



ZOE empowers

BLESSING BAKERY MISSION PROJECT

A new resource to connect children in your church with ZOE orphans. Great for VBS!



Mixing batter for cookies at Soapstone UMC in North Carolina.



Making fried donuts at the Blessing Bakery in Kenya.



BLESSING BAKERY

MISSION PROJECT

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Welcome!

The Blessing Bakery Mission Project is inspired by four boys from a Zoe Empowers program in Kenya who started a bakery to support their families. This resource weaves together powerful vision verses from Cokesbury's Workshop of Wonders Vacation Bible School, stories of children in Zoe programs in Africa, and tangible outreach opportunities that will help children know that God can work wonders in and through their lives and the lives of children in Zoe programs as well. We hope this resource will inspire you and your children to sponsor your very own Blessing Bakery so you can help empower children in Zoe programs to live into the future God desires for them. You can choose to do all the baking at church, ask families to bake together at home and bring in goodies for a bake sale, or a combination of both.

How It Can Work

Fun and hands-on, the Blessing Bakery Mission Project is designed to be used as part of Vacation Bible School, a Sunday school project, or other special programs that could use a great mission focus. All recipes freeze well if you choose to prepare treats at different times and host the bake sale at a later time.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Many VBS programs incorporate a mission or outreach opportunity into their schedule. The Blessing Bakery Mission Project can be used as an alternative focus or be added into the overall mix of activities. For example:

- You may choose to extend VBS by 30 minutes to add your own Blessing Bakery time each day.
- You may decide to take a daily activity out of your schedule and offer a Blessing Bakery time instead.
- You may do one less day of crafts, recreation, music, etc. in order to add a Blessing Bakery time each day.
- You may offer a Blessing Bakery option for each age group once during the week for a total of five times (Day 1: preschoolers, Day 2: kindergarteners, Day 3: first and second graders, Day 4: third and fourth graders, Day 5: fifth graders)
- Blessing Bakery incorporates the Vision Verses from the 2014 *Workshop of Wonders VBS* making it easy to offer as one of the weekly workshop areas.

Sunday School: Incorporate Blessing Bakery into your summer Sunday School plans. Bake each week and freeze goodies until you host your bake sale.

One-Time Church Project: Bring children together for a Saturday afternoon of fun and offer the Bake Sale on the following Sunday at church. Or offer the Bake Sale off site within the community.

Giant Family Church Bake Sale: Set a Blessing Bakery Bake Sale date. Give the Take Home Sheets to families so they may do the devotions and baking together at home, then bring in goodies for a giant bake sale at your church or in your community.

Use your imagination and allow God to work wonders in the lives of children as you do what works best for your church or organization.

What You Will Need

- Zoe Offering Coin Boxes for each participant (please order two weeks ahead of time at www.zoempowers.org > Resources > Blessing Bakery) or provide an offering envelope for each child to decorate and take home on Day One.
- Copy of Story and Activity Guide pages for each child. Make photocopies from this resource, or download PDFs online to print at www.zoempowers.org.
- Copy of this booklet for all Bakery Leaders —Download and print from www.zoehelps.org > Resources > Blessing Bakery, or order from Zoe Empowers online at least two weeks ahead of time.
- Daily materials for bakery and leader sheets (see each Session Day)
- Optional: baker's hat, plastic aprons, and disposable gloves for children to wear in the bakery.

Onsite Details

Blessing Bakery Leader

Select someone to dress up like a baker (a chef's hat and apron works great) to greet the children and lead them through the activities found on the Story and Activity Guides.

Bakery Operation

Safety First! Baking is a delight for children and we hope everyone's experience in Blessing Bakery is enjoyable and safe! Ensure that all children are safely supervised and that parents feel secure about this unique opportunity.

Communicate to parents how the bakery will work. It is important to remember that by baking, we mean mixing and assembly of items for the day. Children will not handle the oven, stove or sharp items of any kind.

Plan the space for your bakery according to age of children. For younger children, it may be best to bring the bakery to them via rolling cart, then take goodies back to the kitchen for baking. Or use a room close to the kitchen for baking assembly. Do whatever is safest in your facility, using appropriate volunteer support.

Only allow adults to handle oven. Hot items and sharp items should not be necessary during the baking assembly performed by the children.

