

## Bread Crown

By Julie Filby

Make a crown of thorns from bread, resembling the crown Jesus wore when he suffered and died. For each good deed performed during Lent, remove a thorn from the crown, illustrating that acts of kindness and mercy help relieve suffering.

### For

Young Family

### Season

Spring, Lent (specifically during Holy Week)



### Needed

Bread dough (from the freezer section works well), toothpicks, platter, jars, Sharpie  
Optional: paint, paintbrushes, stick-on jewels, glitter, other decorative adornments

### Prepare in Advance

- Roll the prepared bread dough into three long pieces.
- Braid the pieces and form into a circle. Make sure the ends come together.
- Allow the dough to rise.
- Place toothpicks in the dough to look like thorns (don't poke them in too far).
- Bake the bread.

### Activity Plan

1. Begin with a prayer:

*Jesus, this crown of thorns is a sign of how much you love us. May it also remind us that by loving and helping others, we can relieve their suffering. Amen.*

2. Place the prepared bread crown of thorns on your family's dining room table for the 40 days of Lent (variation: during Holy week). **NOTE:** this bread will not be consumed.
3. Each time a family member does a good deed during the Lent, he or she can pull a toothpick out of the bread and put it in a jar labeled with their name. Examples might include praying for others; helping others; and donating time, talent or treasure.
4. When Easter arrives, each person counts the number of toothpicks in their jar and talks about the good deeds they accomplished. Discuss how each person lightened the load of another, just like Jesus.
5. Optional: on Easter Sunday, consider painting and decorating the now thorn-free crown in honor of the Risen Lord. Use as a centerpiece at the Easter meal.