

Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children, young people, parents and grandparents, from the GCI Watford Church.
Number 6, 1st May 2020

Jesus Said: Look Attentively at the Birds of the Sky. Matthew 6:26



‘God said . . . let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky. So God created . . . every winged bird according to its kind. . . . God saw all he had made, and it was very good.’

Genesis 1:20-21, 31, *New International Version*

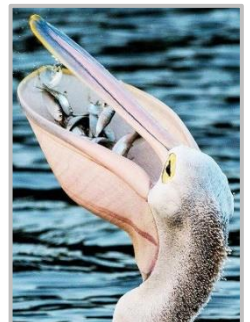
Imitate the Stork (not the Ostrich)

Often when a child is born cards are sent picturing a stork. Why? The answer is that people have observed over thousands of years that young storks love their parents and parent storks love their young. The parent storks really do care for their young well. Anciently people called the stork ‘pious’ (and the ostrich ‘impious’). The Hebrew word for ‘stork’ is *Chaciydah* meaning ‘kind’ and ‘maternal’. The root Hebrew word *Chaciyd* can also be used of people. For example: *Chaciyd* is translated into ‘faithful followers’ in Psalm 30:4: ‘Sing to the LORD, you faithful followers of his; give thanks to his holy name’ *New English Translation*.



See if you can memorize some, or all, of these words:

‘I tell you not to worry about your life. . . . Look at the birds in the sky! They don’t plant or harvest. They don’t even store grain in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them. Aren’t you worth more than birds?’ Matthew 6:25-26, *Contemporary English Version*



A wonderful bird is the pelican, its beak can hold more than its belly can!

Knock, knock, who’s there? Cook. Cook who? That’s the first one I’ve heard this Spring!
What’s the difference between unlawful and illegal? Unlawful is against the law and illegal is a sick bird!

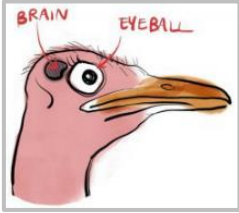
Bird Quiz

Can You Explain the Raven?

'Who provides for the ravens when their young cry out to God as they try to struggle up from their nest in hunger?'¹



Can You Explain the Ostrich?



'The ostrich flaps her wings grandly but has no true motherly love. She lays her eggs on top of the earth, to warm them in the dust. She forgets that someone may step on them and crush them, or the wild animals destroy them. She ignores her young as though they weren't her own and is unconcerned though they die, for God has deprived her of wisdom. But whenever she jumps up to run, she passes the swiftest horse with its rider.'²

Can You Explain the Hawk?

'Do you know how a hawk soars and spreads her wings to the south?'³



Can You Explain the Eagle?



'Is it at your command that the eagle rises high upon the cliffs to make her nest? She lives upon the cliffs, making her home in her mountain fortress. From there she spies her prey, from a very great distance. Her nestlings gulp down blood, for she goes wherever the slain are.'⁴

At the end of the Book of Job, God asks Job lots of questions, as well as the ones above. Job learns an important lesson here and replies to God: 'I am so insignificant. How can I answer you?'⁵

'God sets out the entire creation as a science classroom, using birds and beasts to teach wisdom.'⁶

¹ Job 38:41, ² Job 39:13-18, ³ Job 39:26, ⁴ Job 39:27-30, *The Living Bible*, ⁵ Job 40:4, *Christian Standard Bible*, ⁶ Job 35:11, *The Message*

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Be Environmentally Responsible



The following verse succinctly teaches us the vital principal of being considerate towards God's creation so as to help preserve species on earth. 'If you come across a bird's nest beside the road, either in a tree or on the ground, and the mother is sitting on the young or on the eggs, do not take the mother with the young.' Deuteronomy. 22:6, *New International Version*.

