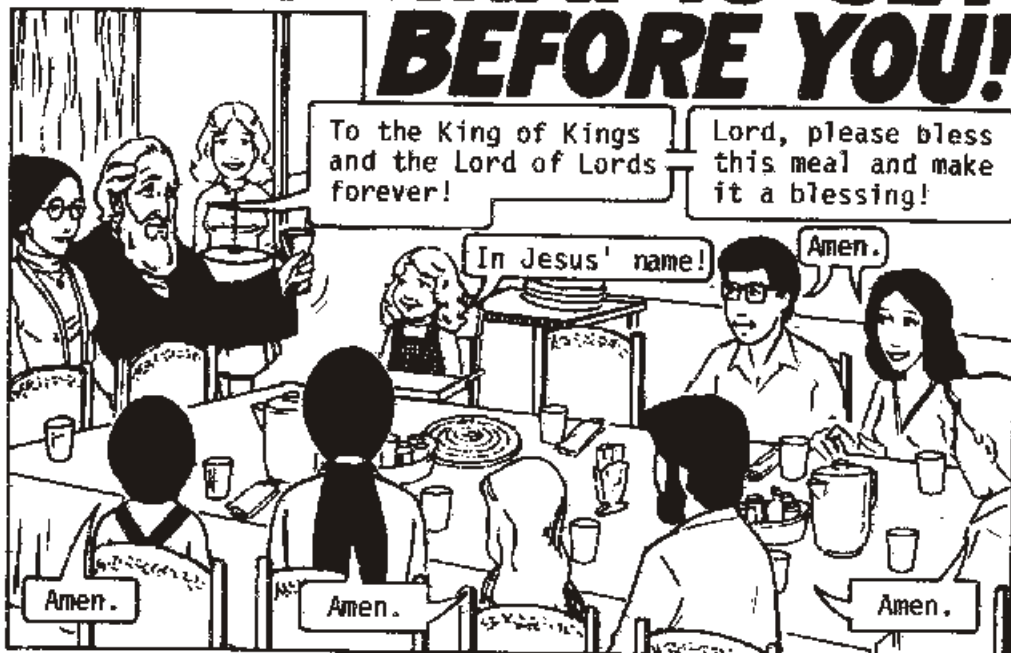


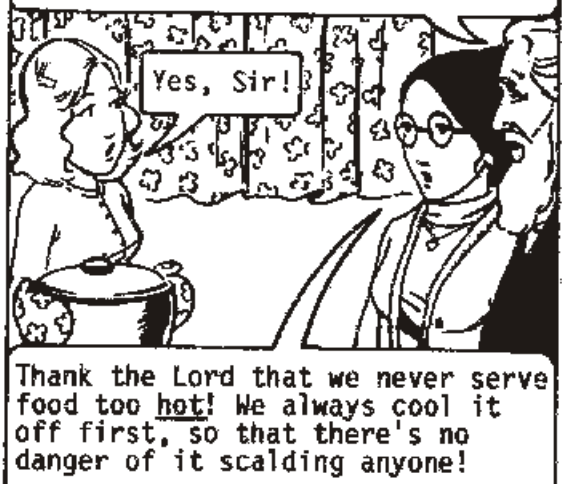
EAT WHAT IS SET BEFORE YOU!



Careful! Always say, "Hot, hot pot!" when you're coming along with something hot!



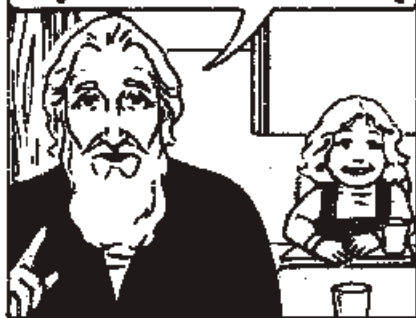
Well now, please put it down quickly, Dora, because the longer you hold it in your hands, the more chance there is of your spilling it and having some kind of an accident!





"Yes, Sir!" That's good! I think all of the children in the Family should reply to their parents and helpers with "Yes, Sir!" or "Yes, Ma'am!" or "Yes, Mommy!" or "Yes, Daddy!"

