

## Dirt Pudding

### Supplies

- Resealable plastic bags (sandwich size, one per kid)
- Large mixing bowl
- Spatula
- Measuring cup
- Cups (one per kid)
- Spoons (one per kid)
- Napkins (one per kid)

*Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

### Ingredients

*(One batch serves 16)*

- 1 large container non-dairy whipped topping
- 2 packages chocolate cookies (sandwich or plain cookies)
- 3 large boxes instant chocolate pudding mix
- 3 cups (720 ml) milk
- Gummy hearts (one per kid)

**Set Up:** Defrost the non-dairy whipped topping. Set out ingredients and supplies.

### Activity Instructions

**Jesus wants our hearts to be like the good dirt in the story, without obstacles that keep things from growing. That way, God’s Word will grow in our hearts and make us strong in faith. As a way to think about this, we are going to make dirt pudding!**

1. Have kids wash hands thoroughly.
2. Kids can help open pudding mix packages and dump them into the mixing bowl. With help, they can measure 3 cups (720 ml) of milk and add to bowl. Kids can take turns stirring the mixture with the spatula until the pudding is mixed and no lumps appear.
3. Have kids dump the container of non-dairy whipped topping into the pudding mixture and take turns carefully folding it in.
4. Give each kid a resealable plastic bag. Divide the cookies among kids and have them place the cookies inside their bag and smash the bag with their hands. If there are more cookies than kids, they can smash cookies in several batches. **As we are smashing our cookies to make good dirt pudding, let’s think about what helps our hearts to be good soil for the Word of God. First of all, we will need to smash anger. We don’t want anger in our hearts, so as you smash your cookies, let’s pray, “God, please smash my anger.”** Have kids repeat that line. Talk about other things we don’t want in our hearts and smash those things, too: meanness, selfishness, impatience, rudeness, jealousy, etc.

5. **Now that we've asked God to help us smash all those behaviors that aren't good, we are free to live the way God wants! Let's put our good dirt cookie crumbs into the bowl.** Empty all cookie crumbs into the mixing bowl and have kids gently stir them into mixture.
6. **Yippee for us! We have just made a batch of good dirt pudding! Ready to eat it?**
7. Spoon some pudding into a cup for each kid. Give them each a gummy heart. **Place your heart candy into your dirt pudding to remember how God's Word can grow in our hearts just like plants grow in good dirt.**
8. Give each kid a spoon and a napkin and invite them to eat their dirt pudding. Talk about how good it tastes.