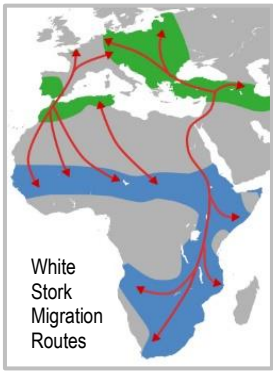
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The Dove

There are seven emblems of the Holy Spirit: **Water:** Ezekiel 36:25; John 3:5; 7:38-39. **Fire:** Matthew 3:11; Acts 2:3. **Wind:** Ezekiel 37:1-10. **Oil:** Isaiah 61:1; Hebrews 1:9. **Seal:** Ephesians 1:13; 4:30. **Earnest:** Ephesians 1:14. **Dove:** Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32.

'As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him' Matthew 3:16, *New International Version*.





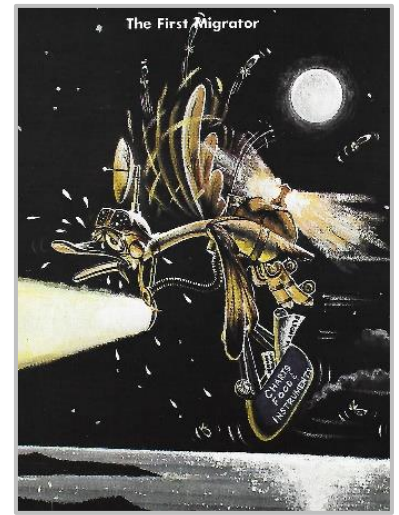
How Do Birds Migrate?

'The birds in the sky know the right times to do things. The storks, doves, swifts and thrushes know when it is time to migrate. But my people don't know what the Lord wants them to do!'

Jeremiah 8:7, *International Children's Bible*

The Artic Tern weighs about 4 ounces and yet flies over 24,000 miles from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back again every year! It's estimated an Artic Tern will fly over 1.4 million miles in his or her lifetime!

I wonder if the first bird to migrate took a compass and map?



'A Million Canaries'

Sparrows have no colourful plumage. Sparrows have no musical song. Sparrows are common. In the market-place they were sold for next to nothing. Yet, if sparrows had feelings, they would not feel insignificant, have low self-esteem or inferiority complexes! In fact, they would feel very valued! Why? God actually remembers each one! 'Aren't five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God.'¹ Not only does God remember every sparrow he is constantly aware of each one. 'What is the price of two sparrows — one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it.'² In most translations of the Bible Luke 12:7 says something like: 'Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows'. *The Message Bible* translates this verse: 'You're worth more than a million canaries'!



¹ Luke 12:6, *New English Translation*. ² Matthew 10:29, *New Life Version*.

Singing

'Spring warblers are filling the forest with sweet arpeggios' Song of Songs 2:12, *Message*. Birds sing. We sing. One line in the hymn *How Great Thou Art* reads: 'And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees'. Let one of your congregation leaders know if you would like to join your church choir, start a church choir, accompany the hymns or worship lead.



Lessons from Geese

When geese work together as a team the V formation allows them to fly about 70% further. Geese both lead and follow. This means the point goose is rotated so that no one bird becomes exhausted. The formation is not exclusive, stray or lost birds are always welcomed into it. If an elderly or sick bird cannot keep up and drops out of the formation, two stronger geese will go with it to help look after it. Geese are loyal and social birds; they mate for life and are very protective of their mates and offspring. They 'honk' to encourage one other. Migration routes don't change, so every generation of geese share the same common purpose and direction.





'Before the Cock Crows Twice'

'Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.'

Some time later: 'When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter . . . 'Feed my sheep'. Despite Peter's vehement rejection of Jesus, Jesus invited Peter to shepherd people. Think about this story.

Why is there a cockerel on top of many church spires in Europe? The cockerel reminds us of a profound lesson. The cockerel reminds us of God's amazing grace to Peter. The cockerel also reminds us of God's amazing grace to us.



Mark 14:66-72, John 21:15-17, *New Revised Standard Version*



CH _ _ CH

If you don't belong to a Church try and work out what's missing from: ch__ch? Also consider the following: 'How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a



home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young — a place near your altar, LORD Almighty, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house.'