Children should learn to show this kind of respect to adults from the time they learn to start talking.



David, what are you doing?

I'm taking out the mushrooms! I don't like them so much!



But mushrooms are good for you, Son! Why don't you at least try eating some?

But I don't like them! They're icky!



David, when I was little, I never got away with not eating something on my plate!--Whether I liked it or not, I ate it!



Now tonight, young man, I want you to eat those mushrooms! Do you hear me?--Or there's going to be trouble!

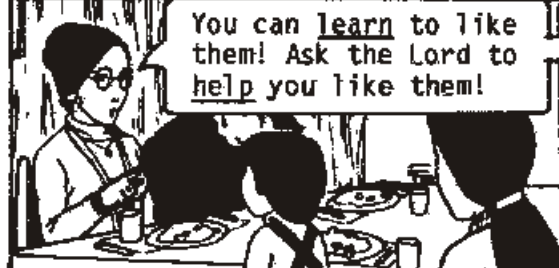
Yes, Sir!



And don't ever let me see you picking out stuff like that again! Now you eat it! I mean it!



You can learn to like them! Ask the Lord to help you like them!



I've heard some people in the Family talk about all the foods they don't like, groaning and murmuring and saying "Ick!", but with no prayer and effort to get the victory over it!



I remember when I visited my Aunt Ellen's house when I was a little boy about four years old! She was a real strict old lady, and I had to do what she said!



Now David, it's not nice for you to be a guest in my home and not eat the eggs I serve you! You must eat them!



But, Aunt Ellen, I don't like them!



Well, I believe the Lord can help you like them! I'll show you! I'll fix them in a special way!

I know nothing will ever make me like eggs!



There! I've put them on a nice piece of hot buttered toast!

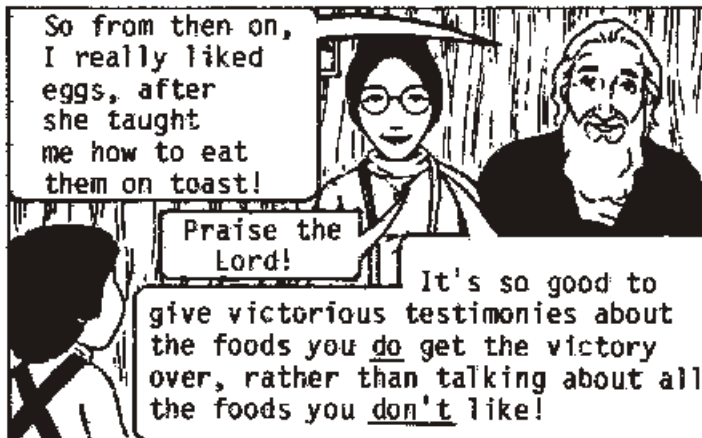
But...

Go on! Try it! You might like it!



Well, do you like it?

Mmmmmmm...
Thank You Jesus! It's delicious!

