Summary

Life couldn’t have been better for Buzzie Bee, until she overheard some disturbing news. Buzzie became furious and started a revolt among the younger bees. The angry bees left the hive to start their own. In the new hive the young bees argue and fight over who should do the work. They finally discover that working together with a leader is the only way to have a happy hive. They return and follow the Queen Bee.

This intriguing story demonstrates the influence of an angry thought and the power of a wise answer. Sommer teaches the importance of citizenship, teamwork and responsibility.

Main Virtues
Citizenship/Teamwork/Responsibility

Other Virtues
Appreciation, Caring, Cheerfulness, Civic Virtue, Cleanliness, Commitment, Community Service, Compassion, Cooperation, Courage, Courtesy, Diligence, Dignity of Labor, Fairness, Forgiveness, Friendship, Humility, Kindness, Loyalty, Peacefulness, Positive Mental Attitude, Respect for Others, Respect for Law, Respect for Elders, Responsibility, Trust, and Unity

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Citizenship

As Buzzie flew by a house, she saw some flowers on a windowsill. “Oh good!” she said.
As she gathered pollen from the flowers, she exclaimed, “This is great! These flowers have lots of pollen. I’ll be able to take lots of food back to the hive.”

Buzzy was a good citizen, she was eager to share with others the food that she found. Notice that good citizens are happy people.

Romans 12:10-13
Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; [11] not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; [12] rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; [13] distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Galatians 6:10
Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Ephesians 4:28
Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

Titus 3:8
This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

Hebrews 13:16
But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Additional verses: Psalm 37:3; 1 Timothy 6:17-18; Hebrews 6:10

Team Work

Then Buzzie saw other flowers on the table. “Look at them!” she exclaimed.

Buzzy quickly flew to the other flowers. “This is great!” she said as she gathered the pollen. “These flowers also have lots of pollen. I can’t wait to tell the other bees about my great find.”

Along with being a good citizen, Buzzy was a team worker. She gladly wanted to tell others when she had found food. Now as a team they could work together.

Matthew 5:16
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Acts 9:36
At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.
Ephesians 2:10  
For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

√ 1 Timothy 6:18  
Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share.

Titus 3:8  
This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

Hebrews 10:24  
And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

Additional verses: 1 Timothy 5:10; Titus 2:14; Titus 3:14; 1 Peter 2:12

Complaining

Before this, Buzzie was a very happy bee. But Buzzie heard everything that Danny had said.
As she flew back to the hive, she began complaining. “It’s not fair! Why do we worker bees have to do all the work? We gather all the food, clean the cells, make the honeycomb, take care of the babies, feed the queen, air-condition the hive, and guard against enemies. All we do is work, work, work! It’s not fair!”
The more Buzzie thought about it, the angrier she became. When she got back to the hive, she was furious.
We need to think before we act on what we hear. Buzzie believed she was a foolish worker bee—but she wasn’t. She murmured and complained because she believed the bad report.

Romans 12:18  
If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

1 Corinthians 1:10  
Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

√ Philippians 2:14  
Do all things without complaining and disputing,

Hebrews 12:14  
Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

1 Peter 3:10-11  
For “He who would love life  
And see good days,  
Let him refrain his tongue from evil,  
And his lips from speaking deceit.  
[11] Let him turn away from evil and do good;  
Let him seek peace and pursue it.

Additional verses: Proverbs 15:17-18; 1 Corinthians 3:3, 10:10; 2 Corinthians 12:20; Galatians 5:15; James 5:9
Seeking Advice From the Wise

“Look at us poor workers!” complained Buzzie. “We gather all the food, clean the cells, make the honeycomb, take care of the babies, feed the queen, air-condition the hive, and guard against enemies. All we do is work, work, work! It’s not fair!”

Then a guard named Fuzzy pointed to her stinger and explained, “When we use our stingers, like Tilly just did, we die. It’s not fair that we have to give our lives for the hive.”

“That’s right!” complained all the young guards.

“Wait!” yelled Wizbee, the oldest bee. “It is fair! It’s been proven—working with a leader brings happiness.”

But Buzzie was not interested in what Wizbee had to say. She was furious.

If you want to avoid problems and become successful, seek advice from the wise. One of the best sources of advice is from your parents.

Proverbs 1:8
My son, hear the instruction of your father,
And do not forsake the law of your mother;

Proverbs 12:15
The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
But he who heeds counsel is wise.