What About Allergies?

Check registration sheets for children with allergies to see if they need to be given an alternative job during Blessing Bakery time. *See *Overall Planning* for ideas.

Clean Hands—A Must!

While we know good old fashioned soap and water is best, consider using antibacterial wipes or hand sanitizer in the Blessing Bakery. If you prefer soap and water, please add in the extra time to the day/session, or use disposable gloves each day.

Overall Planning

Each day, the children will rotate in groups through the bakery for a short period of time. Your leadership team will determine the number of rotations you will have each day, the number of children in each rotation, and the length of time each rotating group will have at Blessing Bakery.

Canvas your congregation for help in the bakery. You'll be delighted at the outcome. Some may even come bearing recipes! Try to enlist some volunteers who have prior experience in the joy of cooking with children and perhaps, some of the challenges.

Select recipes from our offerings, some of your own, or simply buy tubs of cookie dough. Be sure to choose recipes that freeze well.

Assemble appropriate pans, bowls, and utensils according to your daily recipe requirements.

Purchase or solicit donations of ingredients. Local grocers may be willing to donate ingredients needed considering the mission focus. Perhaps each child could bring one item needed for baking – a bag of flour or sugar, a small bottle of vanilla, a pound of shortening, etc.

*Provide a table with supplies to make baked goods gift cards or handwritten encouraging scripture verses to accompany each bakery gift or purchase. This can be utilized by children with special needs, allergies, and those who finish ahead of schedule.

Need some scripture possibilities? Use the daily verses or consider: Philippians 4:19, Psalm 46:1, Psalm 55:22

Daily Plans

Provide the recipe(s) for each day and ensure all ingredients, baking supplies, and necessary utensils are in the kitchen. Let all of your volunteers know the baking goal for the day and assign responsibilities.

As children arrive, the Blessing Bakery Leader will:

- greet children in a holding area or hallway outside the bakery area
- share the daily verse, Zoe story, and prayer (see Daily Leader/Take Home Sheets)
- lead children to baking activities.

For large groups, consider sending some children into baking area while Blessing Bakery Leader shares devotion and then switch at appropriate time.

After the devotion, if you have large groups, you may want to divide them into smaller functional groups. This requires a few more volunteers, but it will ensure that all of the hands are participating fully. Some of the functional groups or perhaps an entire rotation could work outside of the kitchen if space or safety is an issue. Of course, the functional split will depend on your selection of recipes, but one possibility could be:

- Dough preparers (measure and mix)
- Bakers (cut or shape and hand off to bake)
- Decorators (decorate cooled pastries/cookies)
- Wrappers (separate into units for sale, wrap, label)

Rotating children into and out of the various functioning groups throughout the week will allow everyone the opportunity to do it all. If you have a small group of children, you may want to do a function for one whole rotation. For example, the first rotating group each day would be the dough preparers, the second would be the bakers (cut and shape), etc.

SESSION ONE

Story and Activity Guide

“You are the God who works wonders,” Psalm 77:14a, (CEB)

For Parents and Leaders

Across Africa, children are caring for children because one or both parents have died of HIV/AIDS, disease, war, famine, and other causes. They face lives of loneliness, hardship and hunger. Many of them end up begging for food, living on the streets, or worse.

Zoe Empowers partners with communities where orphaned and vulnerable children live. Together they bring children into supportive groups and connect them to local churches, resources, and training that empower them to break their cycle of poverty in *just three years*.

Through the Blessing Bakery Mission Project your children will:

- learn how Zoe children see that God is working wonders in their lives
- experience those wonders through inspiring Zoe children stories
- share in God’s wonders through their own prayers and offerings

With Children: *Have You Ever Wondered?*

Say: “The word wonder can mean lots of things. It can be a happy surprise, as in ‘Wow, I can’t believe that great thing happened!’”

Ask the children: “What is a great surprise that you can think of?”

After they answer, continue: “Or it can be a question you ask when something sad happens, like, ‘Hmmm, I wonder why that happened?’”

Ask the children: “What is something sad that you can think of?”

