



The Text

Pre-Gathering Bible Study

"How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"
(Psalm 119:103)

Texting

If you have a cell phone you probably know all about sending text messages. Texting is popular because it makes it easy to keep in touch with all your friends. A few short lines on the screen of your cell phone will let you know what your friends are doing, how they are feeling, and what their plans are. Text messaging is also instantaneous! You don't need to wait for the mail man to arrive, or for your little sister to get off the only telephone in the house. With a cell phone in your pocket, you are connected to your friends at all times. In the same way, we can also stay connected to our Best Friend Jesus by opening the Text He sent to us. In the Text of the Bible, God tells us how He feels about us, what He did to save us, and what His plans are for our future. That is why Jesus said, *"Blessed ... are those who hear the word of God and keep it."* (Luke 11:28 ESV)

"SWEET!"

Have you received any exciting text messages lately? A text message that contains exciting news might make you feel like shouting, "Sweet!" Read the following text messages and then discuss these questions: How does God feel? What did He do? What is He planning for the future? Also, identify those parts of each text that you consider especially sweet!

Open text: John 3:16

Open text: Romans 6:23

Open text: Ephesians 2:8-9

Open text: 1 Peter 2:9

ttyl

No one would delete a text from a friend without reading it first. In 2 Timothy 3:14-17 the Apostle Paul gives a list of reasons why God's Text should continue to be an important part of your life. Make your own list of reasons for opening The Text regularly in worship, in Bible class, and in your own private devotions.

Close by reading together "The Text" found in Psalm 67.