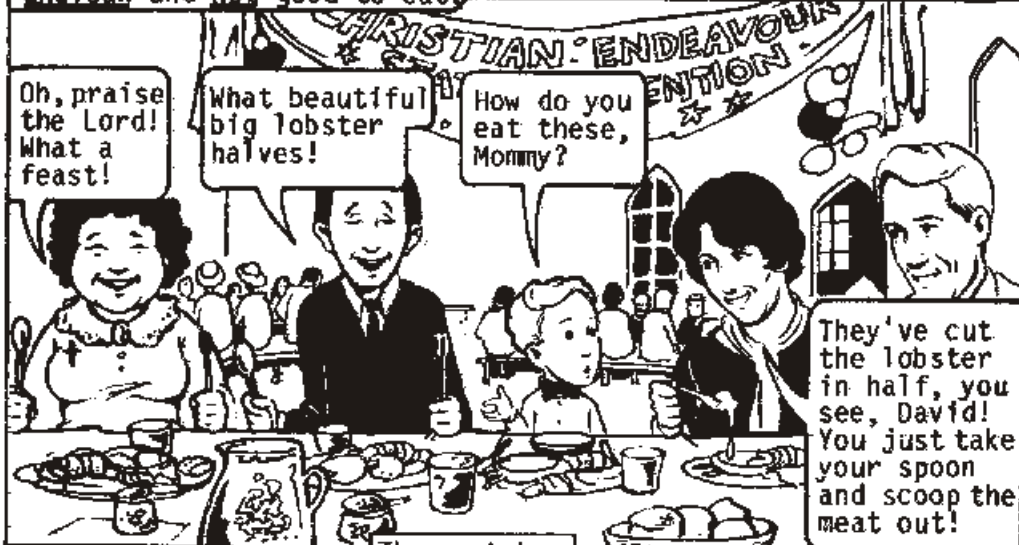


So from then on, I really liked eggs, after she taught me how to eat them on toast!

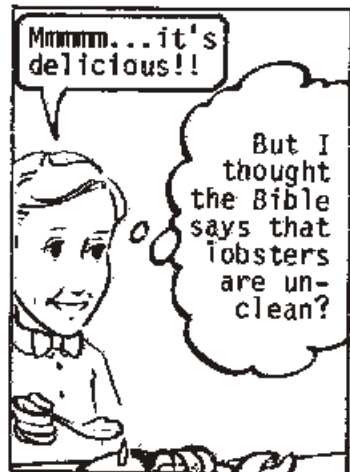
Praise the Lord!

It's so good to give victorious testimonies about the foods you do get the victory over, rather than talking about all the foods you don't like!

When I was about David's age, I went with my parents to a big Christian banquet and ate lobster! This was one time when we should not have eaten what was set before us, because the ones who prepared the food were Christians and all of us were Christians, and we should have known that the Bible says lobster is unclean and not good to eat.



The next day:

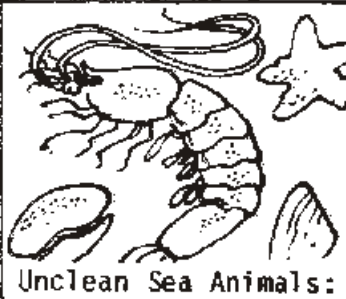


How are you feeling now, David?



Hardly anyone escaped getting sick!--Oh, so sick! That's what we got for disobeying God's health laws and eating unclean meat.

Lobsters are the garbage men of the sea! They eat garbage and sewage and it's against God's laws in the Bible to eat any seafood that doesn't have scales and fins! We didn't have to eat lobster for dinner! We were all Christians and supposed to know better!



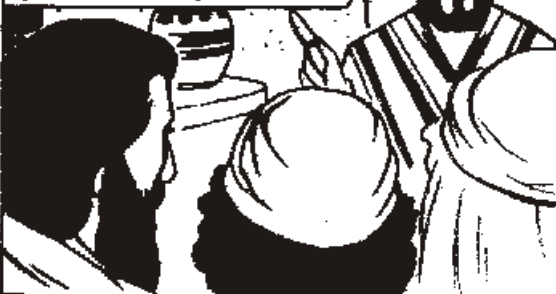
Now, if you had to eat unclean food because you were a guest in someone's home, and it would offend them if you didn't, that's different!



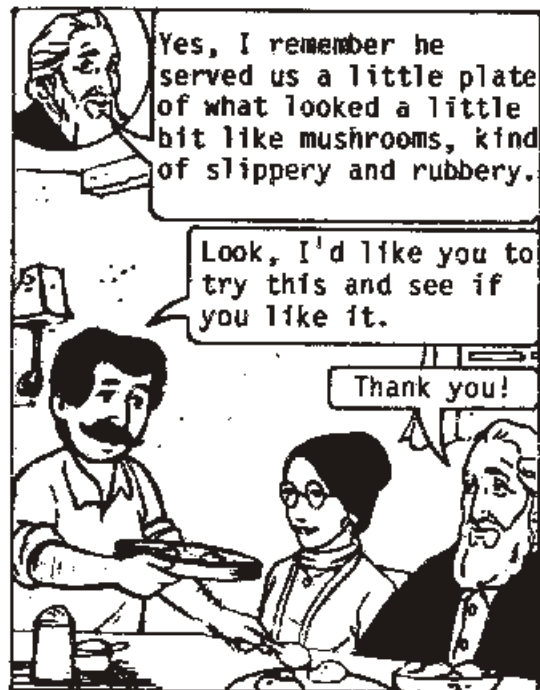
Paul even told the disciples to eat food that was against their religion to eat, if they were guests in a home where the people were unsaved! Think of that!

