

For the Joy to Come

Best Use

As a family night activity

Ingredients Needed

- Timer or watch with a second hand
- 30-40 marbles
- One roll of dimes or quarters
- One bucket of very cold, icy water

Nutritional Value

Teaches why Jesus endured the cross

Serve it Up

Follow these steps for a great experience:

1. Place the bucket filled with icy water on a large towel and invite the children to drop the marbles into the water.
2. Pull out a roll of coins and tell the kids that you will give them one coin for each marble they are able to pull out of the bucket in two minutes—but they must pull them out with their toes!

3. Roll up the pant leg of each willing child, set the timer, and give each a turn. (Note: You'll want the camera ready to snap a photo of this!)
4. Count each child's marble supply and pay him or her the promised money.
5. As their feet thaw out, remind the children that no one had to do the activity. They volunteered to participate and caused themselves pain as a result. Ask why they would do such a thing.
6. They will answer that they wanted the money. Paraphrase their experience: "So, you endured the pain in order to get something good when it was over. Is that right?"
7. Read Hebrews 12:2-3 and discuss how Jesus endured the pain of the cross "for the joy set before him." Ask if anyone knows what that "joy" was. (Answer: He paid the price for our sin for the joy of bringing us to heaven with Him.)
8. Depending upon the age of your children, you might also want to read Matthew 5:11-12 and discuss how we might also need to endure persecution, but that a joy will follow when we remain faithful.