

Birds of the Air

Bible Verse

Bring in your kingdom so that your will is done on earth as it's done in heaven. (Matthew 6:10)

Bible Story

Matthew 6:25–34

Leap of Faith

Jesus teaches me how God wants me to live.

Before You Begin

In the Bible story for today, Jesus described God as the Creator and Sustainer of all life. If God cares for birds and lilies, then certainly God also will care for and provide for God's people.

The people of God, Jesus said, should not worry about food and clothing, because life is more than basic needs. Further, we cannot change our lives by worrying. Jesus was not saying that these needs are unimportant. Neither did he mean that we should not work or be diligent. Anyone who watches birds knows that they are very hard workers.

What Jesus was saying is that our concern should be first on how to fulfill what God wants. Only when we put our trust in God to care and to provide for us do our anxieties about life begin to lessen and free us to live more fully. Awareness of our dependence on God for sustenance of life frees us to focus on what God wants us to be and to do. Because of this awareness, we strive to live in obedience to God.

The children are at different levels of their concept of God. It is important, therefore, to help them understand that God is Creator, God is provider, God is dependable, and God is love. Today's session can help the children realize how precious they are to God. The things they have, the houses they live in, and the kinds of clothes they wear are not the things that make them important in God's eyes.



Requires
preparation.

Birds and Flowers

Therefore, I say to you,
(Bring one hand up slowly to mouth, palm side down, fingers together, thumb underneath. Move hand away from the mouth on the word “say.”)

Don’t worry about your life,
(Frown and touch forehead with both hands, palms down.)

What you’ll eat
(Touch mouth with one hand as though putting food in it.)

or what you’ll drink,
(Move hand away from mouth, then cup it into drinking glass and move it back to mouth.)

or about your body, what you’ll wear.
(Bring both hands to sides, under shoulder, and move them down to waist.)

Isn’t life more than food, and the body more than clothes?
(Touch one hand to mouth as though putting food in it, then repeat previous movement.)

Look at the birds in the sky.
(Raise both arms from sides out and up in front, and look up.)

They don’t sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns.
(Hold one hand cupped at side like a bag of seed. Put other hand into it, then fling that hand out as though sowing seed. Then reach both arms out in front and bring them in to waist to show gathering.)

Yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
(Swing one hand out and down from waist, wiggling fingers as though scattering bird seed.)

Aren’t you worth much more than they are?
(Bend both arms at elbows, and bring hands up to shoulders, palms out.)

Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life?

(Touch forehead with both hands, palms down, and frown.)

And why do you worry about clothes?
(Bring both hands to sides, under shoulders, and move them down to waist.)

Notice how the lilies in the field grow.
(Squat on the floor; then raise up slowly, bringing arms up and out like flowers unfolding.)

They don’t wear themselves out with work, and they don’t spin cloth.
(Hold one arm straight out in front, and bring other hand close to it as you move that hand in circles.)

But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn’t dressed like one of these.
(Stand proudly and hold both hands with palms touching side of forehead, fingers pointing up.)

Therefore, don’t worry and say, “What are we going to eat?” or “What are we going to drink?” or “What are we going to wear?”
(Touch both hands to forehead for worry, bring one hand to mouth for “eat.” Put the same hand down, cup it, then bring it back to mouth for “drink.” Bring both hands to sides, under shoulders, and move them down to waist for “wear.”)

Your heavenly Father knows that you need them.
(Bring both arms in front, palms together and toward face, and raise them above head as you look upward.)

Instead, desire first and foremost God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
(Extend arms out at shoulders, palms up, and bow head.)

*Movements in parentheses reprinted from ONE ROOM SUNDAY SCHOOL Reproducible Activities, Winter, 1998–99, page 78



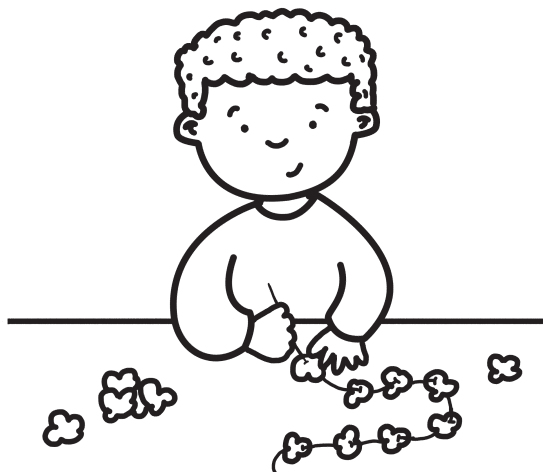
Did You Know?

