

## At A Glance:

-----

Makes @ 9 pint jars

Prep time 10 minutes

Cook time 10-15 min

Canning time 10 minutes

Cooling time 5 minutes

## INGREDIENTS:

- \* 10 Cups fresh Blueberries
- \* 10 Cups granulated Sugar
- \* 1 Lemon: Juice & Zest or 4 Tbl bottled juice
- \* 2 Pkgs (1.75 oz) Pectin or 12 Tbl bulk Pectin
- \* 4 Tsp Vanilla
- \* 1 pat of Butter
- \* 1/2 Tsp Salt
- \* 2-3 Tbl Vinegar to wipe rims



## DIRECTIONS:

- Wash and sort the Blueberries
- Blend the berries in the blender or with a stick blender in a Maslin or heavy bottom pan,
- Heat to boiling, simmer fruit for 10-15 minutes.
- Stir in vanilla, salt, lemon juice and zest along with the Pectin. Heat to a rolling boil while stirring occasionally to prevent sticking.
- Add the sugar all at once, stir well to blend and prevent scorching.
- Add butter if desired to reduce foaming. May skim foam to extra jar to use soonest.
- Taste-test for desired sweetness, flavor, adjust ingredients as necessary. Bring back to boil and cook for one minute.
- Drip Test using a metal spoon (should coat) onto a cold plate to make sure it will gel. :-).
- Remove from heat and place hot jam into hot clean canning jars, fill to ¼ inch of headspace.
- De-bubble, skim any foam into extra jar.
- Wipe rim with cloth dipped in vinegar, checking to be sure there are no chips in rim.
- Place a hot clean lid on each jar and tighten the ring fingertip-tight. Place in hot water-bath canner.
- Cover with hot water 1-2 inches above jars,
- Empty remaining vinegar into the water. Place lid and Heat to boiling,
- Can pints for 0–1,000 feet: 10 minutes
  - 1,001–6,000 feet: 15 minutes
  - Above 6,000 feet: 20 minutes
- When time is up, remove covered canner from heat for five minutes, then remove lid of canner, then
- Remove jars onto clean towel to rest, Cool the jars upright and undisturbed for 12–24 hours; then remove the bands and test the seals.
- Be sure to listen for the “Pop!” as the jars seal.

# When Life Gives You Lemons, Make Bliss

## Scripture

*“O LORD, how manifold are Your works!  
In wisdom You have made them all.”*

Psalm 104:24 (NKJV)

They say when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. I added farm-fresh blueberries, a kiss of vanilla, and made Blueberry-Lemonilla Bliss.

At my age and in the Florida heat, there is a fine line between homesteading and heat stroke. Freshly picked berries were available at the local farm, so I bought them rather than spending my energy picking in the hot sun. The farmer could pick the berries; my work was to bring them home and turn them into something special.

The lemon first entered this recipe for a practical reason. I had decided to can blueberry jam. I wanted to increase the acidity before processing the jam in a water-bath canner.

Then I remembered the lemon growing on the tree between our house and our neighbor's. We share its fruit each season. Nearby, my vanilla orchid was growing. It had not produced vanilla pods yet—that can take years—but it reminded me of the vanilla pods I already had steeping.

That was it. Vanilla would be the chef's kiss in Blueberry-Lemonilla Bliss.

My project began with praise for the Creator, gratitude for His provision, and a willingness to follow where the inspiration led. My part was to notice, give thanks, and bring it all to the creation table.

We sometimes look for God's leading in grand moments while overlooking what He has already placed within reach. But when we pause to praise Him for who He is, our eyes open more readily to His provision. Then ordinary ingredients—and ordinary days—can become opportunities to create something good.

God is the gracious originator. Every good thing begins with Him. Yet He graciously invites us to follow His leading and use what He has provided.

Sometimes His provision is already waiting in the pantry, growing on a tree, or ripening in a nearby field.

## Journal Prompts

1. What can I praise God for today as my Creator and Provider?
2. Where might practical necessity be opening a door to creativity?
3. How is He leading me to use what He has provided to create something good or bless someone else?

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, You are the Creator of all things and the Giver of every good gift. Your wisdom and provision surround me.

I confess that I have sometimes overlooked Your gifts or hurried past the inspiration You placed before me.

Open my eyes, and I will notice. Lead me, and I will follow. Place the work before me, and I will bring willing hands to the creation table.

I trust You to guide what I create and establish the work of my hands. Thank You for allowing me to reflect Your creativity with the gifts You provide.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

## Takeaway Verse

*"And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us,  
And establish the work of our hands for us."*

Psalm 90:17 (NKJV)