

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God provides for our needs.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will discuss how whenever they see a bird flying in the sky, or a fish swimming in a tank they can be reminded that just as God takes care of the birds and fish, He will also take care of us.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 1:20-23, The Fifth Day

INTRO:

Do any of you have aquarium fish at home? Did you always have an aquarium, or do you remember when Mom and Dad first bought the tank and set it up? If you do, you'll recall that you didn't bring fish home that first day. If you want to have an aquarium full of tropical fish, you have to take some time to prepare the tank first. You have to pour the gravel, set up the filtration system, fill the tank with water, treat the water, bring the water to the proper temperature. Everything has to be just right before you can add tropical fish - that is, if you want the fish to live!

The same could really be said for the homes we live in. Nobody moves into a house before the plumbing, the electrical systems, and the gas systems are in place and functional. You want to make sure you not only have power and lights, but running water and functioning toilets. A broken toilet isn't going to kill you like a poorly prepared fish tank, but it will make life unpleasant.

We've come up to day five in our study of Genesis 1. We've witnessed how God created day and night, how he separated the waters and the sky and the land. We've witnessed the creation of plant life and the creation of the sun, moon, and stars. In other words, we've been watching God do all the prep work to put some truly extraordinary creations into this new world.

That something extraordinary begins on day five. We're going to see God start to fill the world with life - life that would not have survived two or three days before. The world was now ready for what was next because God had provided everything needed to sustain life.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ GENESIS 1:20-23

MAIN POINT:

God doesn't waste time, does he? He said, "Let's fill the ocean," and it was filled. From tiny shrimp and plankton to giant squid, from lobsters and crabs to whale sharks and blue whales, from little clown fish to Great White Sharks, God made all the creatures of the sea. The waters were ready to sustain life, and God filled the tank!

The land and sky was ready to support life as well, so God filled their skies with birds. Everything from tiny swallows to giant condors took flight, filling the air. God put everything in place so that these winged creatures could nest and live and eat, and Creation took one more step toward completion.

God provided everything the fish and birds needed to survive, even before they existed. It's a good reminder that God provides for all of Creation - including us. God wants us to have faith in him and not worry about tomorrow or about things that are uncertain. As sure as God provides for the clams, the sharks, and the eagles, he will provide for us.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Does this message sound familiar to some of you who have grown up in church? It should. Jesus taught a similar message in His very first sermon. Let's jump ahead to the book of Luke to see what God says about the birds.

READ LUKE 12:22-26

God put a message in the skies before the first man ever drew a breath. Look at the birds. Do they look worried? Are they concerned where their next meal will come from? They know that God provides, and they do not worry. As Jesus says, "How much more valuable you are than birds!"

If you don't know how much more valuable you are than birds, I'll remind you. You are so valuable to God, He sent His only Son to die for you. Jesus took your place on the cross to pay for your sins so you could have eternal life. God loved you enough to provide Heaven for us, even when we did not deserve it. There is no need He does not know, and there is no need He will not provide.

God knows what we need before we ask. He knows when we need material things, and He knows when we need spiritual things. He will hear our prayers, and He will give us what we need. We don't have to doubt. We don't have to worry. Have faith, and God will provide.

The next time you feel worried about something, look to the skies. Look at the birds. Or if you prefer, look under the sea.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

God will provide for you like he does the mighty blue whale and the tiny hummingbird. Have faith, and know that God will provide all you need.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for all that you do for us!

In Jesus' name,

Amen