

Recipe from *Debbie Macomber's Table*

Gratitude Bread

Remember the friendship bread craze from a few years back? This is a different take on that idea. Giving a loaf of this delicious bread is a sweet way of expressing appreciation to those who have touched your life. I imagine this recipe is one Shay, from *Any Dream Will Do*, would use to thank those who guided and helped her after her release from prison.

You can use any combination of fruits and nuts as long as you keep the proportion of 1 cup fruit to $\frac{3}{4}$ cup nuts. If you're only using fresh fruit, use 1½ cups per loaf.

This will keep, wrapped in plastic wrap or aluminum foil, for 3 days at room temperature or for 3 months frozen.

Makes 1 (8 x 4 ½ inch) loaf

2 cups flour

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup sugar

1 ½ teaspoons baking powder

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking soda

$\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt

1 cup buttermilk

1 egg

4 tablespoons ($\frac{1}{2}$ stick) butter, melted and cooled

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

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Your choice of mix-ins (see below)

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Grease an 8 x 4-inch loaf pan. Line the pan with parchment paper cut to fit the length of the pan with 2 inches hanging over the sides.

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Add the buttermilk, egg, butter, and vanilla, and stir with a rubber spatula just until combined.

Gently fold in your choice of mix-ins.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan and smooth the top. Bake for 55 to 65 minutes, until a knife inserted in the center comes out with a few crumbs attached.

Let the loaf cool in the pan for 10 minutes, then turn the loaf out onto a wire rack to cool. Slice and serve warm or at room temperature.

Mix-ins:

Northwest Mixed Berry: Fold in 1½ cups fresh or frozen mixed berries.

Peach Almond: Reduce the vanilla extract to ½ teaspoon and add ¾ teaspoon almond extract. Fold in 1 cup chopped peeled fresh peaches and ¾ cup chopped almonds.

Pear Walnut: Fold in 1 cup fresh chopped fresh pears and ¾ cup chopped walnuts.

Cranberry Pecan: Fold in 1 cup dried cranberries and ¾ cup chopped pecans.