

January/February 2008

Let's Cook

Whip out your chef's hat and have fun cooking up some yummy desserts. (Note #1: Any hat that will stay on your head and not fall into the mix will do fine.) (Note #2: Lest you be banned from the kitchen for life, please make sure you ask an adult for help.)

Alphabet Cookies!

Roll out pre-made cookie dough on wax paper covered with flour. Cut in strips. Roll each strip between the palms of your hands to make 'snakes'. Use the skinny little 'snakes' to make the letters of your name. Place the letters on a greased cookie sheet. Flatten to 1/4" thick. Sprinkle with colored sugar. Bake at 300 degrees for 30 minutes. Shazam! Now you're famous. Your name is in cookie!

Chocolate Pizza!

1/3 cup coconut

1 tsp. oil

2 cups miniature marshmallows

1 cup rice crispy cereal

1 pound white almond bark, divided

1 cup peanuts

1 bag (12 oz.) semisweet chocolate chips

1 jar (6 oz.) red maraschino cherries, drained, cut in half

3 Tbsp. green maraschino cherries, drained, quartered

Microwave chips and 14 oz. of almond bark in large bowl on high for 2 minutes, then stir. Continue microwaving for 1 to 2 minutes until smooth (stir every 30 seconds). Stir in marshmallows, cereal, and peanuts. Pour onto greased 12 inch pizza pan. Top with cherries, and sprinkle with coconut. Microwave remaining 2 oz. almond bark with oil for 1 minute and stir. Microwave until smooth, stirring every 15 seconds. Drizzle over coconut. Refrigerate until firm. Store at room temperature. Makes 10-12 servings.

Get Your Hand Up and Holler!

hat do you do when you're sitting in class and you need something? You get your hand up in the air and you ask for help! When Jesus walked on earth, He always had crowds of people following Him. Many of those people wanted to hear His stories and listen to His teachings. There was a whole other crowd that followed Jesus because they desperately needed His help. The sick, the blind, and the lame wanted to be with Jesus because they knew He could heal them.

One man that had his hand up in the air asking for Jesus' help was Jairus. You see, Jairus had a little girl who was very sick. When Jairus found Jesus surrounded by a crowd of people, he pushed in and begged Jesus to come and heal his daughter. You can only imagine how intense his plea for help must have been. He knew his daughter wouldn't live without a miracle from Jesus. While Jesus was following Jairus to his house, Jesus got distracted by another very sick woman. While He was taking care

of her, someone came with a message that Jairus' daughter had died. Jesus looked right at Jairus and said, "do not to

be afraid, just believe." They hurried to

Jairus' house. When Jesus stepped into the little girl's room. He took her by the hand and said "arise." Instantly the girl came back to life. Talk about awesome! Jesus straight up raised her from the dead.

Always remember, Jesus has the power to do anything! He can turn the impossible into the possible! All you have to do is ask! So think about something with which you need help, get your hand up in the air, and ask Jesus to help you TODAY!

The Parents' Corner

You may not be a miracle worker like Jesus, but there is something you can do for the people around you...make them smile! Set an example for your kids and show them how they can be Christ-like and spread joy wherever they go. Smiles are good for everybody! Here are a few ideas to help you get started. Visit an old friend and take them cookies. Give your spouse a ten second hug when they come home from work. Send your child's favorite dessert in their school lunch. Over tip a waitress. Give lots of compliments to everyone you meet. Pay for the

meal of the person behind you at the drive through window. Write a thank you note to your child's teacher.

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle By Jacquelyn Horne

It's an old cliche' but it packs a lot of meaning. "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world."

What an awesome burden this places on the Christian mother. To be largely responsible for the direction of the world in general is a tremendous responsibility to be placed on the shoulders of a woman who already feels incapable of rearing her offspring.

But, like it or not, that's the way it is. It makes a mother stop and think. Am I doing all I can to see that future generations have the emotional and educational tools to rule the world? Will my children make a difference?

Realizing the impact that mothers make, we should be all the more aware that, without God, it's impossible for us to excel in motherhood. The job is much too important, much too great, for us to handle alone.

Like anything else, raising children has a bigger perspective than we understand. We want to get our children raised. We want them to have a good education, healthy bodies and working skills. We want them to be good fathers and mothers and serve the Lord. But what of leadership?

We need some good strong leaders. Both in the church world and in the world in general. Are we doing everything we can to make it happen? Are we instilling

a responsibility into our children?

I guess I'm writing "tongue in cheek", because I really don't know all the answers for raising children to become leaders. But I know one who does.

