



CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Ingredients Of A SWEET Christmas



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



OVERVIEW

ABOUT THIS PROGRAM

“The Sweetest Thing” is a Christmas program based on the “Christmas Cookies” Children’s Ministry Curriculum. The host of a TV baking show partners up with an unlikely Christmas celebrity to reveal the sweetness in the story of Jesus’ birth.





MATERIALS NEEDED


PROPS:

A table or kitchen counter
Cookie ingredients: flour, eggs, sugar, butter, baking soda, baking powder, vanilla
Pre-made dough
A mixing bowl
Cookie cutters
A rolling pin
A cookie sheet
Finished cookies
Icing




SPECIAL COSTUMES:

A nice outfit for Becky
Victorian costume for Scrooge

CHARACTERS



Becky - A cookie expert
The TV Producer
Ebenezer Scrooge - A notorious Christmas hater
Narrator
Kids chorus
Wally and Kitty - Two wise cracking kids in the chorus
The Ghost of Christmas Past



SCENE ONE

The Kids Chorus enters and sits in chairs at stage left. They are on stage throughout the show.

SONG ONE - "Jingle Bells"

A table is set up stage right with flour, an egg carton, butter, baking soda, baking powder, vanilla, and sugar.

BECKY: Hello, everyone, and welcome to The Sweetest Things: Christmas Edition, right here on your favorite streaming channel. I'm so excited to be with you again for another season of sweet treats, and boy, is this season going to be the best. It's Christmas, after all, and over the next four episodes, we're going to be baking Christmas cookies! But this wouldn't be The Sweetest Things: Christmas Edition without a special guest star. He's the star of that holiday classic, the one about the green guy who stole a certain holiday. You know him! You love him!

The Producer runs on and whispers in Becky's ear.

BECKY: What?... Well, why not?... Ohhhhh, okay.

The Producer exits.

BECKY: Change in the program, kids. We will not be joined by that green and fuzzy holiday icon. Instead, we'll be joined by another animated hero. He's the boy with the dog. The boy with the saddest Christmas tree ever. The boy with the round head whose friend with a blanket teaches the real meaning of Christmas...

The Producer enters and whispers to Becky.

BECKY: What?... Seriously?... You couldn't have told me this when you told me about... Oh, okay. Well, who do we have?... No!... You're kidding, right?... For real?

The Producer nods, hands Becky a card, and exits.

BECKY: Uhh, kids? I'm really sorry about this. We won't be eating cookies with the little boy with the dog. We will be eating cookies with a *(reads from the card)* "A successful entrepreneur and businessman from Victorian England. Please welcome... Ebenezer Scrooge?"

Scrooge enters wearing traditional Victorian garb – and a festive apron.

BECKY: Welcome to the show, Scrooge.

SCROOGE: That's Mr. Scrooge to you, Becky.

BECKY: Mr. Scrooge, we're so happy you could join us.

SCROOGE: I'm not. But my agent says it will be good for my public image, so here I am!

WALLY: Check it out, Kitty! Ebenezer Scrooge is the special guest for the baking show.



SCENE ONE



KITTY: Scrooge? Oh no! I thought we were gonna see the green guy.

WALLY: I sure hope he doesn't ruin the cookies. He hates Christmas so much.

KITTY: Yeah. I bet he gets a lump of coal for Christmas every year!

BECKY: Mr. Scrooge, do you like Christmas cookies?

SCROOGE: Bah, humbug!

BECKY: I thought so.

SCROOGE: Christmas cookies. Another pitiful excuse not to bake bread for the poor.

BECKY: This is going to be a long season.

SCROOGE: But since I'm being paid to come here and act jolly, by all means, let's make some cookies.

BECKY: Mr. Scrooge, do you know the secret to making perfect Christmas cookies?

SCROOGE: Keep the urchins out of the kitchen so they don't eat them all?

BECKY: No.

SCROOGE: I find that a good cane is useful for chasing off whipper snappers!

BECKY: You need to have all the right ingredients.

SCROOGE: Ingredients? Like what?

BECKY: Well, a simple sugar cookie uses flour, eggs, butter, vanilla, baking soda, baking powder, and sugar.

SCROOGE: Sugar? Did you say sugar?