After they answer, continue: “Our Bible verse for today is “You are the God who works wonders,” Psalm 77:14a. It is describing a time when God’s people were in trouble and how they believed that in their time of trouble, God came and helped them through. God worked a wonder in their lives. This week we are going to learn about children in Africa who believe that in their time of trouble God is coming to their rescue through an organization called Zoe Empowers and through people like you and me. You see, many children in Africa and other parts of the world have lost their parents because they were sick and unable to get the medicine and help that they needed.”

“Zoe Empowers works with communities where children who are experiencing sadness and trouble like this live. Together they help the children by connecting them to the people and things they need to learn how to take care of themselves, how to have a job or get an education, how to grow food and raise animals, how to get a home if they need one, and best of all how much God loves them. Here is a story that will help us understand.”

The Blessing Bakery Story

The Blessing Bakery in Kenya was started by a boy named Davis and a few of his friends. When he was young, Zoe Empowers became part of Davis’ life and connected him to a new group of friends who could work together to help each other. They called themselves the Blessing Group. They all had hungry brothers and sisters and they needed to find a way to care for themselves and their families. This was a big job, especially for someone without any parents.

Zoe Empowers and people in their village taught them how to grow their own food and raise animals so they could feed their families. And like all families, they needed money to be able to buy all the things that families need to live. So Zoe Empowers taught them the skills they needed to start a business and make money so they could do just that.

As Davis and his friends thought about the kind of work they might do, someone had an idea.

If they could find an oven, they could bake bread. The older boys in the group could cook and the younger children in their Blessing Group could help sell it. If they could bake and sell enough bread, they could take care of their families. But ovens cost a lot of money. How would they ever get one? Can you guess? In a church! Guess what else they found in the church? (*God, Jesus, love, hope, friends, faith, and blessings are all good answers*).

So that is how the Blessing Bakery in Africa got started. Every morning the Blessing Group boys worked together to make and sell a treat that tastes like a doughnut. Davis always added in his secret ingredient, powdered sugar. Soon they made enough money to take care of their families. They also helped other members of their group make money by giving them a chance to sell the delicious bread.



Davis was very happy to have what he needed to take care of his family, but he did not keep this blessing to himself. Davis' best friend Sqberio (Sque-BEH-rio) also had no parents, but he was not yet in a Zoe program and had no way to care for his family.

So Davis decided to share his work with Sqberio. Davis brought him into the Blessing Bakery business and was able to pay Sqberio by giving up half the money he made. Davis trained him to be the second baker. Today Davis and Sqberio make the same amount of money and are doing very well.

When Zoe Empowers asked Davis why he gave Sqberio half the money he made Davis said, "because I love him." Sqberio says that Davis not only gave him money, Davis helped him open a bank account and save money too. Every Friday, the two best friends would walk down to the bank and deposit their extra money, and on the way there and on the way back, Davis would teach Sqberio about the love of God with his words and his very own life and actions.

Think About It

- If you could be a baker like Davis, what would you like to cook and sell? How would you share what you make to help someone else?
- How did Davis share and help his friend Sqberio?
- How are you and your church and your family sharing your blessings with children in a Zoe program? (Daily offering and giving the money made at the Blessing Bakery to help children in a Zoe program.)

Share Like Davis

Davis gave up some of his own money to help friends in need. Give 10 cents for every baked good in your house (bread, cookies, cake, doughnuts, etc.)

Pray

Dear God, we thank You for all the people who love us and take care of us. Please use our money to help other children know that You love them and to have what they need to grow up happy and strong. As we share what we have, may they know how wonderful You are. Amen.

SESSION TWO

Story and Activity Guide

“We are the clay, and you are the potter. All of us are the work of your hand.” (Isaiah 64:8b, CEB)

For Parents and Leaders

Zoe Empowers helps children be prepared for the future by equipping them with skills to earn their own money. The aim of Zoe Empowers is to provide training and resources that will help children generate an income that is sufficient and sustainable enough to meet the needs of their family. They are often partnered with children and young adults who have graduated from a Zoe program so they can learn from them and be encouraged by someone who knows just what they are going through.

Zoe children choose a small business opportunity that they are excited about and Zoe Empowers insures that they are properly trained to manage it. Many children choose business ventures such as raising and selling animals, carpentry, tailoring, and styling hair. Zoe Empowers provides added vocational training as needs dictate.

With Children: *You are the Baker and We are the Dough*

You will need a picture of a large homemade pretzel. (Optional: pretzel dough or playdough, and a large board to roll out dough for pretzel.)

