

Children's sermon: July 3, 2011
"Melting Pot"

Multi-colored wrist bands ... red, white, and blue ... this is what Fred and his buddies are today.
And ----- they are looking for a home.

First they look inside this cup ... and who meets them? ----- a purple band.
His first words: "Bands of your type aren't welcome here!@!!" Fred and company are on their way out.
Can you imagine not liking someone ... just because he/she is a different color????
I guess if you are not purple ... well, you are not welcome here!!

Fred and company make a lot of other stops along the way ----- plastic cups, styro-foam cups, glass cups,
big cups, small cups ... and the message is the same:
YOU RED-WHITE-AND-BLUE TYPES ARE NOT WELCOME!@!!
What is it about being purple that makes you not like other bands???
After all ---- "color" is a gift. Different colors of people and things ... this all makes the world more
fun and interesting!@!!

On their journey through life ... Fred and company bump into this guy ...
do you know him???? ----- ELMO!!
Elmo lives in a coffee pot.

"Hey, kids, come over here!! You need us, and we need you. This is no ordinary coffee pot ...
I call this *God's melting pot.*"

Fred and company dive into the coffee-now-called-melting-pot ... and they are **welcomed with hugs and smiles and all kinds of multi-colored bands**. Every band is a different color ... fun colors ... lots of colors.

Elmo says to them ----- "Hey, enjoy your new home ... I have a bit of unfinished business over here.

Elmo pays a visit to each of the cups who did not welcome Fred and his friends.
He asks the purple bands to look inside their hearts ... and "read" what it says.
Let's take a look at these purple bands and read this message on the inside look:
"ACCEPT YOURSELF ... ACCEPT OTHERS."

Suddenly the purple bands feel a bit ashamed. They don't even know their own hearts.
"Sir ... can we come and live with you???? ... will you accept us??? ... we need to apologize to those "kids"
we turned away."
ELMO SMILES: *"Now this is what life is all about!!"*

The purple bands join Elmo and "Fred and company" in the melting pot.
"Elmo ..." they all ask ----- "Does this pot have a name????"
Elmo smiles: "Yes, it has a name ... we call our place AMERICA."

Kids ... have a wonderful 4th of July. Never forget what our country stands for.
On your way back to your seat ... reach inside our "pot" ... I have a multi-colored wrist band ----
just for you!!