BECKY: I did say sugar.

SCROOGE: I don't think I've had any food that included sugar since the old days when I went to parties at Fezziwig's place.

BECKY: That's so sad.

SCROOGE: It is?

BECKY: Mr. Scrooge, sugar is what makes the cookies sweet.

SCROOGE: I see. So, if we leave out the sugar, the poor little urchins will leave them alone!



SCENE ONE

BECKY: But you can't make Christmas cookies without the sugar! That would be like having Christmas without all the characters of the Nativity.

SCROOGE: Nativity? Is that the delectable treat Fezziwig's daughter used to make out of egg whites?

BECKY: You're thinking of divinity. I'm talking about the Nativity. The true story of Christmas! You know, Mary and Joseph? The angel? The shepherds who came in from the fields?

SCROOGE: They came in from the fields? And left the sheep alone? Why would they do that? They should all be fired!

BECKY: They came because the angel invited them to see the most important ingredient of all: the baby Jesus! You know, the Son of God?

SCROOGE: Why, I haven't heard about him since the old days, when Fezziwig used to read the story from the gospel of Luke.

BECKY: You can't have Christmas cookies without sugar any more than you can have Christmas without Jesus. He's the reason the Christmas season is so sweet!

SCROOGE: Oh, is He? You make it sound like this Jesus invented sugar!

BECKY: Well, actually... He kind of did.

SCROOGE: What?

BECKY: I mean He is the Creator of all good things.

SCROOGE: Seriously?

BECKY: Well, folks, we have all the ingredients for a great Christmas cookie and an interesting season. Join us next time when we take these ingredients one step closer to being the perfect Christmas cookies!

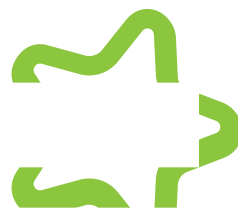
Becky and Scrooge exit. The narrator enters.

NARRATOR: Making your own Christmas cookies is a fun way to bring the family together this season. All you need is flour, eggs, butter, baking soda, baking powder, vanilla extract, and of course sugar to make a sweet treat! The recipe for a sweet Christmas is simple too. In fact, you can find all the ingredients in Luke chapter two. There's Mary and Joseph, who were called to be earthly parents to God's son. There are shepherds with their sheep, and the angel who announced the birth to some shepherds. Most important of all, there's a baby lying in a manger who came to make life sweeter for all of us. Of all the sweet things we enjoy at Christmas, nothing is sweeter than knowing Jesus came to save us from sin. As we enjoy our sweet treats this season, may each one remind us of the sweet baby in the manger.



SCENE ONE

SONG 2 – “Away in a Manger”



SCENE TWO

Becky and Scrooge enter. Becky carries a bowl of cookie dough, a rolling pin, and cookie cutters.

BECKY: Hi everyone, and welcome back to The Sweetest Things: Christmas Edition. I'm your host Becky, and with me once again, for no good reason, is Ebenezer Scrooge.

SCROOGE: I beg to differ with you, young lady. There's an excellent reason I am here.

BECKY: Really? You hate Christmas. You hate everything about the holiday. You humbug everything. Give me one good reason why we have you here and not Buddy the Elf?

SCROOGE: Because unlike Buddy the Elf, I am in the public domain!

BECKY: Bah humbug!

SCROOGE: See? You can say that all you want, and the copyright attorneys won't get upset.

BECKY: Let's just keep making the cookies, okay, pal?

SCROOGE: That's Mr. Pal to you, Becky.

BECKY: I'll stick with Mr. Scrooge, if that's okay.

SCROOGE: Whatever you like. Let's just make the cookies.

Becky dumps the dough on the table.

BECKY: Mr. Scrooge, we have a batch of cookie dough ready to form. Would you mind rolling it out for me?

SCROOGE: Roll it down the hall? That's not sanitary!

BECKY: No, I mean roll it flat with the rolling pin.

SCROOGE: Sounds like work for a commoner.

BECKY: Remember, your agent said it would be good for your image.

SCROOGE: Bah, humbug.

Scrooge starts rolling the dough.

WALLY: Check it out, Kitty. Scrooge is actually making the cookies!