Hold up large homemade pretzel picture and ask, “Who can tell me what this is?”

After they answer, continue: “These are yummy pretzels that many people like to eat. They are made when a baker takes dough, rolls it out onto a hard surface, and then shapes it into a pretzel. Some people believe that bakers make the dough into this shape because a very long time ago, a man who was a helper of God found some leftover pieces of dough in the kitchen where he worked making bread. One day he saw the extra pieces of dough and thought to himself, *‘I can do something special with that.’* The man formed the dough into thin strips crossed into a looped twist to be like the folded arms of little children in prayer.”

Twist dough into shape or share picture again.

Say: “In those days that was how children folded their hands to pray.”

Ask children to fold their hands over their chests to make pretzel shape.

Say: “From that time on, some people gave the little pretzels to children to remind them and encourage them to pray and depend on God.”

Say: “Today our Bible verse is ‘We are the clay, and you are the potter.’ It reminds us that we depend on God to be like a potter or even a baker who shapes us into the people God wants us to be. Like a potter or baker shapes their clay and their dough into something good and useful, God shapes us into people who love and serve Jesus. Speaking of loving and serving, let’s hear our Zoe story about a girl named Hemma.”

Hemma’s Story

If you met Hemma today, you would find her smiling and thinking of the sewing shop being added onto her family’s home. Hemma is very good at making clothes. She has many customers that buy the beautiful outfits she sews. She is able to save money and take care of her family with the money she makes.

Things were not always this good for Hemma. She lost her parents when she was younger and for years had to work as a servant in the house of a family in her community so she could earn money to care for her own brothers and sisters. Though she worked very hard, the people she worked for did not pay her very well.

When Hemma joined Zoe Empowers, she and other members of her Working Group learned all about starting their own jobs and businesses so they could work and do much better earning money to support their families.

Hemma dreamed of sewing clothes, so Zoe Empowers matched her with a very talented sewer named Janet. Janet knew just how Hemma felt because Janet had been through a Zoe program too and was working in her very own sewing shop. Janet taught Hemma everything she learned through Zoe training and when she was finished, Zoe Empowers gave Hemma a sewing machine, money, and supplies to start her own business making clothes.



Now, Hemma's sewing shop will provide more than enough money for her family to eat well and have what they need to live happily together. Hemma is very thankful and believes that God came to her rescue through people she can depend on like Janet and Zoe Empowers and now even you and me.

Think About It

- If you could choose a job that would help people in your family who depend on you, what job would you choose?
- Who could Hemma depend on to help her?
- Fold your hands into a pretzel shape. Through prayer, how do we remember that we depend on God to shape us into the people God wants us to be?

Share Like Janet

Hemma knew that she could depend on Janet to be her friend and teach her how to make clothes so she could support her family. Give a nickel for every shirt in your closet.

Pray

Dear God, we thank You for all the people that we love and depend on to take care of us. Please use our money to help other children know that You love them and to have what they need to grow up happy and strong. As we share what we have, may they know how wonderful You are. Amen.

SESSION THREE

Story and Activity Guide

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ,” (2 Peter 3:18, CEB)

For Parents and Leaders

Zoe Empowers helps orphaned and vulnerable children in Africa be connected to the people and resources they need in their lives. When children enter a Zoe empowerment program, Zoe Empowers brings them together into a Working Group of 60-80 fellow orphaned and vulnerable children from their community. This group becomes a new family, able to support one another in many ways. Zoe Empowers connects children to local community leaders, as well as local faith communities. Reegan, who is a Zoe leader in Kenya, says, “We expose them to and share with them the wonderful works and love of God.”

With Children: *Waking Up to God’s Love*

You will need: packages of yeast, warm water, sugar, spoons, and a few large bowls. Have enough on hand for each time you do this with a group. Or you can have a loaf of bread on hand and simply explain the process to the children.

Important: Have a sample of yeast that has been active for a while to share after you prepare the experiment so children do not have to wait to see what happens.

Begin by holding up package of yeast and explaining that yeast is used a lot in bakeries, especially to make bread fluffy and good to eat. Tear open bag of yeast and ask, “Does this yeast powder look fluffy and awake to you?”

