Weekly Faith Formation Update
March 15-19, 2021

Holy Week and Easter Packets for the Home | Milestone Ministries

During Lent, the Rituals and Traditions section of Taking Faith Home suggests setting aside a location in your home for devotions and placing a focus on the Daily Bible Readings. We have learned during the pandemic that preparing packets filled with devotional resources for the home during the different seasons of the church year have been well received.

For Holy Week, packets can be given out, picked up, or delivered on Palm Sunday or a few days before. Suggestions for the contents:

- **Taking Faith Home** printed copies for Holy Week, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday
- **Palm Cross** for Palm Sunday
- **Bookmark/Pin** symbolizing communion for Maundy Thursday
- **Purple egg** that has a crown of thorns inside for Good Friday
- **Shell** to symbolize baptism for Easter Vigil
- **White cloth** and **white candle** for Easter Sunday
- **Easter Egg Blessing Milestone Moment**
- **Extras:** **Sticker Sheet** for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday—these could be placed in each packet with the suggestion to give to a child, grandchild, or child of a friend or neighbor.

Invite the congregation to post pictures of their devotional setting in the home so that others are encouraged to do the same. In what ways have you experienced your congregation engaging in devotions and faith talk in the home during Lent, Holy Week?

**Easter Cookies | Six Seasons of Fun**

**Materials needed:** two sets of the following— one cup whole pecans, 3 egg whites, 1 cup sugar, 1 teas vinegar, pinch salt, mixer, wooden spoon, tape cookie sheet, waxed paper

**Instructions:**

This should be done on Saturday afternoon before Easter or another time when you can prepare the cookies in the afternoon or evening and come back together the next day. Plan to make two batches of cookies with one batch prepared through the beating of the egg whites to stiff peaks before children participate. When telling the story, begin the second batch and proceed as directed through the adding of the egg whites. Switch to the batch that you prepared earlier, so that those children do not have to wait for 12-15 minutes while you beat egg whites.

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Break pecans into small pieces.

Read John 19:16-18 | Let each child smell the vinegar. Put one teaspoon vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirst on the cross, he was offered vinegar to drink.

Read John 19:28-30 | Add egg whites to the vinegar. Tell the learners that eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave his life to give us life.
Read John 10_10-11 | Sprinkle a little salt into each learner’s hand. Let learners taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that salt represents the salty tears shed by Jesus followers when Jesus died.

Read Luke 23:27 | Add sugar to the mixture. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because he loves us. He wants us to know that we belong to him.

Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16 | Beat the mixture with a mixer on high speed for 12-15 minutes or until stiff peaks form.

Read John 3:1-3 | Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoon onto a cookie sheet covered with waxed paper or parchment paper. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus body was laid.

Read Matthew 27:57-60 | Put the cookies in the oven, close the door, and turn the oven off. Give each child a piece of tape to seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus tomb was sealed.

Read Matthew 27:65-66 | 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 gather again to open the oven and pass out the cookies. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow. On the first resurrection day, Jesus followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty.

Read Matthew 28:1-9 as an ending to the activity!