

Children's Story for International Witness Sunday 2024

Theme: Welcome to the Banquet Table: Sharing in God's Global Feast

Dear Storytellers,

Thank you for introducing the tall and small in your congregation to the wonders of God's banquet table. The theme for International Witness Sunday this year is taken from Isaiah 25:6-9. As you prepare, spend some time meditating on these verses. What do you see? Hear? Taste? Feel? Try to engage your holy imagination to see God's vision for the world. Let the children spend time imagining, as well.

Please feel free to make changes to the ideas below according to your congregation, age of the children, food that is available to you, time that you have for this story. This is written to spark your own ideas!

Welcome to God's Global Banquet!

*Blessings as you serve,
Jeanette*

Preparation:

- Picnic blanket or table for the children to sit around (helps with clean up)
- Various eating utensils, enough for children to try different kinds
- Various foods with different flavours, textures, sizes – ideas below. Alternative: find photos of these foods online and image eating them with various utensils to think about what works best. Photos of meals available [HERE](#) or a copy of the Giving Cookbook found [HERE](#).
- Hand sanitizer for beginning and end, paper towels or a wet cloth

Have you ever been to a big banquet? What was it like? What did you eat? Where did you sit? What did you use to eat?

People eat in different ways.

Have a variety of forks, spoons (metal and ceramic), chopsticks (wooden and metal).

Have you used all of these things for eating? What kinds of foods do you eat with these? Are there things that are easier to eat with your hands? I have various foods here and you try to see what works best.

Have a variety of foods for sampling using the various utensils. Some ideas: mashed potatoes, long fried noodles, wonton soup, cream pie, sticky rice with nori seaweed, injera (Ethiopian flatbread) with sauce – see Giving Cookbook for recipe for Doro Wat. The last two items are made to eat with hands.

Look at these pictures of various meals. Can you see things that are different in each of these pictures? How are the people sitting and how are they eating?

Today we are talking about a great banquet that we read about in the Bible in the book of Isaiah. This banquet is one that God is planning for all the people of the world. It is a banquet where God will wipe away all tears and where there will be no more war or fighting. It is a beautiful image of a banquet where the whole world will come together in peace. Can you imagine a banquet like that? What would it look like? How would you feel at a banquet like that?

As we hear stories from around the world, we can already see, hear and taste the beginning for this banquet. God is calling us all to get ready for this banquet. To love God and love each other is the beginning of this banquet. Together we can get ready every day.

VT 11 Mountain of God – sung together as a congregation or as a special number