

GETTING OUT THE GOOD STUFF

*How sweet are your words to my taste, [O Lord,]
sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

—Psalm 119:103

Note: If you plan to do the “Live It!” activity together as a group, you’ll need to get enough honeycombs beforehand so that all the children can have a small piece. Check your local grocery store, or search for “honeycomb,” “comb honey,” or “chunk honey” on the internet to find some in your area.

INTRODUCTION

If you had a treasure map, you’d do everything you could to get the treasure, wouldn’t you? Maybe you’d find a ship and sail far away to a remote desert island. There you’d hike through the jungle for miles, looking for the right spot. Then you’d dig and dig in the ground until you found the treasure chest. After all that, you’d have to break open the lock. But the treasure would be worth it!

Well, getting all the riches out of your Bible kind of works the same way. It takes some effort on your part. But God has put a lot of good stuff in there, and it’s definitely worth doing anything you need to do to get it out.

So what *do* you need to do? That’s what we’re going to find out in today’s devotion. It’s based on Psalm 119:103, which says, “How sweet are your words to my taste, [O Lord,] sweeter than honey to my mouth!” This devotion offers another example of the need to make an effort to obtain something valuable. It’s called “Getting Out the Good Stuff.”

DEVOTION

Wearing a beekeeper’s hat, Patricia watched her uncle. He was taking honeycombs out of one of his beehives. First he used a special can to blow smoke on the hive.

“What’s that for?” Patricia asked.

As he pulled out the honeycombs, her uncle replied, “It calms the bees down.” Patricia followed him into a small building. With a big knife, he cut off the wax caps that sealed the honeycombs. Then he loaded the honeycombs into a machine. It spun them fast, removing the honey. The golden liquid was filtered as it flowed out.

“Try some,” he said, filling a little paper cup. Patricia tasted the honey, and it was delicious.

Beekeepers go to a lot of trouble to get honey out of a honeycomb. Are you trying hard to get the good stuff out of your Bible? It’s full of great things, like God’s precious promises, inspiring stories, and wise rules for living. Don’t let your Bible just sit on your bookshelf. Crack it open, and do your best to get everything you can out of it.

QUESTIONS

1. The first two things you can do to get the good stuff out of your Bible are to *read it* and *study it*. What is the difference between those things?

Answer: When you read a passage of the Bible, you only go through it once. But when you study it, you dig a little deeper, maybe reading footnotes and articles that go with it, using a dictionary to look up words you don't understand, etc.

2. The next thing you can do to get the good stuff out of your Bible is to *think about it*. Some people call this "meditation." How do you do that?

Answer: You can ask yourself questions like "Why did the person in this passage do what he did?" and "What is God teaching me in this passage?"

3. Another thing you can do to get the good stuff out of your Bible is to *memorize it*. Of course, you don't have to memorize the whole thing! But it is helpful to memorize key Scripture verses. Why is that important? Can you think of some fun ways to make Scripture memorization easier?

4. A very important thing you must do to get the good stuff out of your Bible is to *believe it*. This time, that does include the whole thing! But what if part of the Bible seems hard to believe? What should you do then?

Answer: Trust in God. He says that the whole Bible is true, so you can have complete faith in it.

5. Another great thing to do to get the good stuff out of your Bible is to *pray it*. How do you do that?

Answer: Many parts of the Bible, such as the Psalms, are prayers to begin with. So it's easy to read those passages out loud, making them *your* prayers. Other parts of the Bible can be turned into prayers. For example, Joel 2:13 says, "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love." You could pray, "God, I praise you because you are gracious and compassionate and loving, and you don't get angry very quickly. And I'm glad that I can always come back to you when I make a mistake and sin."

6. Finally, there is one more thing you can do to get the good stuff out of your Bible—*live it!* That's very important. What are some ways you can do that?

Some answers: you can ask God to tell you how you can apply a Scripture passage to your life, and ask him to give you the ability to do it; you can make a commitment to God that you will live according to what the Bible teaches, and then do your best to keep that commitment (asking for God's forgiveness if, at times, you fail); you can ask a friend to keep reminding you to do something the Bible says you should do (such as tell the truth); etc.

Do the "Live It!" activity together as a group, or read the instructions to children and suggest that they try the activity at home.

LIVE IT!

Buy some honeycomb, and try eating the honey right out of it. Then do the following things to get the good stuff out of your Bible: Read it. Study it. Think about it. Memorize it. Believe it. Pray it. And live it!