KITTY: He doesn't fool me. He's still a Christmas hater. He's nothing but a big old meanie, and he will never change!

WALLY: I don't know, Kitty. I mean, Jesus did come to save everyone from sin.

SCENE TWO

KITTY: But not Scrooge, right?

WALLY: I don't know. Jesus didn't say anybody but Scrooge.

KITTY: But do you really think anything can change Ebenezer Scrooge?

BECKY: Thank you. As soon as you get it nice and flat, we'll start forming cookies with these cookie cutters.

SCROOGE: What sort of cookie cutters?

BECKY: Holiday cookie cutters of course. I have a bell, and a snowman, and a Christmas tree.

SCROOGE: Are we really going to make cookies shaped like those corny things?

BECKY: Of course we will!

SCROOGE: You don't think round is good enough?

BECKY: Round is perfectly fine, Mr. Scrooge. But these cookie cutters will bring our holiday into focus, kind of like the wise men did when they visited the baby Jesus.

SCROOGE: The wise guys?

BECKY: The wise men! They were scholars who saw a bright star in the sky and followed it to visit the baby Jesus.

SCROOGE: They couldn't be that wise, if they were, they wouldn't want to see a baby. All they do is eat and cry and mess their diapers.

BECKY: I already told you, Jesus was no ordinary baby. He was God's Son. That's why they brought Him gifts.

SCROOGE: What sort of gifts? Passys? Baby clothes? A Bummo seat?

BECKY: No, no, no. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

SCROOGE: They took those gifts to a baby???

BECKY: Yes!

SCROOGE: Those aren't gifts for a baby! Those are gifts for a king!

BECKY: A ha! Now you see the story taking shape?

SCROOGE: I see some so-called wise men. I see them giving gifts to a baby. A baby who was already visited by shepherds because an angel told them... say, this baby must have been someone special!

SCENE TWO

BECKY: That's what I keep trying to tell you.

SCROOGE: But I hope they gave the gifts to His parents and not directly to Him. Gold coins could choke a kid.

BECKY: I'm really starting to see why three ghosts came to visit you.

SCROOGE: Ghosts? Don't believe in them.

BECKY: I have a feeling you will. And I have a feeling you'll figure out why Jesus makes Christmas so sweet soon enough.

SCROOGE: I gotta admit, I'm curious to know more.

BECKY: Well, folks, our Christmas cookies are taking shape, and so is our Christmas story. Join us next time when we really turn up the heat.

Becky and Scrooge exit. The Narrator enters.

NARRATOR: Do we need cookie cutters to make our Christmas cookies? Do they make the cookies taste any sweeter? No, not at all. Once they hit our tongues, they all taste the same. But let's be honest: cookies that look like snowmen, snowflakes, Christmas trees, and gingerbread men make the holiday sweeter. It's not the taste. It's the symbols that remind us of the sweet, sweet time of the year we're enjoying. Jesus is just a baby when we meet him in the gospel of Matthew, but His true identity starts to take shape when the wise men arrive. They bring gifts fit for a king: gold and precious spices that a mere carpenter and his wife could never afford. These gifts teach us that Jesus is a king. He is the King of Kings, and if we put our trust in Him, He will be our King forever!

SONG – “We Three Kings/ Star of Wonder”

SCENE THREE

Becky and Scrooge enter. Becky carries a cookie sheet. Scrooge looks like he's seen a ghost – because he has.

BECKY: Hi everyone, and welcome back to The Sweetest Things: Christmas Edition. I'm your host Becky, and with me once again, is everybody's favorite Scrooge. I guess that's because he's the real Scrooge. Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge!

SCROOGE: Hello, Becky.

BECKY: Hello, Becky? Wow, that's the first time you've actually been cordial to me.

SCROOGE: Is it? How rude of me.

BECKY: Mr. Scrooge, are you okay?

SCROOGE: Huh? Me? Yes! Of course I'm okay!

BECKY: You look like you've seen a ghost.

SCROOGE: Really? Did you see it too?

BECKY: See what?

SCROOGE: Nothing. Never mind.

KITTY: Did you hear that, Wally? Marley! I think Scrooge really saw a ghost.

WALLY: That's silly. There's no such thing as ghosts.

