

# GOD AND HIS CREATION

This month we are focusing on the Psalms. This book includes many poems and songs that help us understand more about who God is and how he works in our lives. It also teaches us that it is important to have a relationship with God, who has created the world and everything in it.



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Read Psalm 23 to learn about how Jesus is our shepherd. Try to memorize the verse highlighted in the *Words to Treasure* feature and read more about what God is like in the *Life in Bible Times* feature.

## Psalms 22–23

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My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.  
You bring me down to the edge of the grave.  
16 A group of sinful people has closed in on me.  
They are all around me like a pack of dogs.  
They have pierced my hands and my feet.  
17 I can see all of my bones right through my skin.  
People stare at me. They laugh when I suffer.  
18 They divide up my clothes among them.  
They cast lots for what I am wearing.  
19 LORD, don't be so far away.  
You give me strength. Come quickly to help me.  
20 Save me from the sword.  
Save the only life I have. Save me from the power of those dogs.  
21 Save me from the mouths of those lions.  
Save me from the horns of those wild oxen.  
22 I will announce your name to my brothers and sisters.  
I will praise you among those who worship you.  
23 You who have respect for the LORD, praise him!  
All you people of Jacob, honor him!  
All you people of Israel, worship him!  
24 He has not forgotten the one who is hurting.  
He has not turned away from his suffering.  
He has not turned his face away from him.  
He has listened to his cry for help.  
25 Because of what you have done,  
I will praise you in the whole community of those who worship you.  
In front of those who respect you,  
I will keep my promises.  
26 Those who are poor will eat and be satisfied.  
Those who look to the LORD will praise him.  
May their hearts be filled with new hope!

27 People from one end of the earth to the other  
will remember and turn to the LORD.  
The people of all the nations  
will bow down before him.  
28 The LORD is King.  
He rules over the nations.  
29 All the rich people of the earth will  
worship God and take part in his feasts.  
All those who go down to the edge of the grave will fall on their knees in front of him.  
I'm talking about those who can hardly keep themselves alive.  
30 Those who are not yet born will serve him.  
Those who are born later will be told about the Lord.  
31 And they will tell people who have not yet been born  
that he has done what is right.

**Psalm 23***A psalm of David.*

1 The LORD is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need.  
2 He lets me lie down in fields of green grass.  
He leads me beside quiet waters.  
3 He gives me new strength.  
He guides me in the right paths for the honor of his name.  
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I will not be afraid.  
You are with me.  
Your shepherd's rod and staff comfort me.  
5 You prepare a feast for me right in front of my enemies.

**Words to Treasure**

**The LORD is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need.**

Psalm 23:1



**Start  
Reading  
Here**

End  
Reading  
Here

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Psalms 23–25

You pour oil on my head.  
My cup runs over.

<sup>6</sup>I am sure that your goodness and love  
will follow me  
all the days of my life.  
And I will live in the house of the LORD  
forever.

**Psalm 24***A psalm of David.*

<sup>1</sup>The earth belongs to the LORD. And so  
does everything in it.  
The world belongs to him. And so do  
all those who live in it.  
<sup>2</sup>He set it firmly on the oceans.  
He made it secure on the waters.  
<sup>3</sup>Who can go up to the temple on the hill  
of the LORD?  
Who can stand in his holy place?  
<sup>4</sup>Anyone who has clean hands and a pure  
heart.  
He does not worship the statue of a  
god.  
He doesn't use the name of that god  
when he makes a promise.  
<sup>5</sup>People like that will receive the LORD's  
blessing.  
When God their Savior hands down  
his sentence, it will be in their  
favor.  
<sup>6</sup>The people who look to God are like that.  
God of Jacob, they look to you. *Selah*  
<sup>7</sup>Open wide, you gates.  
Open up, you age-old doors.  
Then the King of glory will come in.  
<sup>8</sup>Who is the King of glory?