Say: “Maybe it just needs something to wake it up. Something like some warmth and some sugar to wake it up, so it can become what it needs to be and do what it needs to do.”

Say: “Check it out.” Pour one package of yeast into large bowl. Add ¼ cup of warm water and 1 teaspoon of sugar.

Say: “I am going to put this bowl aside to give the yeast time to wake up and get to work.” Put that bowl aside and pick up the bowl of active yeast.

Say: “Here is a bowl of yeast that is awake and doing what it does best. What do you see that it is doing? It is making bubbles that rise to wake up the bread so it will be fluffy and good to eat.”

Say: “Our Bible passage today is ‘Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.’ It reminds us that Jesus’ love is like the water and sugar that bubbles up inside of our lives to wake us up to be who God made us to be and help us live and love like Jesus. Listen to this story about a group of children in a Zoe Empowers program and let’s think about the way in which God’s love woke up in a big way in their lives.”

The Ruhashaya Working Group

In Rwanda, there are 127 young people in the Zoe Ruhashaya Working Group. Zoe Empowers put them into a group so they will know that they are not alone; there are people who know what they are going through; and they can work together like a family to help each other.

The Ruhashaya Group did great learning all the skills they needed to have jobs and take care of themselves. They also learned about the wonderful love of Jesus. After they began doing better in their lives, the group noticed there were still many children in their community who were struggling and needed help like they had needed. The love of God began bubbling up in their hearts as they thought about what they might do to help.

And guess what they did? The Ruhashaya Group decided to talk half of the money they made from their coffee business and bring 89 new children into their group. They gave the children trainings they needed and money they needed to start their own jobs. And they welcomed them into their coffee business as well. Best of all the Ruhashaya Group and the adopted children became friends and family to each other. Now the wonderful love of God is waking up inside their new friends as well.

Think About It

- If you could bring friends who need love and support where you live into your church family, who would invite?
- How would you help them and what could you teach each other?
- How is Jesus' love waking you up inside?

Share Like the Ruhashaya Group

Think of a chore you can do to earn money at home, then give half of it to help children in a Zoe program.

Pray

Dear God, we thank You for all the people that we love and depend on to take care of us. Please use our money to help other children know that You love them and to have what they need to grow up happy and strong. As we share what we have, may they know how wonderful You are. Amen.



SESSION FOUR

Story and Activity Guide

“My father is still working and I am working too.” (John 5:17, CEB)

For Parents and Leaders

Most orphans and vulnerable children entering the Zoe empowerment program face a daily struggle to survive. With their energy consumed by the need to find food for themselves and their siblings, there is neither time to think about the future nor reason to hope for something better. But through Zoe Empowers and the partnership of others, the children learn to imagine a new life and prepare to make it a reality.

During one of the early working group meetings, the Zoe social worker leads members through an exercise called the Dream process where they explore their current situation and then consider what they want and how to get it. They then create a poster of their responses to a set of questions the social worker provides.

The head of each family presents their Dream to the rest of the working group members who express support and give feedback. These Dream documents help the social worker better understand the conditions of the children's lives so they can address specific needs or traumas suffered. The family keeps a copy of their Dream, often displaying it in their home to provide daily motivation as they dream and strive to create their new life.

With Children: *Shiny and New*

You will need: Two glass Jars (one to prepare Step 2 twenty four hours in advance and the other one to use during Step 1), dirty copper coins, bottle of lemon juice, paper towels.

Important: For Step two place coins in jar filled with water and lemon juice, cover completely and let sit for 24 hours.

Step One: Bring out glass jar. Fill it ½ full with water and lemon juice. Place dirty copper coins in the juice and cover it completely, but be sure to keep a few out of the lemon water.

Ask the children: “What do you think will happen to the coins as they sit in the water for a long time?” (Wait for answers.)

Say, “Well I have a jar of copper coins that I put in lemon water yesterday, let's uncover it to see what happened.”

Bring out second jar, uncover it, take out coins and dry them off. Compare the coins that sat in lemon water overnight to a coin like the one you just placed inside the newer lemon water.

Ask, “What's the difference? How did the coins that sit in the lemon water a long time change?” (They look new and shiny, etc.)