KITTY: There is in *A Christmas Carol*.

WALLY: But this isn't *A Christmas Carol*. This is real life. *A Christmas Carol* is just make believe.

The Ghost of Christmas Past enters.

GHOST: Excuse me, kids, I'm looking for Ebenezer Scrooge.

WALLY: Who are you?

GHOST: I'm the Ghost of Christmas Past.

KITTY: He's over there. I think he's live on TV right now.

GHOST: He is? Okay, I can wait outside.

The Ghost exits.

KITTY: Did you hear that, Wally? The Ghost of Christmas Past! Do you know what that means?

SCENE THREE

WALLY: Yeah. Either ghosts are real... or you and I are make believe!

SCROOGE: Let's just get on with making some cookies.

BECKY: Really? You want to bake the cookies?

SCROOGE: That's what we're here for, right? We're baking cookies.

BECKY: You're right. Although sometimes cookies don't make it into the oven.

SCROOGE: They don't?

BECKY: No! Cookie dough is sweet, and a lot of folks like to eat it raw.

SCROOGE: That's crazy. You can't eat raw cookie dough! It has raw eggs in it!

BECKY: Exactly. That's why we need to guard these cookies and protect them from –

SCROOGE: Ghosts?

BECKY: I was going to say people who want to eat them raw.

SCROOGE: Well, they can't have them. And not because I am the stingiest man on the Earth. I am the stingiest man, but this is an issue of public health.

BECKY: You know, Mr. Scrooge, after Jesus was born, someone tried to put an end to Jesus' life before it had really begun.

SCROOGE: Really?

BECKY: King Herod was very jealous when he heard a newborn king was in his kingdom. He tried to find out where Jesus was through the wise men, but when they went home by another route, he tried to capture and kill the baby Jesus.

SCROOGE: Ha! And they say I need a visit from three spirits. Did you hear that, Marley? Why don't you pay this Herod a visit?

BECKY: You know Herod is long dead, right?

SCROOGE: That's what I thought about Marley until about an hour ago.

BECKY: And Herod wasn't able to stop God's plans. God protected Jesus like a wise baker protecting their raw cookies.

SCROOGE: So, no one would get sick from eating cookie dough.

BECKY: No. So that one day, Jesus could save the whole world from sin, from every bad, selfish, evil thing we've ever done.

SCENE THREE

SCROOGE: Is this true? Jesus can really save us from our past sins?

BECKY: Pretty sweet news, huh, Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE: The sweetest thing I have ever heard, dear Becky!

Becky and Scrooge exit. The Narrator enters.

NARRATOR: Here's a hard, hard truth. Cookie dough is not a finished good. I know it tastes just as sweet as baked cookies, but raw cookie dough can actually make you sick. A dedicated cookie baker knows they have to protect the raw cookies so they can get them into the oven, give them a little heat, and finish preparing these sweet treats. Jesus and His family faced some heat when He was still a child. Herod turned up the heat when He tried to hunt the baby down, jealous there was another king in his kingdom. But like a good cookie baker, God protected Jesus. He got His Son out of harm's way so that one day, He could finish the sweet mission God gave Him and save us from our sins!

SONG – “Joy to the World”

SCENE FOUR

Becky enters with some finished cookies and icing.

BECKY: Hi everyone, and welcome back to The Sweetest Things: Christmas Edition. I'm your host Becky, and as you can see, I'm alone. I'm not exactly sure what happened to Mr. Scrooge, but based on what I saw during our last episode, I...

Scrooge enters.

SCROOGE: Merrrrrrrrrry Christmas, Becky! Merry Christmas, studio audience! Merry Christmas, children's choir!

KIDS CHORUS: Merry Christmas, Mr. Scrooge!

BECKY: Mr. Scrooge!

SCROOGE: Merry Christmas you wonderful old savings and loan!

WALLY: Check it out, Kitty! Scrooge looked like a changed man.

KITTY: Do you think the ghosts changed him?

WALLY: I don't know. He looks like a man who was changed by something bigger than a couple of ghosts.

BECKY: Mr. Scrooge, are you okay?

SCROOGE: I've never been better, Becky! It's Christmas time! Don't you know it's the sweetest time of the year?