The LORD, who is strong and mighty.  
The LORD, who is mighty in battle.

<sup>9</sup>Open wide, you gates.  
Open wide, you age-old doors.  
Then the King of glory will come in.  
<sup>10</sup>Who is he, this King of glory?  
The LORD who rules over all.  
He is the King of glory. *Selah*

**Psalm 25***A psalm of David.*

<sup>1</sup>LORD, I worship you.  
<sup>2</sup>My God, I trust in you.  
Don't let me be put to shame.  
Don't let my enemies win the battle  
over me.  
<sup>3</sup>Those who put their hope in you  
will never be put to shame.  
But those who can't be trusted  
will be put to shame. They have no  
excuse.  
<sup>4</sup>LORD, show me your ways.  
Teach me how to follow you.  
<sup>5</sup>Guide me in your truth. Teach me.  
You are God my Savior.  
I put my hope in you all day long.  
<sup>6</sup>LORD, remember your great mercy and  
love.  
You have shown them to your people  
for a long time.  
<sup>7</sup>Don't remember the sins I committed  
when I was young.  
Don't remember how often I refused  
to obey you.  
Remember me because you love me.  
LORD, you are good.

## Life in Bible Times



watches over us and will show us what is  
best for us.

**What God Is Like**

Psalm 23 says that God is like a shepherd. A shepherd loves  
and cares for his sheep. He watches them closely, protects  
them from danger, and makes sure they have enough  
to eat and drink.  
To say that God  
is our shepherd  
means that he



Read Psalm 46 and the devotion *God, Our Castle* which reminds us of God's unfailing strength. When we rely on him, we don't need to be afraid!

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PSALM 45

<sup>13</sup>In her room, the princess looks glorious.  
Her gown has gold threads running through it.  
<sup>14</sup>Dressed in beautiful clothes, she is led to the king.  
Her virgin companions follow her.  
They have been brought to be with her.  
<sup>15</sup>They are led in with joy and gladness.  
They enter the palace of the king.  
<sup>16</sup>Your sons will rule just as your father and grandfather did.  
You will make them princes through the whole land.  
<sup>17</sup>I will make sure that people will always remember you.  
The nations will praise you for ever and ever.

**Psalm 46**

For the director of music. A song of the Sons of Korah. According to *alamoth*.

<sup>1</sup>God is our place of safety. He gives us strength.  
He is always there to help us in times of trouble.  
<sup>2</sup>The earth may fall apart.  
The mountains may fall into the middle of the sea.  
But we will not be afraid.  
<sup>3</sup>The waters of the sea may roar and foam.  
The mountains may shake when the waters rise.  
But we will not be afraid.  
<sup>4</sup>God's blessings are like a river. They fill the city of God with joy.

Start  
Reading  
Here



# WEDNESDAY

God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1).

**TODAY'S BIBLE READING: Psalm 46**

## GOD, OUR CASTLE

Pretend you are in a big, strong castle. Thick walls surround you. A deep moat circles the castle. Iron gates block the entrances. And soldiers stand guard all day and all night. Enemies may attack the castle, but they cannot get in. You are safe.

God is like that castle. He is big and strong. He keeps you safe and surrounds you with his love. His angels stand guard over you day and night. And even though Satan may attack you, he will never get in. You are safe.

ASK

YOURSELF

How is God like a castle? Who stands guard over you all day and all night?

☐ I have read this devotion.

For your next reading, turn to page 679. If you want to read more, see Deuteronomy 33:27–29 on page 249.

## PSALM 48

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That city is the holy place where  
the Most High God lives.

<sup>5</sup>Because God is there, the city will  
not fall.

God will help it at the beginning of  
the day.

<sup>6</sup>Nations are in disorder. Kingdoms  
fall.

God speaks, and the people of the  
earth melt in fear.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD who rules over all is  
with us.

The God of Jacob is like a fort  
to us.

<sup>8</sup>Come and see what the LORD has  
done.

