



THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY

June 6, 2015

Children's Story/Parable: Bees or Butterflies?*

Read aloud: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV).

The lovely flowers in a garden are in full bloom. The honeybees, quick to take advantage of such a bumper pollen crop, shuttle regularly between flowers and hive. Their bodies are gilded with yellow pollen dust. Pollen sacs bulge on their rear legs. These remarkable insects provide free delivery service of pollen between blossoms. Transferring it from flower to flower through tiny bristles on their body, they fertilize each blossom they touch.

The bee's mouth not only rakes up pollen, it also kneads wax and draws nectar from hundreds of blossoms. Equipped with a long tongue, the bee gathers the nectar deep within the flowers and stores it in a honey sac till a full load is ready to take back to the hive.

While all this is going on, suddenly a lovely flash of color may light on a flower. A butterfly uncoils its long tongue and begins to sip nectar. Consisting of two sections joined together to form a hollow tube, the butterfly's tongue draws nectar out of a flower just as you sip from a straw.

How different are these two insects! Though both obtain sweet nectar from the flowers, the butterfly flits here and there. The bee goes deep and gathers much.

Many seek for God's truth from Bible using butterfly methods. They rush through a chapter and find certain parts difficult to understand, but take no time to study deeply. Flitting here and there with no real aim or purpose, they think Bible study uninteresting. Rather than study earnestly, they prefer to waste precious time in other kinds of activities that are not as good for them.

But some use the honeybee method. They dig deep for the jewels of truth that will enrich their lives. They fill their honey sacs with God's sweet promises, fortifying their souls against the deceptive temptations of sin. They are filled with God's truth.

When we study our Bibles, may we always go about it like the honeybees rather than the flighty butterflies.

* Adapted, with permission from Eileen and Jay Lantry, *Stop Look and Listen* (Takoma Park, Md.: Review & Herald Publishing Association, 1976), p. 334.