Birds are mentioned in the Bible about three hundred times, scattered from Genesis to Revelation. The first reference appears early in Genesis 1:20. God said, "Let the waters swarm with living things, and let birds fly above the earth up in the dome of the sky." Lilies are mentioned about fifteen times, mostly in the Old Testament book of Song of Solomon. Jesus mentions that Solomon in all his splendor wasn't dressed as beautifully as a lily.

String of Food

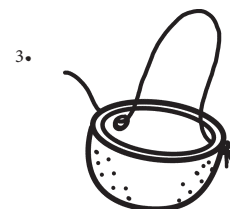
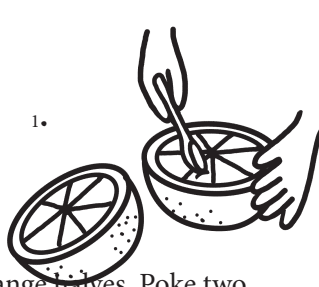
Supplies: strong thread, large-eye needle, popped popcorn, raisins, cranberries and/or bread

Using the needle, thread the popcorn or other items together and hang the string on branches of a tree or shrub or on a fence.



Grapefruit or Orange Halves

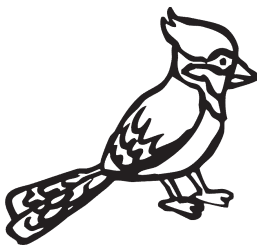
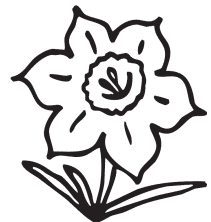
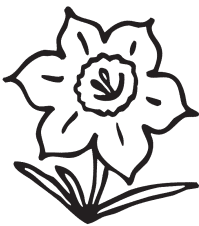
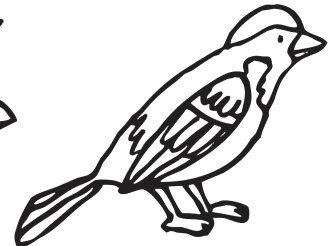
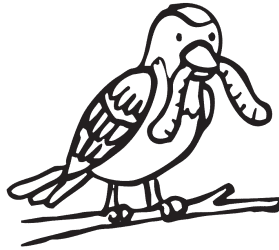
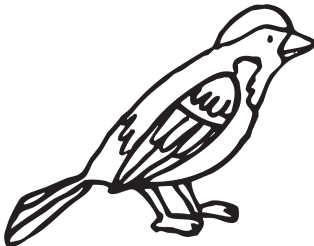
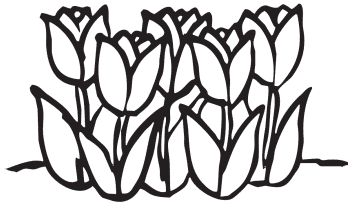
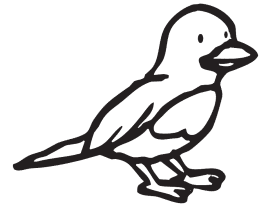
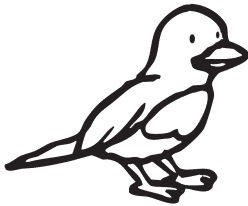
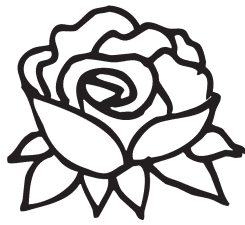
Supplies: grapefruit or oranges, spoon, yarn, birdseed, bread crumbs or raisins



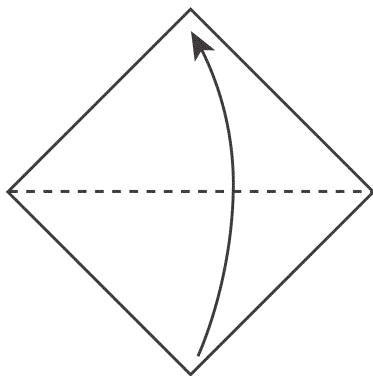
Scoop out grapefruit or orange halves. Poke two holes in either side of each half. Put an end of yarn through each hole, and tie a knot so that you have a basket effect. Fill the basket with birdseed, as well as bread crumbs or raisins. Hang the basket on the branch of a tree.



