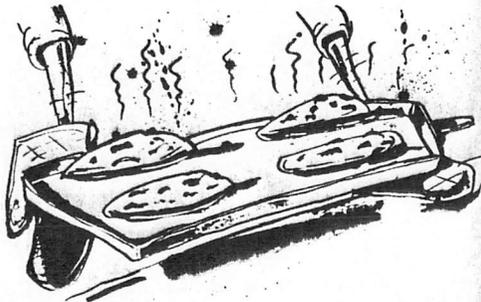


All Things Work Together

The topic The goodness of God's plan

The object Bake one batch of chocolate chip cookies (more batches for larger groups). Collect the ingredients for an additional batch, but keep these ingredients in separate containers.

The lesson Keeping the batch of baked cookies hidden, let different students taste different ingredients—the flour, baking soda, shortening, etc.—without letting them know that it's chocolate chip cookie ingredients they're tasting. Ask them to describe what they taste. (Most of the ingredients taste bitter, slimy, or are tasteless—except for the sugar and chocolate chips, which are usually dead giveaways. So you may not want to let kids taste *these* ingredients.) Surprise them by revealing the already baked cookies, pointing out how something so delicious is made from a mixture of ingredients that are themselves either yucky or bland.



For most of us, life is **a mixture of sweet and bitter seasons, wonderful interludes when everything goes the way we hope, and difficult periods**

when disappointment and discouragement leave a bad taste in our mouths. The wonder of God's sovereignty is that he can combine these circumstances to bring about something good.

The Word Romans 8:22-28; Psalm 34:8

Discussion starters

1. What would the cookies taste like if we left out the bitter ingredients and included only the sweet ones?

2. **What does the Scripture mean by "for the good of those who love him"** (Romans 8:28)?

Life changers

1. What are some bitter experiences that have been mixed into your life?
2. What are some sweet ingredients you can thank God for?
3. Write a letter to God thanking him for the goodness of his plan.

Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup shortening
- 1 large egg
- 3 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 cups plus 4 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups chocolate chips

Mix the brown sugar, white sugar, and shortening. Add the egg and vanilla. Combine the flour and baking soda together and then add into the sugar mixture. Stir in the chocolate chips. Drop by spoonfuls onto a cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes.