

Toast to Diversity

By Julie Filby



God's Word through the prophet Isaiah is good news—the Lord loves and calls people of all races and cultures to live together as God's children. Jesus preached the same Word. Illustrate this Bible truth with a fun, edible art project.

For
Young Family

Season

Fall

Needed

Bible, white bread, milk, three or four colors of food coloring, cotton swabs, small cups, toaster. Optional: butter, cinnamon sugar

Prepare in Advance

Add food coloring to three or four small cups of milk to make three or four different colors of milk.

Activity Plan

1. Gather the family and read aloud Isaiah 56:6-8 from your Bible or from the text following this Activity Plan. Explain that in the day of prophet Isaiah, certain groups of people (basically those who were not Jewish) were excluded from worshipping God. In this passage, however, God speaks through Isaiah to declare that everyone who loves God, no matter where they're from, belongs in the Lord's house. Discuss: *Who is welcome to worship and praise God? In what ways is our church a "house of prayer for all peoples"?*
2. Give each family member a slice of bread. Have each person paint a design or scene on the bread that is a reminder of Isaiah's words, using different colors of milk as paint. Use cotton swabs as paintbrushes. If needed, suggest designs such as: rainbows, stained glass windows, a globe, faces of different colors, or multi-colored crosses. Remember to use a different swab for each color of milk "paint."
3. When drawings are complete, lightly toast bread in a toaster. Optional: While still hot, butter and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar.
4. Before enjoying your snack, pray together:

Dear Lord, make us loving, open, and understanding. Remind us that all people are created in your image. Help us recognize the diversity of your people as a blessing and unity as a strength. Amen.

Bon appétit!

Isaiah 56:6-8

⁶ “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”

⁸ The Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,
“I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered.”