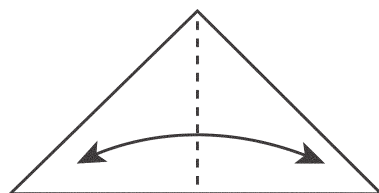
Birds and Flowers Match-up



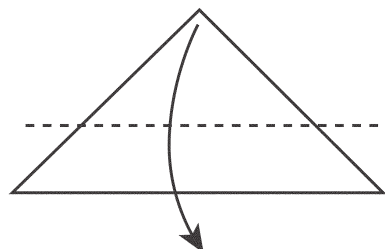
Origami Twirling Bird



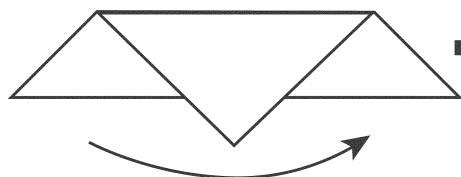
1. Start with your paper white side up. Fold in half, as shown.



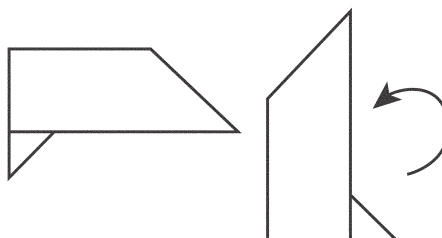
2. Fold in half again, crease and open.



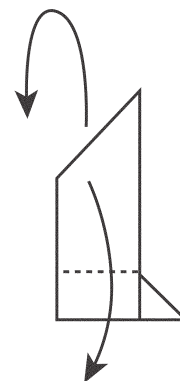
3. Now fold top of model down past the baseline of the model.