Say: “Today's Bible verse is ‘My father is still working and I am working too.’ It is talking about a time when Jesus kept on working while others did not. Jesus wanted to let those around him know that God's dream is to make all things new again. He makes things new when we are hurting; when we make mistakes; when we are afraid; all the time, 24/7. Jesus heals us, forgives us, picks us up and dusts us off so we can always start again, shiny and new—all because of God's wonderful love. Our Zoe story will tell us more about what that looks like.”

Henry's Story

Henry has been taking care of his family since he was 10 years old. His father is still with them, but because he is sick most of the time, Henry is the leader of the family. His sister Harriet had to drop out of school, and they barely had enough to eat. For nine years, Henry's life was very sad and very hard. Zoe Empowers gave them a chance to dream of a better life.

Henry loves soccer and dreams of owning his own shop. He believes that through hard work, prayers, and faith in God it can happen.

So far, Henry and the members of his working group have learned how to grow their own food. Henry learned how to care for animals and was given a goat that will provide healthy milk and money when the goat has babies that can be sold. He even has rabbits. Henry has also learned all about the things he needs to do to stay healthy and help his family stay healthy too. Zoe Empowers helped Harriet go back to school and soon Henry will be able to afford to send her to school himself. Henry came up with plans for his business and the training he needs to get there.



When you think about where Henry started and where he is today, his dreams are coming true in a huge way. The wonderful thing is, this is God's dream too. God's love, through Zoe Empowers and people like you and like me, have helped wash away the sadness of his old life and bring new life to Henry and his family now and always.

Think About It

- What do your dreams look like?
- How are your dreams like Henry's and how are they different?

Share Like Henry

Henry works hard to help his sister. Give a quarter for every member of your family who loves you and helps you.

Pray

Dear God, we thank You for all the people that we love and depend on to take care of us. Please use our money to help other children know that You love them and to have what they need to grow up happy and strong. As we share what we have, may they know how wonderful You are. Amen.

SESSION FIVE

Story and Activity Guide

“How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news,” (Romans 10:15b, CEB)

For Parents and Leaders

Zoe Empowers helps children be healthy by teaching basic practices aimed at preventing sickness and disease. These include activities such as: boiling water before drinking it, keeping their homes and dishes clean, washing their hands before eating, and the proper use of mosquito nets to prevent Malaria. Children are also taught about diseases plaguing Africa such as HIV/AIDS and are encouraged to form anti-AIDS clubs to educate their communities. While Zoe Empowers is proud to help make positive progress in this regard, this resource does not include any information or references to HIV/AIDS.

With Children: *Learning About Germs*

You will need: paintbrush, baking soda, water, grape juice, and a piece of thick white paper.

Important: Practice beforehand. Consider having a sample of the revealed message ready to share in case it does not work as you create it with the kids.

Say, “One of the wonderful things that Zoe Empowers does is help children stay healthy by washing their hands and drying their dishes in the sun so it will kill germs that could make them sick. Germs are not something you can see but they are there. Consider this:”

While the kids watch, paint the words “Some germs can make you sick” with a paint brush dipped in one part baking soda and one part water.

When you are finished, dip your paint brush into the grape juice and wipe it over the invisible messages, the acid in the juice will react with the baking soda, allowing the message to become visible. Ask someone to read what it says or read it the children yourself.

Ask: “Why couldn’t you read the message I painted at first?” (It was invisible.)

Say: “That’s how it works with germs. We cannot see them. We have to learn how to get rid of them even though we cannot see them with our eyes alone. Just like your parents help you, Zoe Empowers works with children to teach them to keep themselves, their families, and their homes clean so that they will stay healthy and strong. Here is a story about a boy named Milton that will help us learn more.”

Milton’s Story

Milton lost his dad when he was very young, and then his mother died when he was 13 years old. He wondered all the time how he would carry on without them. Milton now lives with his 80-year-old grandfather, who loves him, but has little energy to take care of him. When Milton joined Zoe Empowers, his life began to change for the better.

Milton is in the sixth grade and has managed to stay in school. In the beginning, Zoe Empowers helped him get what he needed to do well in school. His working group has also helped him. They all received training in agriculture and planted a farm that they work together. Milton got some seeds and a hoe to plant a small vegetable garden in his yard. After he took training in caring for animals, he got some chickens from Zoe Empowers, and his grandfather helped him build a grand chicken house. Last year his crop of onions was so plentiful that he sold the extra and bought feed for the chickens. Now he has a steady supply of eggs and meat for his grandfather and himself and some to sell when he needs school supplies.