BECKY: I do, but—

SCROOGE: Oh look! The cookies are finally done! And it looks like you're about to ice them!

BECKY: I was thinking about it.

SCROOGE: You know, Becky, some people don't think cookies need icing. Some people think they are incomplete without them. But you know what I say?

BECKY: Bah humbug?

SCROOGE: I say it doesn't matter how you eat your cookies. The sweetest part of the Christmas season is knowing that Jesus is all we need.

BECKY: It is?

SCROOGE: Oh come on, Becky. You're the one who's been teaching me about Jesus these last four episodes. You told me how sweet it was that He came from Heaven. You told me how sweet it was that He is God's Son. And you told me how sweet it is that nothing, not even King Herod, could stop God's plans.

SCENE FOUR

BECKY: I did say those things.

SCROOGE: But the one thing you didn't tell me, probably because you hadn't got around to it, is that Jesus is all we need. Jesus can forgive our sins. Jesus can give us new life. Jesus can give us eternal life. He can do all this and more because He is God's Son. And He wants to do it all because He loves us.

WALLY: You see, Kitty? He was changed by something bigger than a ghost.

KITTY: Something not at all make believe!

BECKY: Oh, Mr. Scrooge, you really have learned the true, true meaning of Christmas.

SCROOGE: I have, Becky, and I want everyone to know about it!

BECKY: Did you really get all that from the three spirits who visited you?

SCROOGE: No. Not a bit of it. But after they left, and after I sent some boy out to buy a goose for Bob Cratchit's family, I sat down and read the gospel of John. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Jesus is that Word, Becky. He's the final word. He doesn't need any icing. He's all we need.

BECKY: So, you don't wanna ice these cookies?

SCROOGE: I never said that, Becky. Let's ice those Christmas bells and trees and snowmen! Let's deck them halls and put a sweet dollop of icing on this holiday. But let's do so knowing that all this sweetness is nothing compared to the sweet goodness of God who sent Jesus to be our Savior. Merry Christmas, Becky.

BECKY: And God bless us, every—

SCROOGE: Hey! That's not your line! That's Tiny Tim's line, and yes, he does own the copyright!

BECKY: Oh good grief!

The Narrator enters.

NARRATOR: Icing is often the crowning touch for a cookie. Is it necessary? No. Does it make the cookie sweeter? It could. It certainly adds more color and pizzazz. Some cookies don't need the icing, but for others, it's the crowning touch on a sweet treat. If we believe in Jesus, we have all we need to insure we will live forever. We don't need Jesus and anything else. We just need Jesus. Jesus fulfilled every prophecy of the Old Testament about the Messiah. Jesus was the perfect man who made the perfect sacrifice to save us imperfect sinners. He's done it all for us, and there's nothing we can do to earn the sweet gift He offers us. The only thing for us to do is to accept the gift He's given. Would you turn down a sweet treat like a lovely, iced cookie? Not likely, right? Will you accept the sweet gift of eternal life Jesus offers you? It's our prayer you will so that you can live life in all its sweetness!

SCENE FOUR

SONG - "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

SCENE FIVE

Wally and Kitty are eating cookies.

WALLY: Well, this has certainly been a lot of fun. We had some good times. We ate some cookies. And we learned some valuable things.

KITTY: You mean like the fact that we're just make believe?

WALLY: No. Well, yes, but that's not the exciting stuff. We learned that Jesus is the perfect plan for our salvation.

KITTY: Yes, He is. He's a perfectly made cookie with icing on top.

WALLY: He's the only one who can save us from sin.

KITTY: He's sweeter than any cookie we will ever eat.

WALLY: And Ebenezer Scrooge is one great artist with a tube of icing.

KITTY: Yeah, that one really surprised me.

WALLY: But even that isn't as amazing as knowing that Jesus came to save the world from sin.

KITTY: Merry Christmas, Wally.

WALLY: Go ahead, say it.

KITTY: And God bless us, every—

Scrooge storms on.

SCROOGE: Hey! I said that's Tiny Tim's line!

Becky and the Narrator also enter for the final song.

SONG - "We Wish You A Merry Christmas"

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Ingredients Of A SWEET Christmas



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