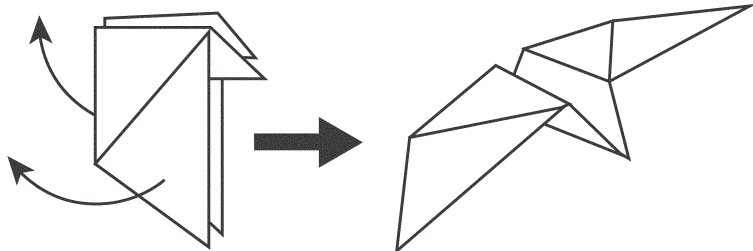
4. Fold whole model in half



5. Rotate model so it is now standing up.



6. Fold down the top flap along the line shown. Then repeat the same thing on the flap behind.



7. Now fold the wings back upwards so they sit horizontally, as shown.



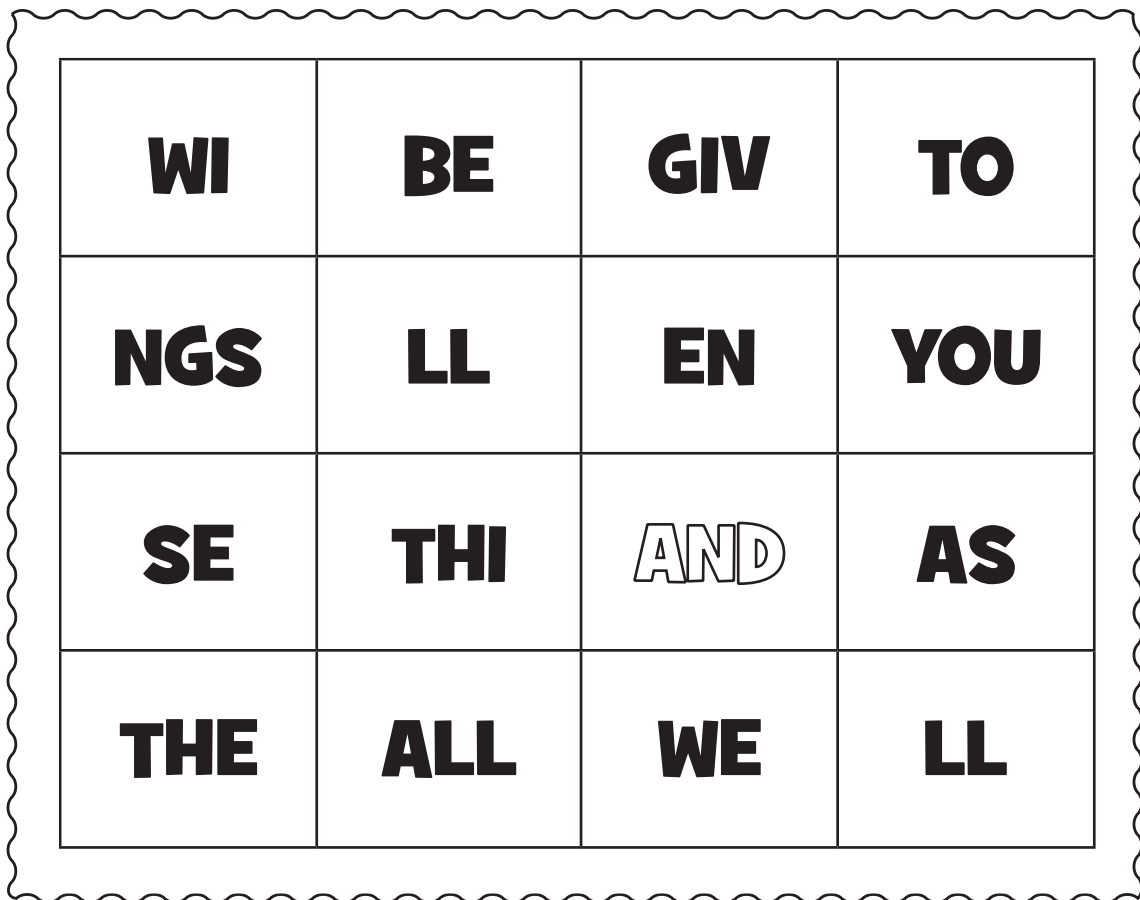
8. Twirling bird is complete!