See the places he has destroyed  
on the earth.

<sup>9</sup>He makes wars stop from one end of  
the earth to the other.

He breaks every bow. He snaps  
every spear.

He burns every shield with fire.

<sup>10</sup>He says, "Be still, and know that I  
am God.

I will be honored among the  
nations.

I will be honored in the earth."

<sup>11</sup>The LORD who rules over all is  
with us.

The God of Jacob is like a fort  
to us.

## Psalm 47

For the director of music. A psalm  
of the Sons of Korah.

<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, all you nations.  
Shout to God with cries of joy.

<sup>2</sup>Do this because the LORD Most High  
is wonderful.

He is the great King over the  
whole earth.

<sup>3</sup>He brought nations under our  
control.

He made them fall under us.

<sup>4</sup>He chose our land for us.

The people of Jacob are proud of  
their land,  
and God loves them.

<sup>5</sup>God went up to his throne while his  
people were shouting with  
joy.

The LORD went up while trumpets  
were playing.

<sup>6</sup>Sing praises to God. Sing praises.  
Sing praises to our King. Sing  
praises.

<sup>7</sup>God is the King of the whole earth.  
Sing a psalm of praise to him.

<sup>8</sup>God rules over the nations.  
He is seated on his holy throne.

<sup>9</sup>The nobles of the nations come  
together.

They are now part of the people of  
the God of Abraham.

The kings of the earth belong to  
God.

He is greatly honored.

## Psalm 48

A song. A psalm of the Sons of Korah.

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is great. He is really  
worthy of praise.

Praise him in the city of our God,  
his holy mountain.

<sup>2</sup>Mount Zion is high and beautiful.  
It brings joy to everyone on earth.

Mount Zion is like the highest parts  
of Mount Zaphon.

It is the city of the Great King.

<sup>3</sup>God is there to keep it safe.

He has shown himself to be like a  
fort to the city.

<sup>4</sup>Many kings joined forces.

They entered Israel together.

<sup>5</sup>But when they saw Mount Zion, they  
were amazed.

They ran away in terror.

<sup>6</sup>Trembling took hold of them.

They felt pain like a woman giving  
birth.

<sup>7</sup>LORD, you destroyed them like ships  
of Tarshish

that were torn apart by an east  
wind.

<sup>8</sup>What we heard we have also seen.

We have seen it  
in the city of the LORD who rules  
over all.

We have seen it in the city of our  
God.

We have heard and seen that God  
makes it secure forever.

<sup>9</sup>God, inside your temple  
we think about your faithful love.

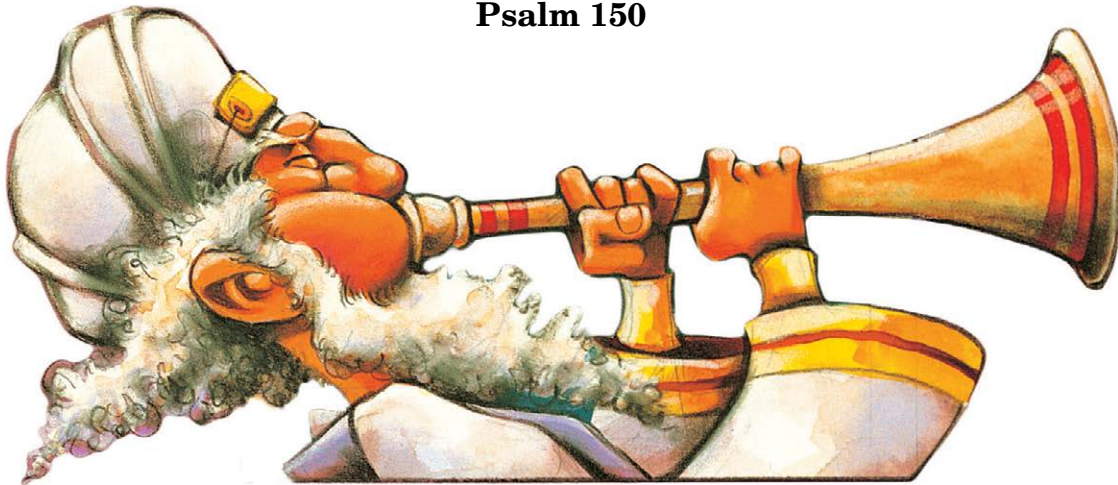
<sup>10</sup>God, your fame reaches from one  
end of the earth to the other.

