

PREACHING CURRICULUM

A Sweet Word Revelation 10

"Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey."

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read Revelation 10:1-4. Who is the mighty angel described in this passage? What does his physical appearance tell us about him? Why is it significant that he planted his feet on both the land and the sea?

Why wasn't John allowed to write down what the seven thunders said?

Read Revelation 10:5-11. What does the little scroll represent, and why was John told to eat it? What does the act of eating the scroll symbolize?

What is significant about the fact that the scroll tasted sweet in John's mouth but was bitter in his stomach? What does this tell us about the nature of the message that was contained in the scroll?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

In what ways is God's Word sweet, and in what ways is it bitter? How can it be both at the same time?

Why does God withhold certain information from us? Are there things He hasn't told us that you wish that He would? If so, what are they?

How well do you know the Bible? What parts are you the most familiar with? Are there parts of the Scripture that you tend to ignore, skip over, or read less frequently?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

What are the "bitter" portions of Scripture intended to accomplish in people's lives? For example, when one encounters a passage describing God's fierce judgment against sinners – a common theme in Revelation – what should be the appropriate response? What are some wrong ways to respond to these passages?

Should we expect further revelation from God in the future? If so, what form will it take, and what false forms of revelation should we beware of? Does the expectation of future revelation from God imply that the Bible is incomplete? Why or why not?

How might you become a better student of the Bible so that you are more familiar with what God has revealed? What are your biggest obstacles to reading and studying the Bible for yourself, and how might they be overcome?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

How might you proclaim God's Word – both the sweet and the bitter – to the people in your circle of influence this week?