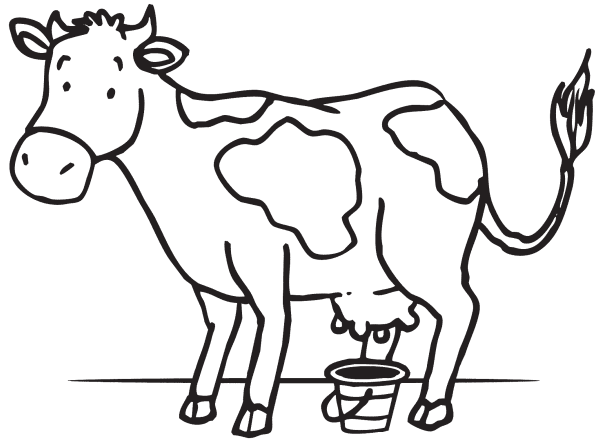
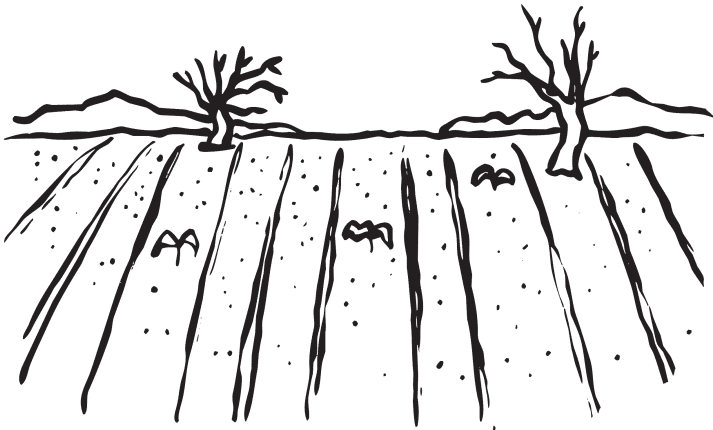
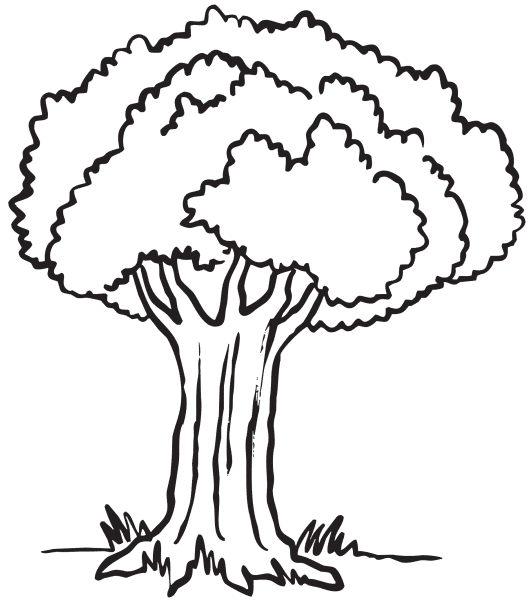
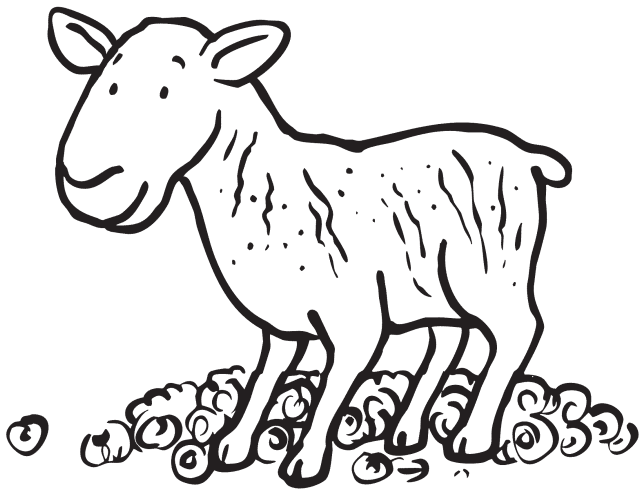
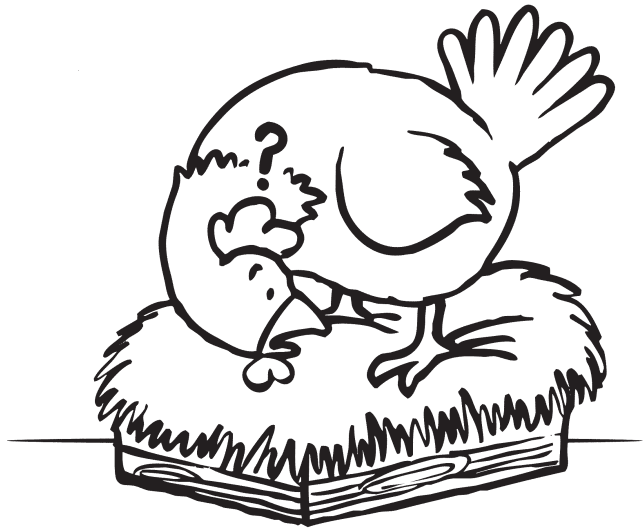
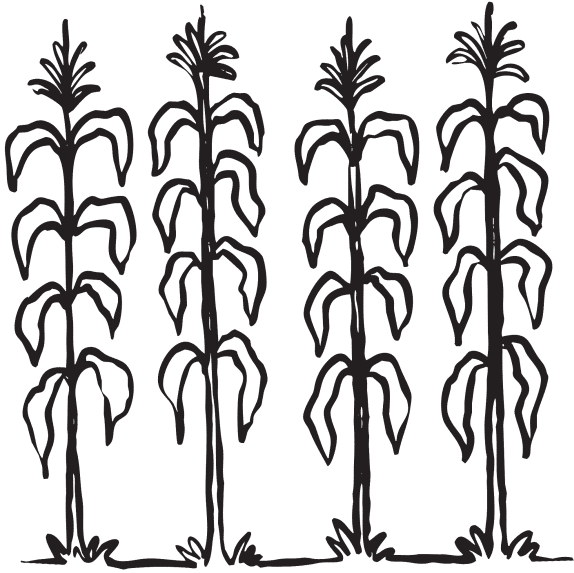
To make the Twirling Bird fly, throw it like a paper plane. It will tumble in circles!

Put-God-First Challenge

Desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness.

Start at the outlined box and move from box to box—down, across, or diagonally—to discover the rest of Matthew 6:33. All letters are in the right order, and no lines cross.







God cares for you.



Bring in your kingdom so
that your will is done on
earth as it's done in
heaven.

Matthew 6:10, CEB





bring



kingdom