

# "A Cookie Jar for Mom"

## Objective

The children will learn about the importance of one type of at-home chessed-kibbud av v'eim, through preparing a gift for their mothers.

## Minute By Minute

**5:30-5:40 Welcome**

**5:40-5:45 Sing club song**

**5:45-5:50 Collect chessed reports, give out souvenirs to those who brought back a chessed report**

**5:50-5:55 Explain today's chessed**

**5:55-6:15 Decorate bottles with puff paint or glass paint**

**6:15-6:20 Make recipe cards**

**6:20-6:30 Decorate lids**

**6:30-6:40 Divide the ingredients**

**6:40-6:50 Layer the ingredients and cover the jars tightly and attach recipe card**

**6:50-6:55 Review the laws of respecting your parents (appendix page 9)**

**6:55-7:00 Hand out new chessed reports, pack up, farewell**

## Today's Chessed

There are many people who do kind things for us. Our teachers teach us, our friends are nice to us, our grocers give us food, etc. But who are the ones that do more for us than anybody else in the world? They buy us our food and clothing, they make lunch for us, they make us feel happy when we are sad. Who is this? Of course, our parents! Very often, we don't even realize how much our parents do for us, because we are so used to all the things that we depend upon them to give us.

We've done chesseds for many different people, but so far, we haven't done a chessed in this club for anybody in our family. The Torah teaches us that it's a big mitzvah to help anybody we can, but real chessed begins at home. That means that if our parents ask us to do something, in many ways, doing it is the biggest chessed! Today we are going to be making a special sort of gift for our mothers to show them in a small way how much we appreciate all their hard work, and all that they do for us. We have to remember, though, that the real way to do chessed at home is to actually do something for our mothers. We can do this by cleaning the house, taking care of younger siblings, or just helping when we see that it's necessary.

**Note:** To reinforce the idea of kibbud av va'em, read "How to Express Our Respect" appendix page 9.

## Prior Preparation

Whether you choose to do the ingredient layering of the main schedule or the regular cookie baking described in the alternatives, you need to bring all your cookie ingredients, jars, measuring cups and spoons and decorating materials. If you choose a recipe that calls for  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups, use regular plastic cups, measure the 4 oz. point and draw a line there. In the case of  $\frac{1}{2}$  spoons, simply choose a smaller spoon-try as much as you can to simplify the measuring process.

Use your favorite chocolate chip recipe, or if none comes to mind, this basic one, where you pack all the ingredients except the last three, which are added at home:

1  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup all-purpose flour  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon baking soda  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup white sugar  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups chocolate chips  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup packed brown sugar  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup margarine  
2 eggs  
1 tsp. vanilla

## Activities

### JARS

Use glass paints or regular puff paint to decorate the jars. The children can write special messages for their moms like "Mom's Cookie Jar" or simply draw hearts or cookies. When you've finished decorating the jars, put them in the center of the table while you work on the lids. They should be dry by the time you need them again.

#### Supplies Needed:

1 quart or 1 liter size jars  
Glass paint and paint brushes  
or puff paint

### RECIPE CARDS

Prepare two-sided cards. On one side, write the instructions to the recipient. For example:

Empty contents of jar into a large bowl. In separate bowl combine  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of butter, 2 eggs, and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Beat until creamy. Add to dry mixture. Drop by tablespoonful onto an ungreased cookie sheet, and bake in a preheated 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) oven for 8 to 10 minutes.

Note: Mom if you're really busy, you don't have to make the cookies this week or even next. If you leave the jar tightly closed, it'll last for three months!

#### Supplies Needed:

recipe card copies  
ribbon  
decorating materials: markers, glue and  
glitter, paper scraps

On the other side, write out the whole recipe as you would for a regular recipe card so that the mothers could know how to make it again should they so choose, or simply know what it is they're receiving.

At the meeting, have the children personalize and decorate the cards, punch a hole at the top and thread a ribbon through. When you seal your jars, tie the ribbon so that it hangs from the lid.

## Activities Continued

### LIDS

You can either decorate the lid with regular cut-outs (the first option), or cover it with fabric (the second).

