

AT A GLANCE:

Makes / Serves

1 jar / 2 servings

Prep time

About 15 minutes

Cook time

8 minutes

Rest time

2 minutes

Method / Setting

Stovetop / low boil

Cranberry-Walnut

- 1/4 cup Craisins
- 3 Tbsp chopped walnuts
- 1/2 tsp Ceylon cinnamon

Mango-Almond

- 1/4 cup dried mango
- 3 Tbsp sliced almonds
- 1/2 tsp Ceylon cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp cardamom

LAYERING ORDER(bottom to top)

1. 1/2 cup rolled oats
2. 1/4 cup powdered milk
3. 1 Tbsp brown sugar
4. 1 Tbsp chia + 1/8 tsp salt + 1/2 tsp cinnamon
5. 1/4 cup Craisins
6. 1 Tbsp cream powder
7. 1/2 cup rolled oats
8. 3 Tbsp chopped walnuts

GIFT-JAR TIP: Gently press each layer flat with a kraut pounder before adding the next layer to keep the bands neat.

DIRECTIONS:

- 1. Choose your flavor.** Select one of the four flavor add-ins.
- 2. Layer in the jar.** Add ingredients in the order shown; gently compact each layer.
- 3. Store.** Seal the completely dry jar tightly and rotate through normal pantry breakfast stock.
- 4. To prepare.** Bring 2 cups water to a boil in a saucepan.
- 5. Add oatmeal.** Pour in the entire jar; stir until it returns to a rolling boil and lumps dissolve.
- 6. Cook.** Reduce heat to a low boil and cook 8 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- 7. Rest & enjoy.** Turn off heat; rest 2 minutes. Stir and divide between two bowls.

INGREDIENTS:

MASTER BASE

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1/4 cup powdered milk
- 1 Tbsp dried cream powder
- 1 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp chia seeds
- 1/8 tsp salt

FLAVOR ADD-INS



Fig-Walnut

- 1/4 cup chopped figs
- 3 Tbsp chopped walnuts
- 1/2 tsp Ceylon cinnamon

Chocolate-Date-Pecan

- 1/4 cup chopped dates
- 3 Tbsp chopped pecans
- 1 Tbsp cacao powder
- 1/8 tsp Ceylon cinnamon

COMFORT ON THE SHELF

Preparing Today for Tomorrow's Need

SCRIPTURE

***"She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet."
Proverbs 31:21 (NKJV)***

A Little Comfort from Home

Of course, like any mother, I love my children. They are grown now, with households of their own, and they are perfectly capable of providing for themselves. I don't need to provide for their *needs* anymore.

But I suppose there is a part of a mother that never quite stops wanting to provide a little for their *wants*.

The last times my son came home to visit, he went looking for the little packets of instant oatmeal he used to love when he was a teenager.

I didn't have them anymore.

It was such a small thing, but I remembered it. He certainly wasn't going hungry. There was plenty of food in the house. Yet of all the things available to him, he went looking for something familiar from years ago.

And I realized that perhaps what he was looking for wasn't simply oatmeal. He was looking for comfort.

There is something about coming home and finding a familiar food waiting in the cupboard. It carries memories with it. For just a moment, the grown man with a home and responsibilities of his own gets to reach into Mom's pantry and find something that still feels like home.

These days, I know more about nutrition than I did when he was a teenager. I can make oatmeal with whole rolled oats, milk, chia seeds, dried fruit and nuts - something far more substantial than the little packets I used to buy.

So I began wondering: **Could I prepare a shelf-stable version of the comfort he remembers, while making it better?**

That question became these Breakfast-in-a-Jar oatmeal mixes.

Prepared Before the Cold Comes

Proverbs tells us that the virtuous woman is not afraid of the snow because her household is prepared for it.

Notice that Scripture does not say the snow never comes. **She prepares before it comes.**

There is a difference between fearful stockpiling and faithful preparation. Jesus tells us not to worry about tomorrow, yet Scripture repeatedly praises wisdom, stewardship and foresight.

Preparation does not have to say, *"I am afraid God will not provide."* It can say instead, **"God has provided today, so I will faithfully steward what He has placed in my hands."**

Look at something as ordinary as one of these oatmeal jars. The grain has been harvested and stored. Milk has been preserved as powder. Fruit has been dried beyond its growing season. Nuts and seeds hold nourishment inside their little shells and hulls.

All of those individual provisions can wait quietly on a pantry shelf. Then someone gathers them together with another person - and another morning - in mind.

That is when provision becomes preparation. And sometimes, preparation becomes comfort.

COMFORT ON THE SHELF

Preparing Today for Tomorrow's Need

Love Looks Ahead

There are things we prepare because we must. And there are things we prepare simply because we love someone.

A meal tucked into the freezer. A favorite treat waiting when the grandchildren arrive. A guest room made ready before company comes. A pantry stocked with ingredients we know our family enjoys.

None of those things guarantees tomorrow. They simply say: **I thought about you before you arrived.**

There is something deeply comforting about discovering that someone anticipated your coming and prepared a place for you.

Our Heavenly Father understands our tomorrows far better than we ever could. We cannot foresee every need, prevent every hardship or stock a pantry against every possibility. Nor are we asked to.

We are simply called to be faithful with what He has entrusted to us today.

So we prepare what is ours to prepare. And we trust God with what only He can provide.

From My Home to Yours

Perhaps someday my son will come home again and open the pantry looking for those little packets of oatmeal he remembers from his teenage years.

They still won't be there. Instead, he may find a jar filled with oats, fruit, nuts, chia and all the good things his mother now knows to put into it.

It won't be exactly what he remembers. But perhaps that is part of the beauty of home.

The years pass. Children grow. Families change. We learn. We improve things. We prepare differently than we once did.

The package changes. The comfort doesn't.

A Thought for Today

What has God already placed in your hands that could become provision for someone's tomorrow?

Preparation need not come from fear. Sometimes it is simply love looking ahead.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You are Jehovah Jireh, my Provider. Every good thing I possess comes from Your hand, and You know tomorrow's needs before I do. Your Word teaches me to prepare with wisdom without being ruled by fear.

I acknowledge that I cannot anticipate every need or prepare for every possibility. **Please give me wisdom to recognize what You have placed in my hands, and I will faithfully steward it. Please show me where preparation can bless my family and others, and I will do the work that is mine to do. Please guard me from anxious striving, and I will entrust to You what is beyond my responsibility.**

I trust You with my household, the people I love, and the tomorrows I cannot see. Thank You for daily bread, for hands able to prepare it, and for the privilege of making home a place where comfort can be waiting.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

A MOMENT TO REFLECT

1. What familiar food, tradition, or simple thing made you feel cared for when you came home? Who prepared that comfort for you?
2. What has God placed in your hands today that you could prepare, preserve, or set aside to bless someone tomorrow?
3. Where is the line between preparation and worry in your own life? What is yours to prepare faithfully - and what do you need to entrust to God?