End  
Reading  
Here

This Psalm reminds us to praise God for all things. He is a great and powerful God!

## A Praise Psalm

Psalm 150



Praise the LORD.  
Praise God in his holy temple.  
Praise him in his mighty heavens.  
Praise him for his powerful acts.  
Praise him because he is greater than  
anything else.  
Praise him by blowing trumpets.  
Praise him with harps and lyres.  
Praise him with tambourines and dancing.  
Praise him with stringed instruments and flutes.  
Praise him with clashing cymbals.  
Praise him with clanging cymbals.  
Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.  
Praise the LORD. 🐦

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This devotional teaches us that we can study the world around us and learn more about God at the same time.

March 16

## Science Needs Faith

**L**aurie had wanted to be a scientist as long as she could remember. Her dad had made her a room in the attic where she could study things. Today she was looking at microscopic creatures in pond water. Little one-celled animals buzzed around in the drop of water she was studying. The thing that worried Laurie was that scientists and Christians didn't seem to like each other very much. Could she still be a Christian and a scientist?

Science is about asking questions and finding answers. Faith is about asking questions and trusting God will help you with the answers. The important thing is to understand that God does know everything, and science is about learning about everything. If God is your teacher, can that be a bad thing? We know a lot about our amazing world, but there is still so much more to learn. There are still a lot of mysteries to solve both in science and about God. Many scientists have a strong belief and faith in God. Many believe that science helps them to become closer to God. So go explore the world with God as your guide and teacher.

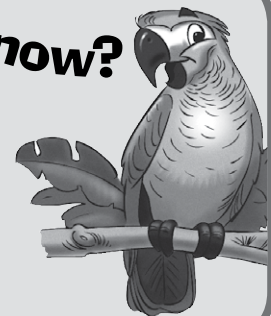
### Words to Treasure

The heavens tell about the glory of God. The skies show that his hands created them.

Psalm 19:1

### Did You Know?

Did you know that scientists who were also Christians made some pretty major scientific discoveries including discovering the planet Neptune, discovering bacteria, measuring the speed of light, and helping us explore the moon? Pretty cool.



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This devotional based on Psalm 102 helps us understand that God created our planet, which is covered with a variety of landscapes and features.



## Antarctica, Mount Everest, and Other Cool Stuff

He placed the earth on its foundations. It can never be moved.

—PSALM 104:5

Did you know the earth really isn't round? It is sphere-shaped but flatter at the North and South Poles. Seventy percent of the earth is water, and ten percent of the earth's surface is ice. Brr! Antarctica is the largest and coldest desert, and the highest mountain on the earth's surface is Mount Everest of the Himalayas, with a height of 29,029 feet. Did you also know there are one hundred and fifty million kilometers between the earth and the sun?

There are many more interesting facts about our planet earth, but the most important one is that God created it. He made every hill and valley, desert and forest, river and ocean. He not only created earth, but he placed it where he wanted it to be.

Next time you take a ride in the car, look closely at the earth's landscape and praise God for making our planet!







Praying is an important part of your relationship with God because it is how we speak to him directly. This page helps us understand what prayer is and how we do it.

