

## Reflection

### Eat It and Speak It

Children need direction. They should be able to expect it from parents. While the dos and don'ts of family life both express love, the don'ts require greater stamina and strength from parents!

God appointed Ezekiel as a kind of parent for the children of Israel. They had strayed from the covenant, abandoned faithful worship, and pursued false gods. They suffered destruction and exile. God needed someone with steely resolve to direct them.

Some people prefer celebrating strengths to pointing out failures. Maybe Ezekiel felt the same way. Maybe God knew that. Maybe that's why God appeared to Ezekiel in a vision, hand outstretched to him. And in the hand? A scroll with the very word of God. This was not the kind of word you hear and spontaneously say, "Thanks be to God." No, it carried a message of lamentation, wailing, and woe. The writing was not just on one side, either. It filled both sides.

Then God gave Ezekiel one of the strangest commands in the Bible. God said, "Eat it." Eat the scroll? "Yes. Fill your stomach." So Ezekiel obeyed, and surprisingly, the parchment tasted sweet. Nourished on this loathsome message, Ezekiel then did what any parent does: he corrected wayward children with love. And it tasted good.

Some people become strong in order to express love. If the message truly comes from God, we must speak it. And even though we may not realize it from afar, it will taste sweet.

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