Paul told them that, because when they travelled around they were usually guests in other people's homes, and it would really have hurt their host's feelings if they showed that they didn't like the food that they gave them!

If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; eat whatsoever is set before you, asking no question for conscience sake. (1Cor.10:27)



Do you remember when we were in Cyprus, and were invited to dinner by Mr. John?



Yes, I remember he served us a little plate of what looked a little bit like mushrooms, kind of slippery and rubbery.

Look, I'd like you to try this and see if you like it.

Thank you!



We chop it up and serve it with nuts and spices as an appetiser before the main meal!

Thank you very much!

Yes, it tastes very good! What is it?

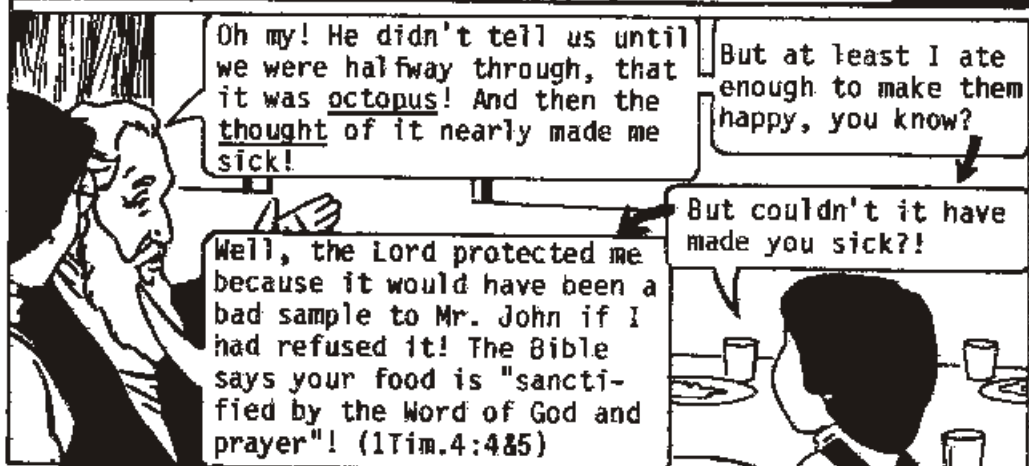


Oh, it's a very special delicacy here in Cyprus!

It's octopus!

Oh really! It's the first time I've tried it! I never knew it tasted so good!

OCTOPUS! UGH!!

