



## Tasting God's Goodness



Start by asking your family:

- How many of you like to eat dessert?
- What goes into a dessert?
- Would you ever consider eating the ingredients of a dessert separately? A spoon of flour? A raw egg? A little oil? [Allow them to taste a little flour, oil, sugar, or cocoa. Of course...not the raw egg!]
- How did each taste?

Life can be a lot like a dessert. Separately there are some bitter times, some raw, hurtful times, and some dry, bland times. Help them think of some "not-so-good" or tough times they have experienced or others may have experienced. Depending on the ages, it may be anything from a skinned knee to the loss of a loved one. Share something as well, your life is a wonderful living example for your children!

Then connect their hard times to Jesus' by reading the following passages:

- Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus spent 40 days in the desert by himself without food or water and then was tempted by the devil.
- Mark 14:50 Jesus was abandoned by his closest friends when he needed them the most.
- Matthew 27:27-31 Jesus was mocked and made fun of in front of crowds of people.
- Jesus was killed because of what he believed and taught.
- Over his lifetime, Jesus walked over 20,000 miles—that's a lot of walking!

But there are also the good times (like the sugar)! Take a few minutes and have them think of some "good times" - birthday celebrations, new baby brother or sister, a vacation, a good meal, etc. What were some of the good times for Jesus?

- He had a close group of friends who traveled with him all over.
- Even though they abandoned Jesus at the end of his life, the disciples mourned his death and returned to Jesus after the crucifixion.
- John 19:25-27 says that Jesus' mother, who loved him deeply was even at the cross when he died.
- Jesus had the joy of seeing all the people he helped and healed.
- Jesus had thousands of followers when he was teaching (remember the loaves and fishes story).

Some of the dessert ingredients by themselves didn't taste very good, but when everything is mixed together we have a delicious dessert to eat! This is like how God is able to blend the good and the bad experiences in our lives together for our good—and how the death of Jesus (a very sad, lonely point in his life) turned into the best part of the story of Jesus, the resurrection! All of the experiences, good and bad, can be used by God to bring about wonderful possibilities—just like how Jesus' death on the cross gives us life through the resurrection!

All this talking about dessert makes me want to eat it...so now's the time to make your dessert together!

Discuss how even though the ingredients do not taste good alone, they are all necessary for the dessert to taste good in the end. Just like how the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is necessary for us to have eternal life with God!