

Bible reading Psalm 119:97-104 Year C – Pentecost 22 Oct 16 2016



What this is: Intergenerational Bible Reading (and concluding prayer)



Where it's used: In any intergenerational gathering, but specifically with Lectionary based gatherings



Time: 5 minutes



Bible focus/theme: Psalm 119:97-104



What's needed: Copy of text, either on screen, or printed copies for every-one. Plenty of Honey Joys!

Recipe here <http://www.taste.com.au/recipes/38242/honey+joys>

Introduction:

The Psalms are a collection of poems in the Bible. Like most poetry they are full of emotions - sometimes very dark and sad, but other times, like today's psalm, downright cheeky, fun and humorous.

So to make sure we are all in the right zone for this Psalm – ready for it's joy and it's cheekiness, we have a batch of Honey Joys. If you are serious about understanding this Psalm, (and you don't have food allergies) you'll need a Honey Joy.

(Have some helpers distribute Honey Joys amongst your gathering)

Like most poetry, this psalm is a bit over the top. The poet is gushing about how good God's words are, how helpful they are, how God's words make a youngster wiser than adults and teachers. That good. The language is extreme, but that's just how good the poet thinks the words of God are. Words like All, Always, More, Every are used a lot. And then right near the end the poet goes right over the top and compares the words of God to Honey – sweeter than honey!

So as we listen to this psalm and read along, each time we hear something extreme, take a bite from your Honey Joy.

(read text, pausing on highlighted words for Honey Joy munching. Repeat reading if there is left over Honey Joy.)



Psalm 119:97-104

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119:97 Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.

119:98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.

119:99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation.

119:100 I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

119:101 I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

119:102 I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.

119:103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

119:104 Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Conclusion: The poet writes that God's words make them wiser and more understanding than grown ups and teachers - which suggests that the poem is written from the perspective of a young person. I wonder what you think of that as young people? OR as older people?

At the very least, it reminds us that God's good Word is sweet and valuable for young and old alike.

Thanks, God that we can share in the joy and wisdom of your word together today. Amen.



For home:

Make this sweet psalm of the week in your household. Each night after dinner stop and enjoy eating something sweet together, and read this psalm as we have today, and be reminded of the good words God has given to us. Remind one another what you think those words are. Share with one another if you have noticed something from the bible in that day that you think is pretty sweet.

Image: https://www.kelloggs.com.au/en_AU/honey-joys.html