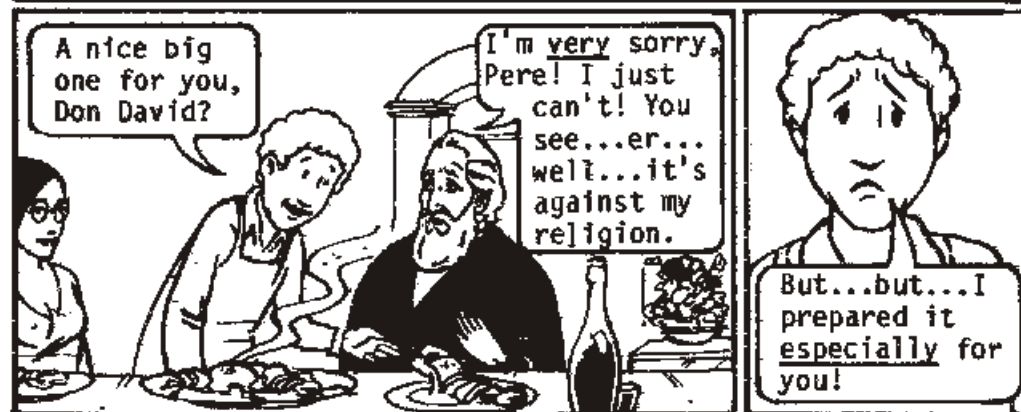
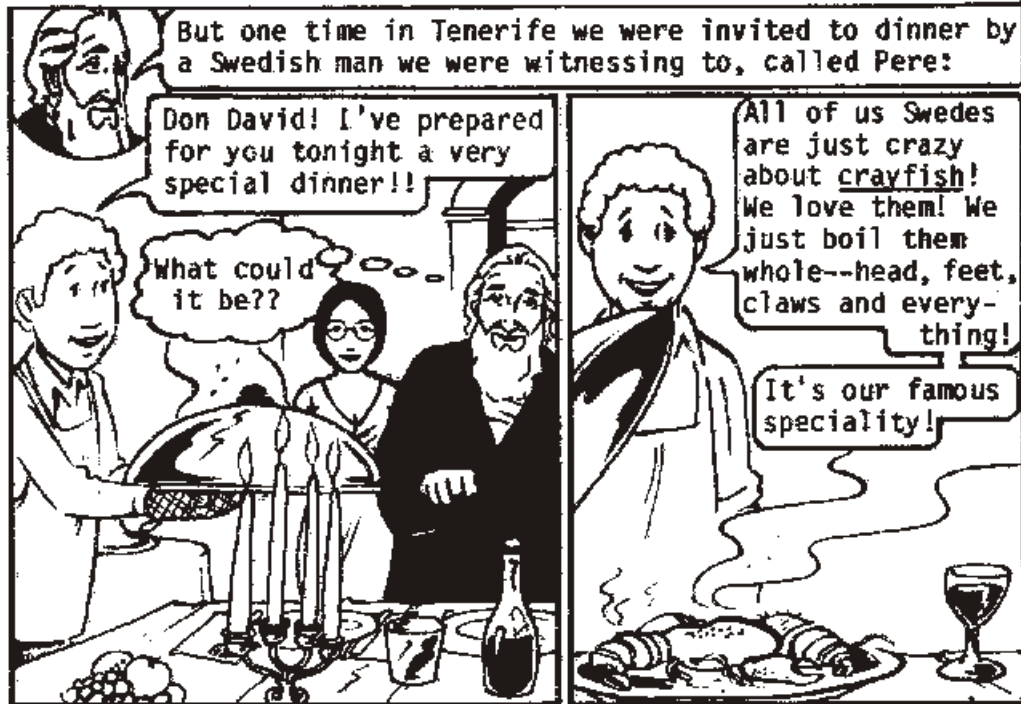


Oh my! He didn't tell us until we were halfway through, that it was octopus! And then the thought of it nearly made me sick!

But at least I ate enough to make them happy, you know?

But couldn't it have made you sick?!

Well, the Lord protected me because it would have been a bad sample to Mr. John if I had refused it! The Bible says your food is "sanctified by the Word of God and prayer"! (1Tim.4:4&5)



And you know what? I don't think he ever forgave me for that!

All the rest of us had to sit there and eat it so we wouldn't all offend him.

But didn't Pere know it was unclean?

No, and he was really hurt, because he thought he was doing us a big favour!

And so we lost a friend just because I wouldn't eat his crayfish! That's why Jesus told His disciples exactly what to do when He sent them out on the road. He knew that they were going to go into other people's homes, and they might get served something they didn't like!

This meat is unclean. Should we eat it?

Yes! Remember what Jesus told us: "Into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you." (Luke 10:8)

That's a Bible commandment! "Eat what is set before you, giving thanks!" (1Cor.10:27)

There's no excuse for not eating it, especially if it's good food like mushrooms and good for you! You all know that I don't like liver, but I eat it if I'm served it!

Look, Grandpa! I've finished all my mushrooms!

Praise the Lord! What a good boy! You've finished them all up!

Amen! Thank You, Jesus!

So "eat what is set before you, giving thanks!" Eat it! It's a commandment of the Lord! Amen?