



Me and Mommy in the kitchen



Make a yummy treat while teaching them about Jesus

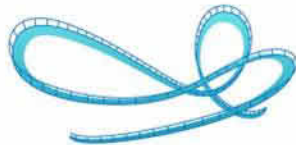
Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish: Use sugar ice cream cones as the nets and fish crackers or gummy fish as the fish. You can also use blue Jell-O in a clear cup and put gummy fish inside like fish swimming in the ocean. Then read them the story about "Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish" from John 21:1-14 where Jesus asks his disciples to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. I did this with my kids the other day. I told them they could start eating as soon as I started reading, but they should listen good because I was going to ask a few questions at the end. I wanted to make sure they were listening and that they understood what Jesus did in the story. My kids were excited from the moment I told them about their snack till the very end. Brad asked if we can do another story and treat like this later today? It only took about 10 minutes from the time I started to pour the fish crackers into their nets to the time I asked the last question. **So it was quick and easy and I taught them something about Jesus.**

Rice Krispie Earth balls: Follow directions on the Rice Krispie Cereal box. Then before pouring them into a pan, pull out a small amount (about 1/8 of mixture) and quickly stir in some green dye into the small portion. Quickly stir blue dye into the rest. With buttered hands shape the blue Rice Krispies into balls and add patches of green to them to make them look like the earth. It's ok if it's not perfect, the kids won't care. They only care if it tastes good. While they eat there mini "earth", you can read them the story from Genesis 1 where God created the heavens and the earth.

Kids say the cutest things

Pam's son Mark was at his Grandma's house and told her that "Papa needs to go to the nut farm". My mom said "What?" (She's thinking what have my children told Mark?) and Mark said "He needs to go to the nut farm, for my birthday." My mom realized what he meant. Knott's Berry Farm- he thought we were going to take him to a Nut farm!

Staying on track



- Pick up a "Daily Bread" booklet from the church foyer or read it online at www.rbc.org. Then click on devotionals and Daily Bread. The devotions they have are short and easy to read. You can even keep one in your purse for the times when you have to sit and wait like at the Drs office, school, or picking up a prescription.

Help your kids stay on track too!

*There are several different devotional books for young readers. I bought my 8 year old son a devotional book entitled "God's Little Devotional Book for boys" by Honor Books. They also have devotionals for girls and teens.

*Read your kids Bible stories. Encourage them to spend time looking through stories on their own. Even if they can't read they can still enjoy using their imagination and if you have already read them the story before, they may remember some of what is happening in the story. This "quiet reading time" will pay off when you are in the doctors' office waiting to be seen. Instead of running wild, your kids will have the skill of sitting still while looking quietly through a book.

Family Time

Take a walk or bike ride to Rite Aid for ice cream or go on a nature walk with a list of things to check off. (a red car, big rock, a yellow flower, a flag, etc.). I made this simple game up when my first son was only 4 and he loved it. Now he likes to be the one to make the list. Use pictures whenever possible.

Rinse your dishes and wipe your counters before the mess on them dries. Any mess is easier to clean up while it is still wet, saving you time and energy.

CLEANING TIP

