

BIRDS

Brainstorm everything you know about birds. Include general facts as well as some distinctive qualities about various types.

Explore this Hebrew word & picture:

Yownah (H3123)

יונה


Can you think of any fictional stories (books, fairytales, movies, games, etc) that feature birds in a creative way? How are different species usually portrayed?

List as many Bible stories as you can with birds. Read some of these verses and ponder God's use of this theme:

Genesis 1:20-23, 1:26-28
 Exodus 19:3-4
 Leviticus 1:14, 11:13-19
 Psalm 91:1-4
 Isaiah 40:29-31
 Job 39:27-29
 Jeremiah 5:23-28
 Matthew 6:25-34, 13:3-4
 Mark 4:30-32
 Revelation 19:11-21

Ponder what you note about God's use of the dove or young pigeon in His story.

Gen 8:6-12, Sng 2:14, Luke 3:21-22

Take some time to reflect on all you've learned.
 How do birds give glory to Jesus & illustrate God's living story?
 Have you made any new discoveries?

ENGAGE IN WONDER

How do birds illustrate God's living story? Reflect on all you're learned.

Here are some additional questions to ignite your curiosity and imagination:

- Why do you think God chose a dove to represent the Holy Spirit coming down on Jesus at baptism?
- How do the stories of Noah's Ark & Jesus' baptism compare or contrast one another?
- Do you think God was intentionally showing contrast when he made birds to fly "in the expanse" and fish that swim in the darkness of the sea?
- Why do you think God gave birds wings?
- At the first sight of sunrise, birds sing out in what is called the "dawn chorus". They also use the sun to orient their flight and migration. Do you think God intended them to be so dependent on the sun?
- God uses the metaphor of his protective care being like a mother hen gathering his chicks (Matt 23:37) and being the one who renews our strength as though we were soaring on eagle's wings (Isaiah 40:31). What do those illustrations teach you about God and his creation of birds?