Proverbs 13:20
He who walks with wise men will be wise,
But the companion of fools will be destroyed.

Proverbs 15:22
Without counsel, plans go awry,
But in the multitude of counselors they are established.

Proverbs 19:20
Listen to counsel and receive instruction,
That you may be wise in your latter days.

√ Proverbs 22:17
Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise,
And apply your heart to my knowledge;

Additional verses: Proverbs 8:33; Proverbs 11:14; Proverbs 20:5, 18; Proverbs 24:6

Being Rebellious

Then Buzzie announced, “Everyone who is unhappy, follow me! I know where we can start a new hive.”

“Hoorayyyy!!” yelled the young worker bees.

“Wait!” yelled Wizbee. “It is fair what we have! Let me explain it to you.”

But the young bees were mad. They ignored Wizbee and flew out of the hive.

Buzzie convinced the other younger bees of the unfairness of their hive. Now they were so mad that they started a riot in the hive; and they had no interest to listen to anyone’s ideas. They wanted to start their dream hive.
1 Samuel 12:14-15
   If you fear the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the Lord your God. [15] However, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you, as it was against your fathers.

√ 1 Samuel 15:23
   For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,
   And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.
   Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
   He also has rejected you from being king.”

Isaiah 1:2
   Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth!
   For the Lord has spoken:
   I have nourished and brought up children,
   And they have rebelled against Me;

Isaiah 1:20
   But if you refuse and rebel,
   You shall be devoured by the sword;
   For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Ezekiel 2:5-8
   As for them, whether they hear or whether they refuse—for they are a rebellious house—yet they will know that a prophet has been among them.
   [6] “And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house. [7] You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious. [8] But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.”

Additional verses: Numbers 20:24; Psalm 78:17; Psalm 107:10-11; Isaiah 63:10; Jeremiah 28:16; Jude 1:11

Being Unselfish

   The angry bees followed Buzzie to a large oak tree. When they gathered together, Buzzie asked, “Does anyone have any ideas?”
   They began offering suggestions. The smaller bees spoke first. “The bigger bees should guard the hive because they’re the strongest.”
   “No!” yelled the bigger bees. “The smaller bees should be the guards. They fly the fastest.”
   And so it went. No one wanted to be a guard because they were afraid they might have to die. Everyone wanted what they thought was the easiest job—a fanner.
   Instead of wanting what was best for their hive, the selfish bees were looking out only for themselves.

1 Corinthians 10:24
   Let no one seek his own, but each one the other’s well-being.
1 Corinthians 13:4-5
Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; [5] does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

Galatians 5:19-20
Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, [20] idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

Philippians 2:3-4
Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. [4] Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Additional verses: Mark 12:31; 1 Corinthians 10:24, 33; Galatians 6:2; James 3:14-16

Leadership

When Buzzie arrived at the hive, the older worker bees were happily working together. Buzzie flew to Wizbee and asked, “Do you have any suggestions on how we can have a happy hive? We’re having lots of problems working together.”

“Who is your leader?” asked Wizbee.

“We don’t have a leader,” mumbled Buzzie.

“You can’t have a happy hive without a leader,” explained Wizbee. “You need a queen bee.”

Everywhere you go there are leaders. Classes have teachers, schools have principals, businesses have presidents, homes have parents, the military has generals or admirals, cities have mayors, states have governors, and countries have rulers or presidents. Leaders are essential for success. Above all, the most important leader is the Lord. Blessed are those who have totally submitted to His authority.

Matthew 2:6
But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, [13] and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

Hebrews 13:17
Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

James 4:7
Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
1 Peter 5:5  
Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Additional verses: 1 Corinthians 16:15-16; 1 Timothy 3:4-5; Hebrews 13:7

**Repentance**

When the bees arrived, they bowed their heads before the queen bee and said, “We’re sorry for complaining.”

It isn’t easy to say you’re sorry when you do wrong. However, one of the marks of a great person is their willingness to say when they do wrong, “I’m sorry.” When we do sin, God expects us to repent.

Matthew 4:17  
From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Luke 17:4  
“And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.”

Luke 24:45-47  
And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. [46] Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, [47] and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 2:37-38  
Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” [38] Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 17:30  
Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

Acts 26:19-20  
“Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, [20] but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.


**Forgiveness**

“I forgive you,” said the queen bee.

