

Day 5

Despite a few disconcerting experiences along the way, the three wise men were fairly happy with their journey so far- just five days in, they already had one third of the items on their Christmas shopping list, and a really rather fetching gift box. Overall, they were pleased with their progress.

As they neared the inn, they toyed with the idea of joining the darts tournament (Caspar was determined to beat the wise old sage to prove their superior knowledge) but then decided that it would better maintain their air of mystique to simply walk off into the distance.

After Melchior had liberally distributed camel treats all round, and Balthazar had loaded up Wayne the camel with the shopping, the three magi hopped on their camels. Kevin, Gary and Wayne ambled off, with only a little groaning and spitting, towards the south west.

After a few miles, Kevin, Gary and Wayne the camels were lolloping along happily. Their camel ears could pick up some cheery-sounding singing in the distance- where cheery sounding voices are, food and the chance for a rest will surely be, and so the camels were enthusiastically moving forward.

After a few more miles, the magi could hear the voices too.

“Maybe it is a big Christmas party going on? Perhaps they’ll be leftover mince pies...” mused Melchior.

“I think it must be melodious flocks of cherubim, sent to serenade us as we meditate on the nature of divinity while travelling towards Bethlehem” gushed Caspar.

Melchior’s guess was closer. The wise men rounded a corner and saw before them- a Brownie camp. There seemed to be hundreds of little girls with pigtails making homemade Christmas cards, crafting glittery Christmas decorations and shrilly singing while sitting in circles. Overseeing them all was a slightly harried-looking Brown Owl, muttering “We’ve done the songs, we’ve made all the crafts, but their parents won’t pick them up for another hour...”

“Can I be of assistance?” called Caspar from atop Kevin the camel. Caspar could fill up whole days at a time with his discourses on the metaphysical elements, and was hoping for a chance to display this skill.

Brown Owl eyed him, hopefully. He did *look* like a very wise man, and so she decided to ask-

“Could you come up with an activity for these Brownies?”

“Certainly, dear lady!” cried Caspar. “I can begin right now. Just get them all sitting down in lines with lots of note paper and pens, and a dictionary of philosophical terms, and a short guide to Aristotle’s early works...”

“Or better still,” interrupted Balthazar loudly, much to the relief of Brown Owl and a few Brownies who were eavesdropping on the conversation, “we could teach them a recipe for chocolate brownies!”

Chocolate Brownies- serves 6

150g plain chocolate

2 eggs

1 tsp vanilla essence

4tbsp cocoa powder

75g chopped walnuts

4 tbsp chocolate chips

120ml sunflower oil

215g sugar

65g self-raising flour

Pre-heat the oven to 180°C, and line a 19cm square cake tin.

Melt the plain chocolate.

Beat together the oil, sugar, eggs and vanilla essence, then add the melted chocolate.

Sieve the flour and cocoa powder into the bowl, then fold in thoroughly.

Stir in the chopped nuts and chocolate chips.

Tip the mixture into the tin, spread it out evenly, then bake for 30-35 minutes. Yum!

Questions

- 1- If you wanted to make chocolate brownies for nine people, how many tablespoons of chocolate chips would you need?
- 2- If you only had one egg, and had to scale down the recipe accordingly, how many grams of plain chocolate would you use?
- 3- If you were cooking this recipe with four eggs, how many grams of sugar would you use?
- 4- If you were cooking this recipe with six eggs, what would be the total combined weight of your flour and chopped walnuts?
- 5- If you were cooking this recipe with 180ml of sunflower oil, how many eggs would you be using?

Answers: 1- 6tbsp 2- 75g 3- 430g 4- 420g 5- 3