

DAY 1

Kingdom Cookies

Ingredients (for 3 dozen small cookies)

- 1 c. butter, softened
- 1½ c. sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 t. vanilla extract
- 2 c. flour
- ⅓ c. baking cocoa
- ¾ t. baking soda
- ½ t. salt
- Vanilla icing, 1 T. per half cookie

Jester's Juice Ingredients

- Apple juice or apple cider (popular drinks of the times), 1 quart for every 5 children

Basic Supplies

- Large and medium mixing bowl and mixer
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Plastic wrap
- 2 baking sheets
- Spatula
- Knife to spread icing
- Small plates, napkins, and cups for serving, 1 of each per child
- Drink pitchers or coolers

Prep

1. Cream the butter and sugar, then add eggs one at a time. Beat in vanilla. Combine the next four ingredients and gradually add to the creamed mixture. Cover and chill for one hour or more. Roll into 1-inch balls and place on an ungreased baking sheet 3 inches apart. Bake at 350°F for 12–15 minutes or until the edges are firm. Cool before icing.
2. Use store-bought icing or search the internet for “vanilla icing recipe” to make your own. Ice half of each cookie.

Teaching Tie-In

Thank God for the snack. As everyone munches, say:

Look at your kingdom cookie. Do you remember how many kingdoms there are? **Two**. Which side represents God's kingdom? **Light**. Which side represents the enemy's? **Dark**. The two kingdoms are opposites of each other. God is for us, the enemy is ____ (against us); God is truth, the enemy is ____ (a liar—John 8:44). God is loving, the enemy is ____ (hateful).

When we become citizens of God's good kingdom, we show we love God by wanting to obey his Word and please him. Those who are citizens of the enemy's kingdom don't have that love for God and desire to obey him. Do you know which kingdom you're part of?



After eating or while continuing to eat, share the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts below.

Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- If you lived in medieval times, which would you rather be: a knight, a court jester, a member of royalty, or a traveling storyteller/singer?
- Can you think of a time you made a kind choice that would reflect God’s good kingdom?
- God’s kingdom is based on truth. Who is someone you know who is an honest person—a person who tells the truth?

Tip Corner

- This recipe makes approximately 36 small cookies. Adjust the recipe to make the amount you need.
- To make your first day run more smoothly, pass out the cookie recipe ahead of time and have people

bring the cookies in (either iced or uniced) the day before VBS.

- Lay a 3x5 index card across half the cookie before icing it to make a straight line. Or melt white chocolate and dip half the cookie in the melted chocolate, then let it dry on parchment paper.
- Another option is to give them one small vanilla cookie and one small chocolate cookie.
- Drink boxes or water bottles can be used any day this week if you prefer drinks that do not require cups and preparation.
- Fun thematic napkins for this day can be half white, half dark.

Super Simple Option

Duplex Sandwich Cookies—Buy cream-filled sandwich cookies that have one side chocolate and one side vanilla. These can be found at most grocery stores or online.

Day 1 Overview		
The Two Kingdoms		
Lesson Focus		Bible Passage
We are in a battle between two kingdoms.		Creator King and Prince of Darkness John 18:37–38; Ephesians 6:10–14
Memory Verse	Animal Pal	Cool Contest
Ephesians 6:10–11	Winifred the Warhorse	Guess the Cannonballs
Science and Crafts	Treats	Games
Experiments: What’s Up? / Light and Dark Crafts: Castle Catapult / Kingdom Crown / Juggling Balls	Kingdom Cookies Be Strong Barbells	Capture the Flag Jumping Jesters