## How to Pray

### How do I start?

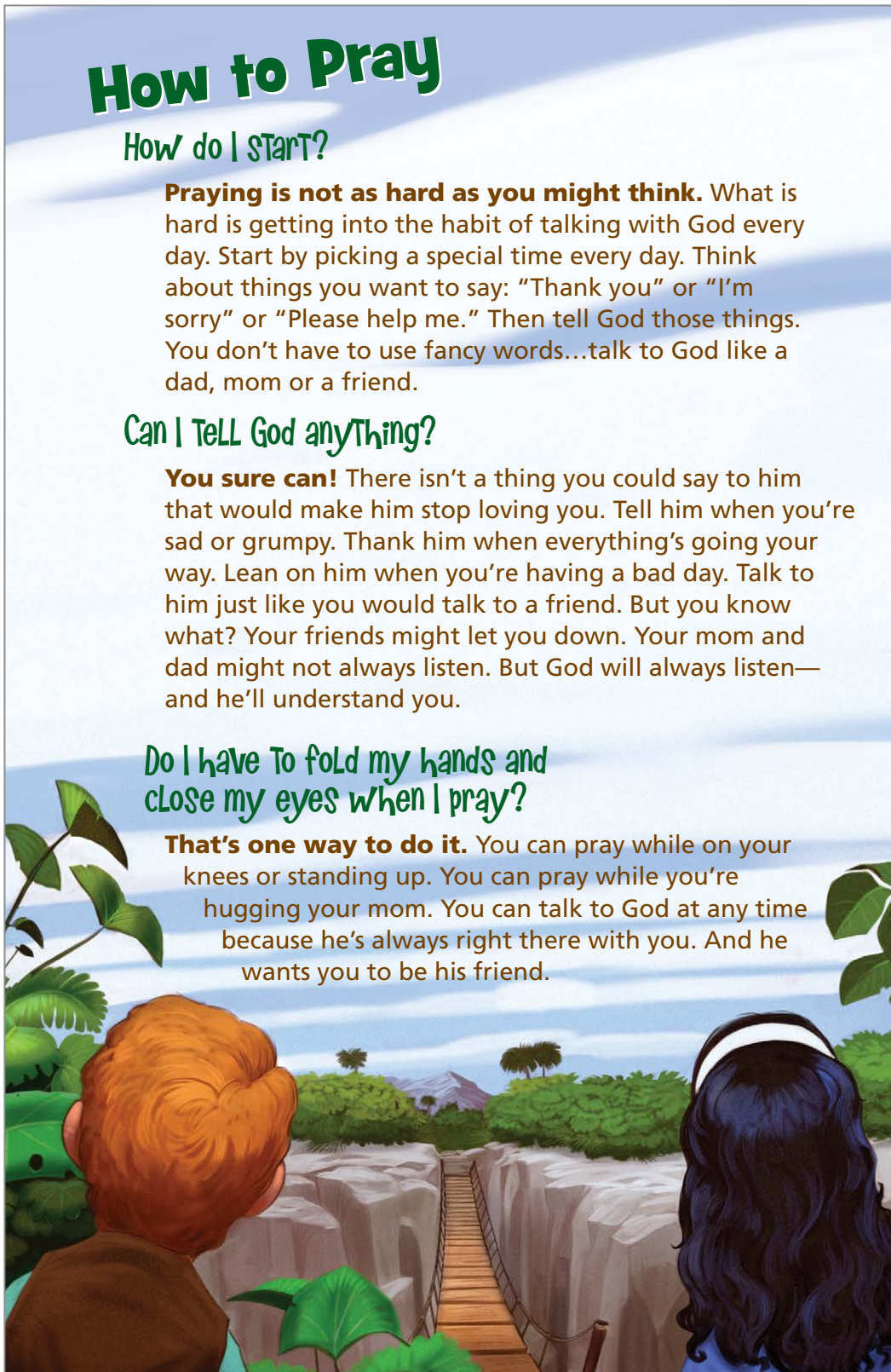
**Praying is not as hard as you might think.** What is hard is getting into the habit of talking with God every day. Start by picking a special time every day. Think about things you want to say: "Thank you" or "I'm sorry" or "Please help me." Then tell God those things. You don't have to use fancy words...talk to God like a dad, mom or a friend.

