



Crown of Thorns Bread

Make three strips of bread dough (sold in tubes in the dairy section of most stores) and braid to form a circle; make sure the ends are pressed firmly together. Insert toothpicks into the bread so that it resembles a crown of thorns (be careful that you do not insert them too deep, or when the bread bakes / rises, they won't be visible). Bake and cool the bread, then bring it to class. Discuss what the bread represents - the Crown of Thorns. As they perform corporal acts of mercy (volunteer in a shelter, help an elderly person in the neighborhood) and spiritual acts of mercy (pray for a sick person, forgive someone), they will be allowed to pull a "thorn" out of Jesus' Crown and place it in a jar. Encourage students to be the bearer of "Good News" — telling what their friends have done. Send a note home to parents as well. Remind children that when they perform acts of mercy they are being faithful to Jesus' teaching - and when they do the opposite, they "wound" Him. Challenge the children to remove all the thorns by the end of Lent - *and remember that prayer is a spiritual act of mercy, so daily prayer for children in the Missions and missionaries counts!* At the end of Lent, count the "thorns" in the jar and assign a monetary value to each; donate that money to the *Missionary Childhood Association!*

Prayer

Fasting

Almsgiving

