

## **Gospel Story: The Sparrow Lesson**

“What do you think?” asked Peter. “Will we be able to do the job Jesus wants us to do? Will we be able to bring people into God’s kingdom?” “Well,” said his brother Andrew, “we know how to fish. We know how to take care of a boat. But this job is different. I don’t know what it will be like at all.” Jesus sat down next to Peter and Andrew. He said, “Your new job will be different. There will be good days when you see people happy to come to God.” Andrew and Peter smiled, but Jesus went on. “You will have bad days, too. You will have troubles, and you will even have enemies, people who hate you.” “Troubles!” said Andrew. “What will we do when troubles come?” “Remember the sparrows,” said Jesus. Peter and Andrew looked at each other. They thought, What use were sparrows to people in trouble?

“God sees and cares about each little sparrow that looks for food or runs from a cat,” said Jesus. Then Jesus leaned toward the two brothers and said, “And you are worth much more to God than any sparrow.”

## **Art/Creative Writing: Newspaper Ads for Followers of Jesus**

Write newspaper ads for followers of Jesus. Include such ideas as qualifications needed, description of the job, risks involved, salary, benefits, etc. Younger children can draw pictures showing what a follower of Jesus will look like or do.

Invite volunteers to share finished work. Then read aloud Matthew 10:26-31.

Discuss what is hard and rewarding about following Jesus.

## **Art: Fear Pictures**

Ask participants to draw pictures of their fears. Invite volunteers to share their finished pictures. Help older participants validate the feelings expressed by younger children by sharing similar fears or related experiences. Read aloud Matthew 10:29-31. Lead a discussion on ways participants have experienced Jesus’ help in times of fear. Then invite participants to add Jesus to their pictures. What does Jesus do or say?

## **Art: Paint-and-Bird Print Portraits**

Participants paint self-portraits surrounded by bird prints as reminders that each person is worth more than many birds. Older participants can add words from Matthew 10:29-31.

Provide paint, brushes, 12" x 18" sheets of paper, bird print block, paint-soaked paper towels in pie pans for printing (Make a bird print block by cutting a potato in half. Cut a simple bird shape into the surface Pare extra potato away from the shape.)

Directions: ♦Paint a picture of yourself on the paper. ♦Around the edges of your picture, paint or print as many birds as you can.

## **Gospel Story Review: Trouble Stories**

Sit in a circle. Cradle a bird picture or figure in your hand. Ask participants to think about troubles, big and small. Briefly share a trouble of your own that you think appropriate for all ages to hear. Close by holding the bird close to your heart. Say, "I'm glad God sees and cares about me in my troubles." Pass the bird around the circle. Emphasize that participants only share if they want to. After each story, affirm, "I'm glad God sees and cares about (participant's name) in her (or his) troubles."

## **Nature Walk: Birds Outside**

If your situations permits, take everyone outside for any of these activities:

- ♦Keep a bird count together. ♦Listen for and imitate bird songs together.
- ♦Use colored pencils, crayons or squares of colored paper to record each bird or bird color you see.

# His Eye Is On The Sparrow Maze

Matthew 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.



