a light green background, containing horizontal dotted lines for writing. A decorative starburst graphic is positioned in the center of this area.



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The Empty Egg



Best Use

As an Easter morning activity

Ingredients Needed

- * A set of Resurrection Eggs®, available from your Christian bookstore or FamilyLife (www.FamilyLife.com or 1-800-FL-TODAY)
- * If you are unable to get a pre-assembled set, you can create your own by purchasing a dozen plastic eggs, marking them 1–12, and inserting a slip of paper with a Bible verse reference listed along with the following items:
 - * Egg #1: Luke 22:1—A tiny toy lamb or lamb picture
 - * Egg #2: Mark 14:12-26—A small piece of bread
 - * Egg #3: Luke 22:47-54—Small “silver” coins such as dimes or nickels
 - * Egg #4: Luke 22:55-62—A tiny toy rooster or rooster picture
 - * Egg #5: Matthew 27:1-10—A tiny piece of purple cloth
 - * Egg #6: Matthew 27:11-31—Thorns from a rose bush or other plant
 - * Egg #7: Luke 23:26-34—A tiny cross made of matchsticks, twigs, etc.
 - * Egg #8: Luke 23:35-43—A tiny piece of sponge
 - * Egg #9: Luke 23:44-53—A nail
 - * Egg #10: Matthew 27:59-61—A small stone
 - * Egg #11: Luke 23:54-24:1—Some spices
 - * Egg #12: Nothing
- * A Bible




Nutritional Value

Tells the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection

Serve It Up

Follow these steps for a great experience:

1. Before you begin any other Easter morning celebration activities, hide the 12 plastic eggs and invite the kids to search for them.

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2. Once each egg has been found, assemble to open them in order, and experience the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.
 3. Each of Resurrection Eggs comes with a handy booklet to guide you through telling the Resurrection story. But depending upon the age of your children, you might want to just show the object and summarize what happened. If they are old enough, invite them to tell you what happened to Jesus based upon the symbol of each item. If older still, take time to have them take turns reading aloud each booklet entry and Scripture passage associated with the items.
 4. When you come to the final egg that is empty (expressing the reality of His empty tomb), have everyone celebrate together by shouting "He is risen!" and giving one another high fives, dancing in a circle or whatever you want to express the joy and excitement of this event! Then, teach them to respond throughout the day with "He is risen indeed!" each time you say "He is risen!"
 5. If you have planned other festivities (a big dinner, a candy egg hunt, Easter baskets, etc.), connect it to the final egg by explaining we celebrate this day because of Jesus' victory over death!
 6. Throughout the day, re-ignite the high-five celebration by shouting "He is risen!" so the kids can respond "He is risen indeed!"



Memory Pantry

Attach a picture and jot down what happened to remember later or to share a taste with others.



A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing, with a decorative starburst graphic in the background.

Pumpkin Parable



Best Use As an activity tied to the Halloween season

Ingredients Needed

- * A large pumpkin and carving utensils
- * A candle (votive or tea-light size) and matches
- * A Bible

Nutritional Value Uses a holiday that emphasizes dark themes to shine the light of Christ

Serve It Up Follow these steps for a great experience:

1. Conduct a typical pumpkin carving activity, but use each step as part of the overall pumpkin parable by adding Bible reading and questions.
2. First, have the children help with the clean out portion of the carving—reaching their hand into the open pumpkin to pull out seeds and other “gunk” that will feel yucky to their hands.
3. Pause to read Matthew 23:25-28 and ask the children how the inside gunk is like our sin (yucky, smelly, etc.).
4. Once you have cleaned out the pumpkin, read Revelation 3:20 together and explain that confessing our sins enables God to take away the “yuck” of our sinful hearts.





5. Now draw and carve a happy face (not a scary face) on the pumpkin. Then read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and/or Ephesians 2:10 and explain that Jesus wants to make us into a “new creation”—just as the pumpkin filled with yucky stuff became a jack-o-lantern with a joy-filled face.
6. Now read Matthew 5:14-16 while lighting and inserting a candle into the jack-o-lantern and turn down the lights to show how God wants to use us to shine His light, even on what is normally a dark and scary night.
7. Memorize the jingle “On a dark and scary night, we will shine Jesus’ light!”



Memory Pantry

Attach a picture and jot down what happened to remember later or to share a taste with others.

