

Gossip

Biblical Material: Proverbs 18.8

'Gossip is extremely tasty - how we like to chew it over and swallow it.'

You will need:

A selection of tasty foods such as crisps or chocolate.

Introduction

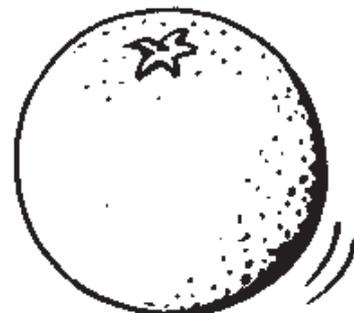
Show the various foods and talk about how tasty they are. If possible, taste some yourself and describe the different flavours. Alternatively, ask various members of staff to eat different foods and describe their flavours. Pupils can then try to guess the food from the description.

Core Material

Read the Biblical Material. The Bible describes the way some people enjoy gossip as if it were a piece of tasty food. Just as we take in food and enjoy it, so people take in gossip and enjoy it. Sometimes when a piece of gossip is heard, people go over and over it in their minds or share it with other people. It is as if it were a tasty piece of food. Some people like hearing bad news about others, about their mistakes and misfortunes: it gives them something to talk about: 'Have you heard...?' 'Did you know...?' It makes them look as if they are the people in the 'know'. It's almost as if they were talking about a new flavour in crisps instead of a person whose feelings can be hurt.

'Have you tasted the new spicy beef with pickled onion and chilli flavour crisps?'

'Have you heard whatdid?'



St. Paul, a Christian who wrote part of the Bible, talks about 'not rejoicing in wrong,' (1Corinthians 13.6). That means not enjoying other people's misfortune. Every time a person hears unpleasant gossip about someone else, they need to think about how they would feel if they were the person being discussed. Jesus laid down a 'golden rule' (Matthew 7.12). He said this. 'Do to others what you would want them to do to you.'

Prayer/Reflection

Teachers can fill in the gaps using names which do not occur in their school. This prayer can be read by the teacher or pupils can read alternate lines.

Have you tasted the new spicy beef crisps?

Have you heard whatdid?

Have you seen the latest film?

Have you heard about?

Have you listened to the latest CD?

You'll never guess whatsaid!

Have you played the new computer game?

I bet you don't know about...?

Father, forgive us if we discuss other people like items of food or entertainment.

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.