

Muddy Cistern Snack

Note: The pudding and cookie mixture from the Introduction section of the lesson may be used for this activity.

Materials

- ☐ Chocolate sandwich cookies, one or two per student
- ☐ Chocolate pudding, ready-made cups, or mixture from the lesson Introduction
- ☐ Licorice string, gummy worms, or other long, colorful candy, one per student
- ☐ Candy/cracker bears or people, two per student
- ☐ Clear plastic cups, one per student
- ☐ Small plastic bags, one per student
- ☐ Spoons
- ☐ Optional: Drinks

Instructions

Before class, place candy/crackers in bowls, put 1–2 cookies in a plastic bag for each student. Make a large batch of instant chocolate pudding or buy pudding cups or use the pudding/cookie mixture from the lesson Introduction.

During class, place pudding and candy bowls at each table and pass out a plastic cup and small plastic bag with cookies to each student. Direct students to crush cookies to crumbs in the bag. Have them dump the crumbs into the bottom of their “cistern” cup. Add chocolate pudding on top as the mud. (If using ready-made pudding cups, have students stir their cookie crumbs into the pudding.)

Push one candy or cracker “person” as Jeremiah partway into the pudding. Use another candy or cracker as Ebed-melech outside of the cup. Give each student a licorice string or gummy worm to hang over the edge of the cup as the “rope.”

Suggested Discussion

Jeremiah told the people that the Babylonians would defeat Jerusalem. The people were so angry with Jeremiah’s message that they threw him into a cistern and left him there to die. Jeremiah sank down in the mud at the bottom of the cistern. He must have felt miserable and alone.

But God used a servant of the king named Ebed-melech to rescue Jeremiah. Ebed-melech and 30 men used old rags and clothes and ropes tied together and threw them down to Jeremiah. Jeremiah tied them around his chest, and the men pulled him out. He must have been quite stuck if it took that many men to rescue him!

Even when things looked terrible, God was with Jeremiah the whole time. God won’t leave us during bad times either. Those are the times we need to trust God the most!