A large, rounded rectangular area with a yellow border and a light yellow background. It contains horizontal dotted lines for writing. A decorative starburst graphic is positioned in the center of the writing area.



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Gratitude Attitude



Best Use As a Thanksgiving family night activity

Ingredients Needed

- * A glass of water
- * Paper and crayons or markers
- * Index cards
- * A Bible

Nutritional Value Helps develop an attitude of gratitude

Serve It Up Follow these steps for a great experience:



1. Fill a glass of water halfway and place it on the table in front of the children.
2. Give each child an index card with the phrase “The glass is half _____” written on it and ask them to complete the phrase.
3. Once they’ve completed the phrase, go around and find out who wrote “full” and who wrote “empty” in the blank.
4. Now give each child a piece of drawing paper and crayons. Ask them to draw a large glass half full of water. Ask them to spell the name or draw pictures of good things they already have (toys, books, family, food, clothes, etc.) in the portion of the glass WITH water.
5. In the space WITHOUT water have them write or draw things they would like to have such as more money, a new toy, a vacation to Disneyland, a special kind of cereal, or whatever they can think of.
6. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-9 and Philippians 4:11-12 and discuss why it is important that we learn to be content no matter what we do or don’t have. Then read Ephesians 5:20 and explain that the

Born to Die



Best Use As a Christmas season family night activity

Ingredients Needed

- * A large piece of cardboard, poster board or two pieces of wood suitable for nailing together in the shape of a cross
- * Scissors
- * A hammer and small nails
- * Index cards or drawing paper
- * Crayons or markers
- * Tape or thumb tacks
- * A Bible



Nutritional Value Demonstrates how Christmas is the beginning of a much bigger story because Jesus was born to die for us

Serve It Up Follow these steps for a great experience:

1. Just before decorating your Christmas tree or wreath, ask the children what they've heard about why Jesus was born.
2. If one of them doesn't mention it, remind them that God became a man so that He could die for our sins.
3. Help your children connect the word *sin* to their own wrong behavior by reading Romans 3:23 and inviting the children to write words or draw pictures on several index cards that represent some of the things they do wrong—such as lying, throwing a temper tantrum, disobeying Mom or Dad, hitting a sibling, etc.



4. Now work together to create a large cross out of whichever materials you choose—cardboard, wood, etc.
5. Next, read Romans 5:8 and share that because God loves us—He doesn't want to punish us for our sins. So God became a man in order to take the punishment on our behalf.
6. Now have the children tape or pin each of their "sins" onto the cross—thanking God each time for dying on a cross to pay for their sins.
7. Memorize together "In the cross I see God's love for me."



Memory Pantry

Attach a picture and jot down what happened to remember later or to share a taste with others.

Handwriting practice area with 18 horizontal dotted lines for writing.



Tell Me Your Story



Best Use

When grandparents, adult relatives, or friends visit the house

Ingredients Needed

- * A piece of poster board for each adult
- * Crayons or markers
- * A Bible



Nutritional Value

Helps children get to know the life and faith story of extended family and friends

Serve It Up

Follow these steps for a great experience:

1. When you have grandparents, aunts and uncles, or adult friends of the family visiting you, have the children ask if they can create a storyboard for each by asking them four questions.
2. Have the children draw lines that will divide their poster board into four equal sections.
3. Invite each child to use crayons or markers to draw a picture in each of the four sections that represents what they hear their relative or friend say in response to each tell-me-your-story question.
 - * Question 1: Describe where you grew up—the house, where you played, attended school, went to church, and how you spent your time as a child.
 - * Question 2: Tell me about your parents, grandparents, and others that had an influence on your life.



Question 3: Tell me about when you fell in love with Grandma/Grandpa, Aunt/Uncle (if applicable), or tell me what my parents were like when you first met them.

Question 4: Tell me about when you first knew about God and when you decided to become a follower of Jesus. (For those who might not have a personal faith, replace with a more general question such as “Tell me what you believe about God and why.”)

4. Read Joshua 4:5-7 together and then ask the adult(s) to sign their poster as an *official* memorial stone of the story God tells through his or her life for the child to keep.



Memory Pantry

Attach a picture and jot down what happened to remember later or to share a taste with others.

Handwriting practice area with 15 horizontal dotted lines. A decorative starburst graphic is centered in the middle of the lines.



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