

WHO ATE MY CANDY BAR?

Theme: God wants your whole heart

Scripture: Matthew 22:37

Prop: Candy bars



Say, does anyone want a candy bar? You do? OK, it's yours – but first... (*Unwrap candy bar and take a bite*). Boy, that's good! OK, here you go... (*Hand half-eaten candy bar to one of the children.*) What? You don't want it now? Oh, you mean you wanted the whole thing? You know what? I don't blame you. Who would want a half-eaten candy bar? Nobody!

So the message today is: never offer half a candy bar to someone. Oh, that reminds me: never offer half your heart to God, either.

Let me read you what Jesus said in Matthew 22, verse 37: "Love the Lord your God with half your heart, with half your soul and with half your mind." Wait a minute! Does that sound right? No! Let me read what it really says: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind." You see, God doesn't want just part of us. He wants us to give him our all.

In other words, God should be #1 in our lives. That doesn't mean you can't have other things in your life like family and friends, or maybe a special video game or a special toy. It just means they shouldn't be more important to us than God. We should be willing to give them up if God wants us to – even if it's family and friends. And that can be really hard to do. But God gives us his Holy Spirit power to help us do the things that are hard.

So instead of giving you a half-eaten candy bar, I'm going to give each of you a whole one. But before I do, let's pray: Our Father in heaven, help us to make sure that you are the most important thing in our lives. Help us to give you our whole heart, our whole mind and our whole soul. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Song: "All for Jesus"