### Can I Tell God anything?

**You sure can!** There isn't a thing you could say to him that would make him stop loving you. Tell him when you're sad or grumpy. Thank him when everything's going your way. Lean on him when you're having a bad day. Talk to him just like you would talk to a friend. But you know what? Your friends might let you down. Your mom and dad might not always listen. But God will always listen—and he'll understand you.

### Do I have To fold my hands and close my eyes when I pray?

**That's one way to do it.** You can pray while on your knees or standing up. You can pray while you're hugging your mom. You can talk to God at any time because he's always right there with you. And he wants you to be his friend.

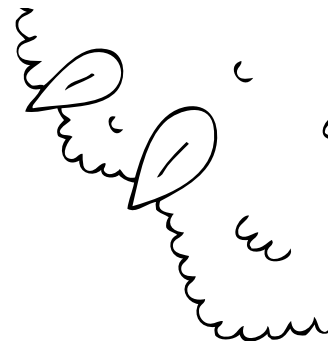


Read Psalm 84, and then color this picture of a sparrow that has built her nest close to an altar to God.

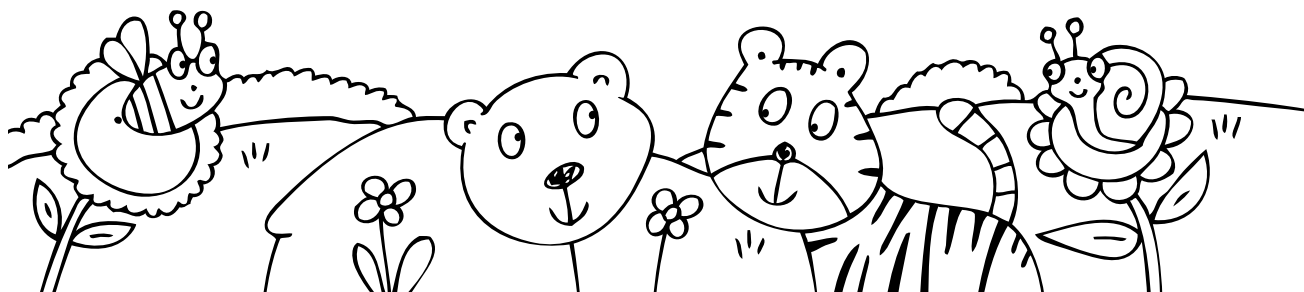


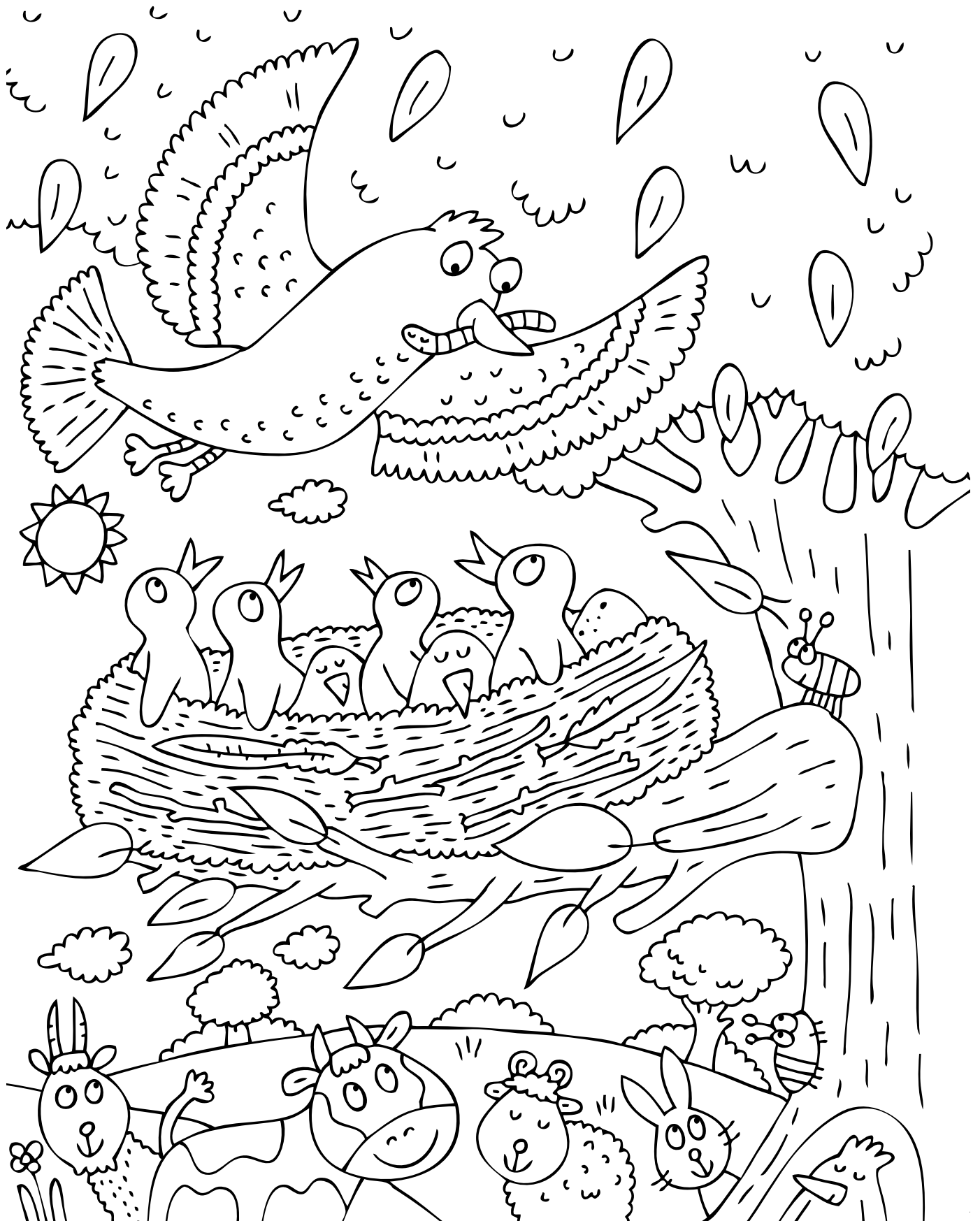
Week 2


# Sparrow Near the Altar



LORD who rules over all,  
 how lovely is the place where you live!  
 I can't wait to be in the courtyards of the LORD's temple.  
 I really want to be there.  
 My whole being cries out  
 for the living God.  
 LORD who rules over all,  
 even the sparrow has found a home near your altar.  
 My King and my God,  
 the swallow also has a nest there,  
 where she may have her young.  
 Blessed are those who live in your house.  
 They are always praising you.  
 Blessed are those whose strength comes from you.  
 They have firmly decided to travel to your temple.  
 As they pass through the dry Valley of Baka,  
 they make it a place where water flows.  
 The rain in the fall covers it with pools.







Those people get stronger as they go along,  
 until each of them appears in Zion, where God lives.  
 LORD God who rules over all, hear my prayer.  
 God of the people of Jacob, listen to me.  
 God, may you be pleased with your anointed king.  
 You appointed him to be like a shield that keeps us safe.  
 A single day in your courtyards is better  
 than a thousand anywhere else.  
 I would rather guard the door of the house of my God  
 than live in the tents of sinful people.  
 The LORD God is like the sun that gives us light.  
 He is like a shield that keeps us safe.  
 The LORD blesses us with favor and honor.  
 He doesn't hold back anything good  
 from those whose lives are without blame.  
 LORD who rules over all,  
 blessed is the person who trusts in you.