Because his grandfather is elderly and he had no one else to parent him, a Zoe class on good health habits was just what

he needed. He has cleaned up his home and he knows how to clean and keep their dishes germ-free by using a drying rack in the sun. When the Zoe social worker saw that he was practicing what he learned, he got mosquito nets and blankets for their home. He has even been able to buy a new school uniform with his chicken money! His schoolmates, now look up to him.

By participating in prayer and devotions in his working group, Milton has been working through his sadness of missing his parents. He attends church and prays more at home. He is very appreciative of his grandfather's care. His dream is to have successful businesses and to care for his grandfather—a big dream for a 13-year-old.

Think About It

Milton and so many children like him were very happy when Zoe Empowers walked into their lives. Our Bible verse today is “How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news.” It reminds us that we share and bring God's love to those around us, because God first loved us.

- How did Davis and the Blessing Bakery bring good news to people around them?
- How is your blessing bakery bringing good news of God's love and help to children in a Zoe program?

Pray

Dear God, we thank You for all the people that we love and depend on to take care of us. Please use our money to help other children know that You love them and to have what they need to grow up happy and strong. As we share what we have, may they know how wonderful You are. Amen.



RECIPES

Session One Recipe: Oatmeal Yumms

Makes approximately three dozen cookies.

Supplies: Large bowl, cookie sheets, large mixing spoon or mixer (for adult use), several teaspoons, spatulas for removing cookies from sheets, cooling rack.

Ingredients

1 cup butter, softened	1 tsp. vanilla extract	1½ tsp. ground cinnamon
1 cup granulated sugar	1½ cups all-purpose flour	3 cups quick cooking oats
1 cup packed brown sugar	1 tsp. baking soda	1 cup raisins (optional)
2 eggs	1 tsp. salt	

Directions

Preheat oven to 350°F for ½ hour before baking. Combine butter, sugars, eggs, and vanilla in a large bowl. Mix at medium speed until well blended. Combine oats, flour, salt, baking soda and cinnamon in a separate bowl, mix well. Add to shortening/sugar mixture until just blended. Fold in raisins, if desired. Drop rounded tablespoons of dough onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350°F for 8 to 10 minutes or until lightly browned. Bag thoroughly cooled cookies in freezer bags, a dozen cookies to a bag. Label each bag. Freeze cookies if not selling within three days. Lay bags flat in freezer to keep cookies from freezing together as much as possible.

Label Suggestion

Oatmeal Yumms (Fresh or fresh frozen), Handmade by Zoe Empowers VBS Blessing Bakery Children, Date : mm/dd/yy

Session Two Recipe: Praying Pretzels

Supplies

Small bowl, large bowl, baking sheet, mixing spoon, cooking spray or parchment paper, cutting board.

Ingredients

1 package yeast	4 cups all-purpose flour	1 tsp. honey (optional)
1 1/2 cups warm water	1 egg	Pretzel or kosher salt
1 tbsp. sugar	1 tbsp. salt	

Directions

Preheat oven to 425°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or spray it with cooking spray. Beat the egg in a small bowl and set aside. Mix the yeast, water, sugar, salt and honey together in a large bowl. Add the flour and stir until dough is formed. Sprinkle a small amount of flour on a cutting board. Place the pretzel dough on the floured surface and knead until the dough is smooth. Form the dough into long rolls and then shape into large pretzels. Place the pretzel shapes on the baking sheet. Brush the pretzels with the beaten egg and then sprinkle them with pretzel or kosher salt. Bake the pretzels in the oven for 15 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven and let pretzels cool. Wrap and freeze for later sale.

Pretzel Label Suggestion

Praying Pretzels (fresh frozen), Reheat in microwave for 1 min at 50% power, Or reheat at 375°F for 5 minutes to re-crisp from frozen. Handmade by Zoe Empowers VBS Blessing Bakery Children

Session Three Recipe: Unleavened Communion Bread

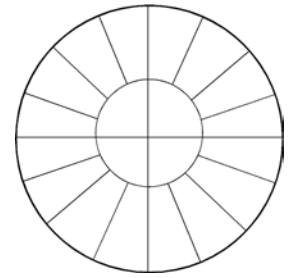
Supplies: Cookie sheets, 7" square pieces of waxed paper, parchment paper, large and small bowls, measuring cups and spoons, large mixing spoon, little rolling pins, plastic Easter eggs, plastic knives for scoring, cooling racks, enlarged host template, timer.