We don't want our children to grow up wanting to be in the lead. We want them to grow up to be leaders. There's a world of difference. We want children who stand out, not because they are important, but because they have an important goal, and they want others to follow.

It breaks my heart when I see mothers who encouraged, and not only encourage but teach their children to do wrong. Not just by example, but by willful instruction.

Mothers teach their daughters to become prostitutes. Mothers teach their children to steal. Mothers teach their children to kill. Mothers teach their children to hate. Mothers teach their children all manner of sin.

This is not a modern trend. Even in the scriptures we read of a mother who taught her son to do evil things. II Chronicles 22:3 states, "He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly." How sad.

God help us to remember that you have entrusted us with one of your most precious gifts. A child. Help us to take this responsibility seriously.

Proverbs has one of the most quoted scriptures of my generation. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Mothers, along with your husbands, you're the one that God requires to teach your child the right way to walk. Not the church, not the school, not the government—but you.

Psalms 127:3 "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord..."

God help us to realize that these hands which rock the cradle are the same hands that are molding our leaders of tomorrow. Unless we shape them with good values, evil will prevail. It's up to us mothers. It's a heavy weight, but it's the future of our children and grandchildren that we're shaping. They are our heritage.

Jacquelyn Horne is a former newspaper reporter who has won various awards including two Delaware School Bell awards. She has poems and articles published in magazines and Christian publications. She moved from Delaware to central Georgia 13 years ago.

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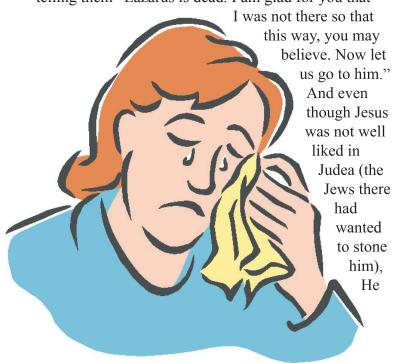
Raising Lazarus John 11:1-44

By Sarah Hoeck

messenger was sent to Jesus Christ, bringing a message of great sadness. "Lord," the message began. "The one that you love is very sick." The message was speaking of Jesus' great friend Lazarus. Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha were also Jesus' friends. They were the ones that sent the message to Christ so that He may come and help.

After hearing the message, Jesus said something very remarkable. He said, "This sickness is not for death, but it is for the glory of God, so that the son of God may be glorified." Now, although Jesus loved Lazarus and his two sisters greatly, He stayed two more days in the same place He was when He first heard the message.

After the two years, Jesus spoke to His disciples, saying "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go so that I may wake him up." The disciples then said, "Well, Lord, if Lazarus is sleeping, then he will get well." They had thought that Jesus was speaking about actual sleep, when He was actually speaking about death. So, Jesus spoke to them clearly and plainly, telling them "Lazarus is dead. I am glad for you that



went anyway.

When Jesus finally got there, He found out that Lazarus had been dead four days already. As soon as Martha heard Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him. Mary stayed in the house, where many Jews had joined the two women to comfort them. When Martha got to Jesus, she said, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now, I know that whatever you ask God, God will give it to you." Jesus replied, "Your brother will rise again."

After their conversation, Martha went back to her sister and told her Jesus was here and He wanted to see her. As soon as Mary heard it, she got up to go see Him in the same place as Martha. The people who were with her followed her, thinking she was going to the tomb to cry there. Now, when Mary got to Jesus, she fell at His feet and cried, "Lord, if only you had been here, then my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw Mary and the Jews that followed her crying, He became deeply saddened and asked about where they had put Lazarus. As they took him to Lazarus' tomb, Jesus cried.

The tomb Lazarus was buried in was a cave and a stone was placed in front of the opening. Jesus had the people roll away the stone. And once that was done, Jesus lifted his eyes to the sky, and said "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. And I know that you always hear. But because of these people standing around, I say this, so that they may believe that you did send me." Then, with a loud voice, He cried out, "Lazarus, come forward." And Lazarus, although he had died, came out of the cave, his body covered in cloth. After Lazarus arose, Jesus commanded the others to undo the cloth and let him go.

Jesus had done many miracles. He had healed the blind and the lame. He had walked on water. He made seven loaves of bread enough to feed thousands of people. But, out of all the many miracles he did, raising Lazarus from the dead was one of the most, if not the most, amazing. esus received the message from Mary and Martha. He didn't go to them right away. He knew that something special was going to happen! When He arrived, Lazarus was dead. Everyone was crying and sad that Jesus had not been there to help Lazarus.