### SYMBOLS TOPPED JAR

Decide upon the type of images you want to use. It can be hearts, hands for the chess club, or cookies and milk, etc. Copy that image onto colored paper and have the children cut and color the pictures. Glue the pictures onto the cover and give it a few minutes to set. Then, cover the lid with clear contact paper. If you cover the underside of the lid, make sure that the contact paper doesn't cover the grooves.

#### Supplies Needed:

copies with various cut-outs  
markers, crayons, or paint and paintbrushes  
scissors  
contact paper, pre-cut to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch larger than the lids

### FABRIC TOPPED JAR

Bring any fabric scraps you can obtain and help each child cut a circle about two inches wider around than the size of the lid; it doesn't have to be a perfect circle. If you want to add height and texture, glue a few cotton balls on the lid of the jar.

#### Supplies Needed:

fabric  
scissors  
glue gun, or other strong glue with Popsicle sticks to apply it  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide ribbon, cut to 8" long  
beads  
cotton balls (optional)

Place the circle of fabric over the cotton balls and glue it on to the lid. There will be about 1" of fabric extending below the lid. Glue a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wide piece of ribbon, about 8" long, around the rim of the jar and tie it in a bow at the front. Glue the bow in place.

At the ends of the ribbon, you will put the recipe card, add a decorative bead, and secure with a knot.

Filling the jars is technically a fairly simple activity. However, it can get messy and complicated when doing it with a number of children, so it's divided here into two steps. First you'll divide the ingredients and then you'll layer them in the jars.

### DIVIDE THE INGREDIENTS

Set up mini centers in your workspace. In each center put one ingredient and bags, a measuring tool for that unit of measurement and a sheet with the number of units needed per recipe. Assign spots to the children and explain the process. The number written on their paper is the number of cups/tablespoons of their ingredient they must put into each bag. For instance, the sugar people have to fill their cups until the line you drew, for half a cup, and the flour kids need two cups, one for the whole cup and one with a line for the  $\frac{3}{4}$  marks. The brown sugar and chocolate chip groups can work on their own, but the flour, baking powder and sugar should all go into the same bag, so set up a sort-of assembly line with those three groups. You need one of each bag for every child in your group.

## Activities Continued

### LAYER THE INGREDIENTS

Once the bags are full, give every child one of each bag and his jar. If you are following the recipe given here, that's just three bags: the flour, sugar, and baking soda; the chocolate chips; and the brown sugar. Guide them through the layering process: First, pour half the flour/sugar mixture, then shake the jar so the flour settles. Next pour the chocolate chips, trying to concentrate them at the edges so that when you look into the jar, you see a ring of the chocolate chips. Now put the brown sugar, and end with the second half of the flour mix. If necessary, flatten the layers with a spoon as you go along to make sure it is tightly packed. Attach the lid, and tie the recipe ribbon around the bottle's mouth.

When you wrap up the meeting, remind the children that this is a special gift for their mothers, and when they give it to them, they should express appreciation for all that's done for them. Also caution the children to treat the jars with care-shaking will ruin the layers.

### REVIEW THE LAWS OF RESPECTING PARENTS

To reinforce the concept of respecting one's parents, give the children copies of "Respect Your Parents" (appendix page 9) and review the laws with them. Explain that, in truth, respecting our parents is more than just a chessed, it is actually mandated by the Torah, and the handout gives examples of how we can make this practical in our lives.

### Suggested Tips

**Bridal Tulle**  
Instead of sending the jars home simply decorated, you can make it look even more special by covering it. Buy (or get) bridal tulle in any color and cut it to slightly larger than enough to cover the jars before the meeting. Once the jars are filled and ready, place each one in the center of the tulle, bring the tulle up on all sides and tie at the neck of the jar, or above the jar, with ribbon.  
The same can be done with either cellophane or tissue paper

As you are making large quantities, you can save money by buying super-size packages of flour and sugar and chocolate chips.

Instead of buying jars in craft shops, you can include on the previous meeting's letter home a note to parents, asking them to send in any jars they may have finished using. They can send mayonnaise, pickle or sauerkraut jars. The first activity would then be to wash the jars very thoroughly and remove any labels, and then dry and decorate.