

## **“QUIT SUCKING YOUR THUMB!”**

Instructions: As you begin the sermon, give a creative illustration of the difference between solid food and milk in a baby bottle. (Enlist a couple of students to help you. Make it funny. (For example, get the toughest guy there to dress in a baby bonnet and carry a baby bottle onto the stage.)

### **READ: HEBREWS 5:13-6:3 (NLT)**

*(Hebrews 5:13-14 NLT) “And a person who is living on milk isn't very far along in the Christian life and doesn't know much about doing what is right. {14} Solid food is for those who are mature, who have trained themselves to recognize the difference between right and wrong and then do what is right.”*

*(Hebrews 6:1-3 NLT) “So let us stop going over the basics of Christianity again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start all over again with the importance of turning away from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. {2} You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. {3} And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.”*

**The problem with many of us is that we try to live off what we can get through a bottle. We come to church and sit, relying on the church services to feed us.**

If you are not the kind of person who is finding yourself growing and being confident and successful, ask yourself why. Is it because you have been settling for the baby bottle when you could be getting the solid food of God's Word?

If all you drank was milk you would be extremely malnourished. Is that right?

- Why would you accept that for your spiritual life when there is so much more that can change your life.
- There are doors waiting for you to open and walk through, but you have to be mature to do so.
- If you insist on sucking a spiritual bottle instead of feasting on God's Word, you will never gain the strength your spiritual life could provide.
- You can never really understand the deep things of God if your youth pastor is always having to preach “get serious with God” messages....and you are relying on feel good services to make it through. If you really want to feel good about yourself, it's time to grow up and become all God wants you to be.

**Say, “Let’s talk about it. I will keep it simple. Here is what you must understand. Getting saved is not the end of your spiritual journey...it’s only the beginning.”**

Instructions: give a personal testimony that goes something like this, but make it your own: *“When I got saved I thought that I had arrived...little did I know that that was going to be the place that I really began living.”*

**The bottle (the milk of the Word) is what we start off with right after we get saved. It provides us with the little bit of milk that is all that we can handle. WE ARE SIMPLY BUILDING A FOUNDATION**

- *An infant* receives milk and is cared for by its mother. That infant cannot take care of itself. It is immature. **It is a bottle drinker and pacifier sucker!**
- *An infant Christian* drinks from a spiritual bottle to get spiritual food. Others are teaching and helping that person build a spiritual foundation for greater things.

Instructions: Do a short illustration, using a skit showing a few people laying foundation blocks and then moving in, pretending it is a finished house. (GET CREATIVE. ENLIST SOME OF YOUR LEADERS TO HELP YOU.)

- One of the people could pretend he has to go to the bathroom and starts looking around in panic.
- He realizes if he goes to the bathroom, he will be exposed! It should get a good laugh but be quite effective.

**Here is the point. When you stop at the foundation, you leave yourself exposed spiritually. It is easy for the enemy to attack you!**

HOW DO WE AVOID SUCKING ON OUR THUMB AND BOTTLE?  
HOW DO WE BEGIN TO BUILD ON A SOLID FOUNDATION?

**The answer is simple. Now is the time to go for it! Seize the day! Trade that bottle in for a good meal.**

GIVE THOSE DREAMS THAT YOU HAVE TO GOD AND ALLOW HIM TO TURN THEM INTO EVEN BIGGER DREAMS.

ALTAR CALL:

1. Ask God to help you. Get excited about what is about to happen in your life as you toss the bottle and go to the buffet of His Word.
2. Call for new converts to come and accept Christ.