“Thank you,” said the workers.

When the young worker bees said they were sorry, the queen bee forgave them. We should do the same. When others apologize to us, we should forgive them. Just like the Lord, when we repent, He always forgives us.
It’s Not FAIR!

2 Chronicles 7:14  
If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Matthew 6:14-15  
For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. [15] But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 18:21-22  
Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” [22] Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Luke 11:4  
And forgive us our sins,  
For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.

Luke 17:3-4  
Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. [4] And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.

Ephesians 4:32  
And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Additional verses: Psalm 32:1; Psalm 86:5; Mark 11:25

Working With a Leader Brings Happiness

That night Buzzie said to Wizbee, “You were right. Working with a leader brings happiness.”  
From that day on, no bee ever complained about her work. And if any bee ever heard someone say, “Look at the poor worker bee,” she would not listen. The bees knew that happy bees are those who obey their leader and work together.  
Now whenever bees went looking for food, they would sing this song:

Working together,  
How happy we’ll be.  
Working and helping,  
Big smiles we’ll see.

When we follow the Lord’s leadership as found in His Word, it brings us joy. Christ has come that we might have fullness of joy.

John 15:11  
These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 16:24  
Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.
Romans 15:13  
Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23  
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Jude 1:24  
Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,  
And to present you faultless  
Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Additional verses: Psalm 32:11; Psalm 16:11; Acts 13:52; Romans 14:17; 1 John 1:4

Questions

1. In the beginning how did all the bees work together?  
*In the beginning all the bees worked together as one happy family*

2. What did Buzzie say as she began gathering pollen from the flowers on the windowsill?  
*Buzzie said, “This is great! These flowers have lots of pollen. I’ll be able to take lots of food back to the hive.”*  
Buzzie was a good citizen, she was eager to share with others the food she found. The Bible says, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).

3. What did Buzzie say as she began gathering pollen from the flowers in the house?  
*Buzzie said, “These flowers also have lots of pollen. I can’t wait to tell the other bees about my great find.”*  
Buzzie wasn’t lazy; she was a team worker. She gladly told others when she found food. The Bible says, “Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share” (1 Timothy 6:18).

4. What did Danny do because it was chilly in the room?  
*Danny closed the window.*

5. What did Buzzie do when she heard the window shut?  
*Buzzie flew to the window and hit it full force.*

6. Where did Danny get his knowledge about bees?  
*Danny got his knowledge about bees from reading about them.*

7. Name at least three things that Danny said worker bees do.  
*Remove stale air.*  
*Keep the hive at the right temperature.*  
*Gather all the food.*  
*Clean the cells in the hive.*  
*Build the comb where honey is stored.*  
*Guard the hive.*
8. Before this Buzzie was a very happy bee. What happened to her when she heard Danny’s remarks? **Buzzie became furious.**

9. What did Buzzie complain about as she flew back to the hive? **Buzzie began complaining, “It’s not fair! Why do we worker bees have to do all the work? We gather all the food, clean the cells, make the honeycomb, take care of the babies, feed the queen, air-condition the hive, and guard against enemies. All we do is work, work, work! It’s not fair!”**

   We need to think before we act on what we hear. Buzzie believed she was a foolish worker bee—but she wasn’t. She believed the bad report and bitterly complained. The Bible says, “Do all things without complaining and disputing (Philippians 2:14). Wise and happy are those who follow God’s command. Notice what happened to Buzzie and her hive because of her complaining.

10. Who were the first ones Buzzie began complaining to? **Buzzie began complaining to the guards.**

11. What invaded the hive as Buzzie was speaking to the guards? **A mouse invaded the hive.**

12. What did Tilly do to the mouse? **Tilly stuck the mouse with her stinger.**

13. What happened to Tilly? **Tilly fell to the bottom of the hive and died.**

14. What did the guards do after Buzzie complained to them? **The guards began complaining.**

15. What did Wizbee say to Buzzie and the guards when they began complaining? **Wizbee said, “It is fair! It’s been proven—working with a leader brings happiness.”**

16. How did Buzzie react to when Wizbee said, “It is fair! It’s been proven—working with a leader brings happiness”? **Buzzie was not interested in what Wizbee had to say.**

   If you want to avoid problems and become successful, seek advice from the wise. One of the best sources of advice is from your parents. The Bible says, “My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law” (Proverbs 1:8).

