**Christmas Cookies**

God uses every event in our lives for a purpose.

**Prep**

Get a simple recipe for cookies or get a premade cookie mix that still requires you to add a couple ingredients such as eggs, oil and water.

Gather all required ingredients, a bowl and whisk to mix them together with.

Additionally buy or make enough cookies for everyone to have one.

Turn your Bible to Romans 8:28.

**Demonstration**

“One thing we all love about Christmas is cookies!

Who would like to come up and eat some?!”

Call up 2 volunteers and give one a spoonful of the cookie mix and the other a whole egg and tell them they can go ahead and eat and enjoy.

“What? You don't want to eat these? This is exactly what cookies are made from!”

Have the volunteers take a seat and then give everyone a cookie to eat while you continue.

**Object Lesson**

“This can be a good picture of what our lives are like.

God has made us with a purpose, just like the eggs or oil. But, for us to become the creation God has called us to be and to accomplish what he has called us to accomplish, we will have to go through certain things.

Imagine hardships we go through are like when you beat the eggs, oil and cookie mix together or when you put everything in the oven. It’s hot in an oven and it’s hard to be patient enough to wait for them to cook all the way, but if they don’t go through that time in the heat, they won’t be ready to eat and enjoy.

Romans 8:28 reminds us, “We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

To reach our full potential we will have to go through hard times and allow those times to make our faith in God stronger and teach us to always trust and obey God.

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, there was a man named Joseph. When he was young his brothers didn't like him and sold him as a slave to some foreigners. He had a really hard life. He was a slave and then was thrown in jail for a long time for something he didn't even do.

In Joseph's situation it would have been easy to see his circumstances and not trust God or be mad at God because things looked so bad for so long. BUT, Joseph didn't judge God's plan for his life by looking at his hard circumstances, just like we don't judge a Christmas present by the wrapping paper.”

**Wrap Up**

“Everything you’ve been through and will go through in the future, are meant to make you into a beautiful, complete creation in Christ and to prepare you for how He will use you in the future.”