

STINK BAIT

SCRIPTURE:

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death." (James 1:13-15)

MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) Stink bait (catfish bait)

SONG: "Farther Along"

LESSON:

One of my favorite things to do is jump into a stream or river with a jar full of Catalpa worms. For those who don't know, Catalpa worms are the nastiest, stickiest, slimiest, little caterpillars God created on the sixth day. The inky goo they shoot out when you touch them will stain your skin for days. So why in the world would I like to take them to the river with me? Because I have found that they are the best catfish bait in the world. Catfish cannot resist the smell of the Catalpa worm and will eat them up like candy.

Have you noticed how many things that smell bad to you seem to smell good to other creatures? When the garbage starts to stink, it is swarming with flies. When dogs find a dead animal laying in the road, many of them will roll around in it. To you and me that is disgusting, but there is something that is attracting the dogs, flies and catfish. We know that those things are repulsive, so why don't these animals avoid them like we do? It's because of a thing called TEMPTATION!

You see, now you are beginning to understand what God is thinking when we get involved with things that are repulsive to Him. In Isaiah 59:2 we learn that our "iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear you." There is nothing more revolting to God than sin. The problem is that Satan is trying to attract you to the very things that repel God. He is using temptations to make what is appalling seem appealing. You will never be able to completely get away from Satan's temptations, but the good news is that you have a choice. You have not done anything wrong just by being tempted, it is when you allow the temptation to draw you in that you get yourself into trouble. You may think, "I'll just take a little nibble," and then Satan yanks on the line, sets the hook and you find yourself getting reeled in, moving further and further away from God.

God says, "Now flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith love and peace..." (2 Tim. 2:22). But He also tells us, "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (Jam. 4:7). What that means is that you are more powerful than the devil. Don't let him fool you with any kind of worldly "stink bait."

PRAYER: Everyone in our family will have the courage and wisdom to avoid the temptations of the world.

MAIN MESSAGE:

Satan is so sneaky that he is able to make something that is absolutely appalling to God, seem very attractive to us. We have to watch out every day for the traps that Satan is laying out for us because he knows your weaknesses, and he will use them against you.