17. What did Buzzie announce to all the unhappy bees? **Buzzie announced, “Everyone who is unhappy, follow me! I know where we can start a new hive.”**

18. What did the young bees do when Wizbee said, “Wait! It is fair what we have! Let me explain it to you”? **The young bees ignored Wizbee and flew out of the hive.**

   Buzzie convinced the other younger bees of the unfairness of their hive. Now they were so mad that they started a rebellion in the hive, and they wouldn’t listen to anyone who disagreed with them. They left to start their dream hive. The Bible says when King Saul rebelled, “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king” (1 Samuel 15:23).
19. Who did the smaller bees suggest to guard the hive?
*The smaller bees suggested, “The bigger bees should guard the hive because they’re the strongest.”*

20. Who did the bigger bees say should guard the hive?
*The bigger bees said, “The smaller bees should be the guards. They fly the fastest.”*

21. Why did no one want to be a guard?
*No one wanted to be a guard because they were afraid they might have to die.*

22. What job did all the bees want to have?
*All the bees wanted to be a fanner.*

23. Why did all the bees want to be a fanner?
*All the bees wanted to be a fanner because they thought being a fanner was the easiest job.*

   Instead of wanting what was best for their hive, the bees were selfish. The Bible says, “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others (Philippians 2:3-4).

24. What did all the bees do when they could not agree?
*All the bees began arguing and yelling.*

25. What did one of the bees yell back when Buzzie screamed, “Stop!!!! This is no way to have a happy hive”?
*A bee yelled back, “Who made you the leader over us?”*

26. Why did Buzzie go to Wizbee for advice?
*Buzzy went to Wizbee because she was the oldest bee.*

   If you want to be wise, learn to seek advice from older people, and especially your parents.

27. What did Wizbee ask Buzzie when she said, “Do you have any suggestions on how we can have a happy hive? We’re having lots of problems working together”?
*Wizbee asked, “Who is your leader”?

28. What did Wizbee say when Buzzie said, “We don’t have a leader”?
*Wizbee said, “You can’t have a happy hive without a leader. You need a queen bee.”*

   Everywhere you go there are leaders. Classes have teachers, schools have principals, businesses have presidents, homes have parents, the military has generals or admirals, cities have mayors, states have governors, and countries have rulers or presidents. Leaders are essential for success. The Bible says, “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you” (Hebrews 13:17).

29. What did Wizbee say was important to let the leader do?
*Wizbee said, “It’s important to let the leader tell the other bees what kind of work they should do.”*

30. What did Buzzie say that working with a leader would bring?
*Buzzy said, “Working with a leader brings happiness.”*
31. What was the song Buzzie began to sing as she flew back to the younger bees?

*Buzzie sang,*

- Working together, 
- How happy we'll be. 
- Working and helping, 
- Big smiles we'll see.

32. What were all the young bees doing when Buzzie came to their hive?

The young bees were arguing and complaining.

33. What did the young bees want to do after Buzzie explained to them how they needed a leader to have a happy hive?

The young bees wanted to go back to their hive.

34. What did the young bees say when they met the queen?

*When the young bees met the queen they said, “We’re sorry for complaining.”*

It isn’t easy to say you’re sorry when you do wrong. However, one of the marks of a great person is their willingness to say when they do wrong, “I’m sorry.” Also, when we sin, God commands us to repent. Peter said on the Day of Pentecost, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

35. What did the queen bee say when the young bees said, “We’re sorry for complaining”?

*The queen bee said, “I forgive you.”*

When the young worker bees said they were sorry, the queen bee forgave them. We should do the same. When others apologize to us, we should forgive them. Just like the Lord, when we repent, He always forgives us. The Bible says, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:14-15).

36. What did the young worker bees immediately begin to do?

The young worker bees immediately went back to work.

37. That night what did Buzzie say to Wizbee?

*That night Buzzie said to Wizbee, “You were right. Working with a leader brings happiness.”*

38. From that day on what did no bee ever complain about?

*From that day on, no bee ever complained about her work.*

39. What did the bees know about happy bees?

*The bees knew that happy bees are those who obey their leader and work together.*

If you follow this advice of obeying your leaders and working together, you too will discover happiness. Also when we follow the Lord’s leadership as found in His Word, it brings us joy. Christ has come that we might have fullness of joy. Jesus says, “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11).