Psalm 84:1-4, *New International Version*



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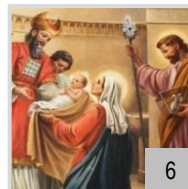
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1. What are the first two birds in the Bible called?
2. Elijah is fed by which kind of birds?
3. Can we take refuge in the same way as this Canada Goose chick?
4. Those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like ?
5. In what aspect are we to be like doves?
6. Did Joseph and Mary take two birds into the temple when Jesus was a baby?
7. Can birds be tamed? Can the tongue be tamed?

Genesis 8:7-8
1 Kings 17:4-6
Psalm 91:4
Isaiah 40:31
Matthew 10:16
Luke 2:22-24
James 3:7-8



Proverbs Advice



'Don't weary yourself trying to get rich. Why waste your time? For riches can disappear as though they had the wings of a bird!'¹

'Like a sparrow in its traveling, like a swallow in its flying, so bad words said against someone without reason do not come to rest.'²

'Like a bird who wanders from its nest, so is a person who wanders from his home.' This means it's risky for a bird to travel too far away from its territory. This principal applies to us too. It can be risky for us if we wander too far away, and too long away, from our family and/or friends and/or geographical area and/or natural aptitudes and/or spiritual home. Think of the prodigal son.³

'Don't bad-mouth your leaders, not even under your breath, And don't abuse your betters, even in the privacy of your home. Loose talk has a way of getting picked up and spread around. Little birds drop the crumbs of your gossip far and wide.'⁴

¹ Prov. 23:4-5, *Living Bible*. ² Prov. 26:2, *New Life Version*. ³ Prov. 27:8, *New English Translation*. ⁴ Ecc. 10:20. *Message*.

Word Search

PARTRIDGE	CRANE
COMORANT	SWIFT
BITTERN	THRUSH
LAPWING	HEN
PIGEON	SWAN
SWALLOW	HERON
PEACOCK	HOPOE
KINGFISHER	STORK
VULTURE	RAVEN
SPARROW	HAWK
COCKEREL	EAGLE
OSTRICH	DOVE
CUCKOO	QUAIL
OSPREY	OWL
PELICAN	KITE



Homework:

See if you can see and identify 15 different kinds of birds.

Pictures courtesy of the following: **Cock on St Anne's Church, Moseley**: Elliot Brown, Flickr. **Nightingale singing**: emuwren, Pinterest. **The First Migrator**: Bob McGuinness, Ambassador College. **Tame Starling**: Public Domain, Pixabay. **Hoopoe**: Kurt Buzard, traveltoeat, Pinterest. **Flying Sparrow**: David Price, Flickr. **Sword-billed Hummingbird**: Andy Morffew. **Peacock**: Max Pixel. **Five Sparrows**: Martha de Jong-Lantink. **Bearded Vulture**: Pixabay. **Swallow in flight**: Pixabay. **Cock crowing**: Pxhere. **Pelican**: Pinterest. **Heron**: MrLebies, Pixabay. **Bluethroat**: Martha de Jong-Lantink, Flickr. **Raven**: Pixabay. **Golden Eagle**: Max Pixel; Skeeze, Pixabay. **Sparrowhawk**: Agustín Povedano, Flickr. **Swans**: CharlesJSharp, Wikipedia. **Bald Eagle over nest**: Kansas City District U.S., Flickr. **Swallow feeding young**: brdavid, Wikimedia, Flickr. **Sparrow with chicks**: Pixnio. **White Stork parents**: Pexels. **Snow Goose and eggs**: Pixabay. **Swallow with mouth open**: Sanchezn, Wikimedia. **White-throated Kingfisher**: Shahin Olakara, Wikimedia. **White Dove**: David Campbell, Flickr. **Noah on the Ark**: Moody Publishers, Free Bible Images. **Puffin**: DesignFife, Pixabay. **Geese flying in formation**: David Willis, Flickr. **Two Turtle Doves**: Andy Morffew, Pxhere. **Five Sparrows**: Martha de Jong-Lantink. **Canada Goose with Chick under wing**: Pxhere.com.

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