

Greatest Commandment Hearts

Materials

- Bibles
- parchment paper
- markers
- ingredients for sugar dough (water, sugar, flour)
- red food coloring
- peppermint extract
- various heart-shaped cookie cutters
- scissors
- ribbon
- ruler
- skewers
- oven
- baking sheets
- oven mitt
- cooling rack
- sprinkles, edible glitter, sugar pearls, etc. (*optional*)

Before Class

For each batch of sugar dough, knead together 1 c. water, 2 c. sugar, and 3 c. flour. Then add red food coloring to make red or pink dough. Add a few drops of peppermint extract to make the dough smell nice. Cut the ribbon into 8" lengths, several for each student.

Instructions for Kids

- Cover your work area with a piece of parchment paper. Use a marker to write your name on a corner of the paper.
- Pat a lump of dough out to flatten it, about $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick. Then use cookie cutters to cut heart shapes out of the dough. Prepare two or three hearts. Use a skewer to make a small hole in the top of each heart.
- Place your parchment paper with the dough on it onto a baking sheet. With a teacher's supervision, place the baking sheet in an oven that has been preheated to 300°. Bake the hearts until the dough is hard, but not burned, approximately one hour. Ask a teacher to use an oven mitt to remove the baking sheet from the oven. Set the tray on a cooling rack.

- When the hearts have cooled, string a length of ribbon through the hole in each heart. Tie the ends of the ribbon together to form a loop for hanging.

Enrichment Idea

Have the kids mix the ingredients and prepare the dough. They can press decorations into the dough before baking the hearts.

Talk About

When some teachers asked Jesus about the greatest commandment in the law, Jesus' reply included two commandments. Have the students find and read Matthew 22:37–40. In what ways can we show love to God? How can we show love to others? Why do you think Jesus said that "all the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments"? Encourage the students to think creatively about ways they can show love to God and others. Point out that if they obey these two commands, they will also be obeying other commands, such as honoring parents or not stealing.

