

TASTE AND SEE

Aim: to illustrate the impact of the good news when you hear it for the first time in your own language.

Audience: children, any number.

Duration: ten minutes.

Description: a game followed by a story.

Equipment: apple, cheese, chocolate, food container, blindfold.



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Leader's Instructions:

1. In advance, prepare small pieces of apple, cheese and chocolate. Place them in a food container.
2. Explain the game using the Audience's Instructions.
3. Ask for a volunteer to come to the front.
4. Blindfold the volunteer, lead them outside and give them the piece of apple to taste.
5. Lead the volunteer back into the room. Ask them to describe what it was they tasted without actually using its name. If they find this difficult, ask them a few questions as prompts: Was it hard or soft? Was it sweet or sour? Was it chewy or sticky? Did they like it or not?
6. Ask the audience to guess what the food was. When someone has guessed correctly, tell the volunteer to take their blindfold off and return to their seat.
7. Repeat this with another volunteer this time using the cheese.
8. Repeat it again with a third volunteer, using the chocolate.
9. Use the game as a an introduction to the story *Dying of Deliciousness*.

Audience's Instructions:

In this food container there are three kinds of food. They will be given, one at a time, to three volunteers who will be blindfolded. The volunteers have to guess what the food is and, without using its name, describe it to everyone else. You have to guess what the food is from their description.

Helpful Hints:

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

Ideas for Use:

This activity works well in almost any setting with children including school assemblies, lessons, family services and Sunday schools. It can be used when you have a wide age range together and is simple enough for very young children to understand.

Additional Resources:

- The story *Dying of Deliciousness* has been abridged and adapted for children. It appears in a fuller form for adults in the book *In Search of the Source* by Neil Anderson with Hyatt Moore, published by Multnomah Press and available from Wycliffe UK (address on page 1).
- A cartoon page, *Grubbing It Out*, which tells another story from the book *In Search of the Source*, is also available from Wycliffe UK.

NOTES:

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 amongst the Folopa people of Papua New Guinea as a Bible translator.

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 fast.

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 tree that's fallen and is hanging between other trees off the ground. On this day, Neil had been ready for a break for a long time when they finally got to a tree like that. They all walked out on to 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 rucksack 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 together, so there's no way you can eat chocolate in private. Neil 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 it. After a moment's quiet, one of the men spoke. "Does it taste good?" he asked. "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 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. His mind ticked over as he went on sucking, not knowing how to describe the new taste. Finally he looked up. "It's like pig's liver," he said. 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 for it but to divide the bar into eighteen more pieces and pass them out. Everyone agreed that the chocolate was wonderful.

A long time later, Neil was reminded of the day when he had sat eating chocolate with his friends on the tree trunk. He was busy working with the 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 could 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?" asked Neil. "That a man would die in place of someone else". He looked around at the others. He leaned back with a sigh as though it was beyond his grasp. Then he said what Folopa people always say when things hit them at the deepest level: "We are dying of the deliciousness of this talk".