Ingredients (one batch for every 6 children)

2 cups flour	2 teaspoons baking powder	1/2 cup water
1/2 teaspoon salt	1/4 cup honey	1/4 cup vegetable oil

Creating the Dough: Mix flour, salt and baking powder thoroughly in a large bowl. Mix honey, water and vegetable oil thoroughly in a small bowl. Add the liquid ingredients to the dry ingredients and stir to a soft dough. Knead for two or three minutes. Divide dough into 6 pieces - one for each child. (*continue on reverse*)

Children's Instructions: Wash hands and put on plastic gloves. Volunteers give each child a piece of dough and two pieces of waxed paper. Each child rolls their dough into a ball with hands and then presses into a circle on paper. Covers with second paper. With a rolling pin (a small can may be used in place of rolling pin), each child rolls their dough into a circle about 6 inches in diameter. While volunteers demonstrate and assist, children score the hosts -- pushing just deep enough to make the marks, but not deep enough to cut all the way through. Lightly score a circle in the center (1 ¼ inch in diameter) using a half of a small plastic Easter egg. Score the straight lines using a plastic knife. Throw out gloves and wash hands.



Bakes the hosts on parchment covered cookie sheets at 375° until edges just begin to lightly brown – 10 to 12 minutes.

Session Four Recipe: Sugar Cookies

Makes 5 dozen three inch cookies.

This recipe calls for chilling of the dough, so you may want to consider making the dough and only having the children do the other steps – rolling, cutting, etc. Or you may want to have the children make the dough one day, refrigerate overnight, and roll, cut and cook the next day.

Supplies: Large bowl, mixer (for adult use), cookie sheets, heart cookie cutters, parchment paper to make the rolling easier, rolling pins, cooling racks

Ingredients

6 cups flour	2 cups sugar	2 tsp. vanilla extract
3 tsp. baking powder	2 eggs	1 tsp. salt
2 cups butter		

Preheat oven to 350°F for at least 1/2 hour before baking.

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs and vanilla and mix well. Mix dry ingredients and add slowly to butter mixture. Chill for at least three hours. Roll to ½ inch thickness between 2 sheets of parchment paper. Cut into desired shapes. Bake at 350°F for 10 to 12 minutes or until just beginning to turn brown around the edges. Leave the cookies on the baking sheet for 5 minutes before transferring to a cooling rack. Frost completely cooled cookies.

Sugar Cookie Frosting Recipe

Ingredients

3 egg whites	1 lb box of 10x confectioner's sugar	Sprinkles (optional)
½ tsp cream of tartar	Food coloring	

Beat egg whites and cream of tartar until foaming. Add sugar and beat until firm peaks. Separate into several bowls and add various food coloring as desired. Spread with knife or spatula and add sprinkles as desired. Allow the decorated cookies to dry overnight before wrapping. These cookies keep well and will not need to be frozen for sale within the week.

Label Suggestion

Sugar Cookies, Handmade by Zoe Empowers VBS Blessing Bakery Children, Date: mm/dd/yy

Session Five Recipe: Homemade Dog Treats

Ingredients

¾ cup hot water	½ cup powdered milk	1 egg, beaten
⅓ cup margarine	1 teaspoon salt	3 cups whole wheat flour

Variation: increase margarine to 1/2 cup and add 2 teaspoons sugar

In large bowl pour hot water over the margarine. Stir in powdered milk, salt, and egg. Add flour, 1/2 cup at a time. Knead for a few minutes to form stiff dough. Pat or roll to 1/2 inch thickness. Let children shape into bones and other fun shapes. Bake at 325 degrees for 50 minutes. Cool. They will dry out quite hard. Makes about 1 1/4 pounds of biscuits.

Label Suggestion

Dog Treats, Handmade by Zoe Empowers VBS Blessing Bakery Children, Date: mm/dd/yy

