

Taste and See

Description:

a game and a story

Aim: to illustrate the impact of the good news when people hear it for the first time in their own language

Audience:

Primary through adults, any size group

Time: 10 minutes

Equipment: a piece of apple, cheese, & chocolate; blindfold

Scriptures to Study:

Psalms 119:103-104,
1 Peter 2:1-3

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Leader's Instructions:

1. In advance, prepare a small piece of apple, cheese, and chocolate. Place them in a covered food container.
2. Explain the game with these instructions:
*"In this container are three kinds of food. They will be given, one at a time, to three blindfolded volunteers. The volunteers have to guess what food they've eaten, and then describe it to all of us. However, they may **not** use its actual name. You, the audience, have to guess what food they are describing."*
3. Ask for a volunteer to come to the front for a taste test. (Since this is a mission presentation, some may suspect odd foods like grubs or bats' wings, raising the level of suspense and fun.)
4. Blindfold the volunteer. Turn him, or her, around so the audience can not see what food you take from the container. Give the volunteer a piece of apple to taste and say, *"Now, don't tell us what you are eating. Describe it's taste and texture to everyone without using its name."* Turn the volunteer back around to face the audience.
5. If the volunteer finds this confusing, ask a few leading questions like these: *"Was it hard or soft? Was it sweet or sour? Was it chewy or sticky? Did you like it or not?"*
6. Ask the audience to guess what the food was. When someone guesses correctly, remove the blindfold and have the volunteer sit back down.
7. Repeat this with another volunteer, using cheese this time. (*Ask in a whisper if he or she has any food allergies. Many people can not tolerate milk products.)
8. Repeat it again with a third volunteer, using the chocolate.
9. Tell the attached true story, *Dying of Deliciousness*.

Helpful Hints:

Apple and cheese are only suggestions. You can use anything, but the third food must be chocolate and all three foods should contrast with each other.

Additional Related Resource:

The story *Dying of Deliciousness* appears in a fuller form for teens and adults in the book *In Search of the Source* by Neil Anderson with Hyatt Moore, published by Multnomah Press and available through Wycliffe.

Dying of Deliciousness

As you've found out in the game, it's not always easy to describe something you can't see! It's even harder to describe something when you've *never* seen it before. Listen to this true story about Neil Anderson, who worked as a Bible translator with the Folopa people of Papua New Guinea.

Once Neil decided to join some of the men on a hunt through the jungle. It was hard going. The paths led through rivers and swamps, over fallen logs, across gorges, up and down cliffs. The Folopa men did it all barefoot, and walked very quickly.

It wasn't until noon that they came to their first stop. Folopa men don't like to pause much on a trek because of all the leeches. If they stop at all, it's when they find a place that's free of leeches, like a fallen tree that's hanging between other trees up off the ground. Neil had been ready for a break long before they finally got to a tree like that. They all walked out onto it and squatted down, lined up like birds on a telephone wire.

Neil couldn't hide from the others how tired and hungry he was. Somebody asked him, "Why don't you eat something?" So he reached into his backpack and felt around. Everyone was curious about what was in there. He pulled out a big bar of Cadbury's chocolate.

Folopa people share everything, so there's no way Neil could eat chocolate in private. He opened the end of the wrapper, bit off a chunk and felt forty eyes gazing at him. None of them had ever seen chocolate before.

Neil tried to ignore them. He chewed the chocolate and swallowed. After a moment's quiet, one of the men asked, "Does it taste good?"

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“It tastes great,” Neil replied. And then of course he added, “Would you like some?” The man broadened his mouth and sucked breath through his teeth, which is the Folopa way of saying “Yes, please!” So Neil broke off a square and gave it to him. Now the forty eyes were upon the other man as he put the chocolate in his mouth and sucked on it. Then someone asked him, “Does it taste good?”

“Brothers,” he said, “I’m dying of the deliciousness of whatever this is!” This is how Folopa people always express things that strike them very deeply. “What’s it like?” they asked. You could almost see the wheels turning in his mind as he went on savoring the chocolate, not knowing how to describe the new taste. Finally he looked up. “It’s like pig’s liver,” he decided. Everybody hummed with satisfaction. It may seem a strange way of describing chocolate to us, but to the Folopa people it made sense. Of all the foods they eat, pig is the best and the liver is the best part of the pig. After this, there was nothing to do but to divide the bar into eighteen more pieces and pass them out. Everyone agreed that the chocolate was wonderful.

A long time later, something reminded Neil of the day he perched on that tree trunk, eating chocolate with his friends. He was busy working with two Folopa translators and they had come to the part of the Bible which talks about Jesus giving up His own life so that we can be free. An old man was also there and had been listening intently. He leaned forward and said, “That’s hard to believe!” “What is?” Neil asked.

“That a man would die in place of someone else!” He looked around at the others and leaned back with a sigh, as though the thought was beyond his grasp. Then he said what Folopa people always do when things hit them at the deepest level: “We are *dying of the deliciousness* of this talk!”

Discussion and Application:

1. Can you imagine never having tasted chocolate? For chocoholics, that's too horrible to imagine!
2. What's another thing that would be even more horrible to live without? That's right! The Good News about Jesus and how He gave His life for us. The Folopa people recognized that right away, didn't they? But did you know that hundreds of millions of people today are still without the Scriptures in a language they can read? They are missing out on the deliciousness of God's Word!
3. Let's look up a couple of Bible passages to remind ourselves just how blessed we are to have God's Word.
 - ◆ Psalm 119:103-104
 - ◆ 1 Peter 2:1-3
4. Does God want all people to have His Word? How can you become involved? Can you go right now to a faraway land? Can you pray for missionaries? For Bibleless people? Can you give time to write letters so that missionaries won't be so lonely? Can you work and give money to pay for Bible translation?
5. Pray now and ask God to tell you what He wants *you* to do. (For food for thought, see the *Bright Ideas!* page entitled "Projects to Do" by going to <http://www.wycliffe.org/Kids/Curriculum.aspx>.)

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