

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

Seals Show Super-Human Recognition Skills



"He calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers."
- John 10:3b-5

Let's say that you last saw your child when she was four months

old. It is now four years later. Are you certain you could pick out your child in a room full of a hundred four-year-old little girls?

A researcher with the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. studied the northern fur seal's amazing ability to recognize family members. Nursing mothers are the only mothers among mammals that leave their nursing pups for as long as two weeks. They return after they have fed, having no problem finding their own young among the colony. When the young reach the age of four months, they migrate south for the winter. Next spring, the young seals migrate back to their place of birth and easily recognize their mothers.

After recording the voices of more than two dozen seals, the researcher wanted to prove that recognition was taking place through the sound of an individual seal's voice. Seals who heard the playback of their mother's or child's voice paid attention to the speakers, while others did not. Even after four years, mother and child recognized each other's voices. Such memory and intelligence can only have intelligence as its source. That source is a loving Creator Who knows us even after our parents are gone.

Ref: Science News, p. 69, "Mom, is that you? Seals show family recall." Image: Northern fur seal, Saint Paul Island, Alaska, Carina Gsottbauer, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons.

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