

The Colors of Easter / Jelly Bean Prayer

A Family Lenten Activity

This is a great activity to do with the whole family during the Lent season!

On Ash Wednesday, set out a glass jar (like a small mason jar or container of your choice) for each child or member of the family. Each day, every family member can earn a jellybean of any color they follow through on. **THE JELLY BEANS ARE NOT TO BE EATEN UNTIL EASTER!** This is how you can interpret each color (but each family can make their own ideas based on ages and needs of the children/family members).

Red is for the blood Christ gave (Each morning choose something to sacrifice that day to earn a red jellybean. It should be something they would have the opportunity to have or do on that day.)

Green is for the palm's cool shade (Green jellybeans are earned for good deeds. It was a good deed to provide shade for Jesus with the palm.)

Yellow is for God's light so bright (Yellow jellybeans are earned for sharing God's light through kindness to others.)

Orange is for prayers at twilight (Orange jellybeans are earned for attentive behavior during bedtime prayer time or other family prayer time.)

Blue is for sweet rest at night (Blue jellybeans are earned for getting ready for and going to bed on time.)

White is for the Grace of Christ (**These are special – see below!**)

Purple is for His days of sorrow (Purple jellybeans are earned by apologizing to anyone we hurt with our words or deeds that day.)

Pink is for each new tomorrow (Pink jellybeans are a gimme...everyone gets a pink jelly bean each day just for participating!)

During the 40 days of lent, talk as a family about ways to "earn jellybeans". Perhaps set up a special family prayer time for the Lenten period. Consider volunteering some time as a family preparing meals or participating at a fundraising event. The opportunities are practically endless!

On Easter morning, before the kids wake, fill up the rest of the space in the jars with white jellybeans. These symbolize the Grace of Christ, which is a gift not earned ourselves but given to us through our faith and our actions.

You can print out the poem on the next page as a reminder of each color.

The Jelly Bean Prayer



Red is for the blood Christ gave,
Green is for the palm's cool shade.
Yellow is for God's light so bright,
Orange is for prayers at twilight.
Blue is for sweet rest at night,
White is for the Grace of Christ.
Purple is for His days of sorrow,
Pink is for each new tomorrow.