

## Bible background

Matthew 6:25-34

## Aim of lesson

To encourage the children to trust God and to pray to him.

## Preparation required

Make two glove puppets from your activity book. Colour them, cut the page in half to separate the two puppets, fold the dotted lines and tape top and side. You will need colouring materials, scissors and sellotape during the lesson.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Using the bird puppet, ask the children questions such as 'Do you know who I am?', 'Do you know what I eat?'. Ask the children if birds have cupboards full of tins of food, or refrigerators. Do they have plates and cups, or kitchens where they cook their dinner? Who gives them their food? Stress that God made the berries and worms and insects knowing that the birds would need them to eat.
2. Tell how Jesus one day told his disciples to look at the birds. He said God, his Father, feeds the birds, and would give us what we need to eat as well because we are precious to God.
3. Introduce the flower puppet asking similar questions as for the bird, including such as 'Do you like my dress?', 'Do you think I bought it in a shop?', 'Do you know how much it cost?'. Use these questions to introduce Jesus' teaching about his Father's care for us in giving us the clothes we need just as he beautifully clothes the flowers.
4. Sing the song 'Who Dressed The Flowers'. Teach the children first just to sing the answer 'God our Father' which follows each line. When they know the song well, one group can sing to another. 5. Ask the children to make their own bird and flower puppets, and take turns asking questions or telling 'their' story as you did.

## Alternative activities

1. Make some birds and flowers out of Plasticine. Make some food for the birds. Make some food and clothes for us.
2. If you have a suitable area and enough adult help, make a meal for the birds and go and feed them. You could simply use breadcrumbs but you could buy some bird seed/nuts or if you are feeling adventurous, make a bird cake. (It is important to make sure the children know not to eat any of the food themselves. If you are thinking of using peanuts check with parents before hand that none of your class has an allergy) Also, remember that a little goes a long way. You don't want to be left with an outdoor area covered in bird food which will look very unsightly if left to go soggy or mouldy. Eating mouldy food doesn't do the birds any good either!
3. Make a collage picture with the title "Thank you God for our..." Stick on pictures of food and clothing. You might like to use some food wrappers and labels.
4. On a circle of card or a paper plate, stick or draw a lovely meal, or make some salt dough food. Makesandwiches to eat. Don't forget to say thank you to God for the food. You could share any left over crusts and crumbs with the birds. (check with parents about any food allergies and ensure good hygiene throughout.)

## Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children about when they pray. What do they pray about? Do they thank God for food and clothes? Do they tell him if they are worried? Do they know that he hears and cares about them?

## Prayer

Ask who wants to say thank you for food for the birds and for us, or for clothes for the flowers and for us.

## Verse

'Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them.' Matthew 6:26.

# Song

## Who Dressed The Flowers?

(Tune based on 'Michael Row The Boat Ashore')



- v.1 Who dressed the flowers, can you tell?  
God, our Father.  
Who dressed each of us as well?  
God, our Father.
- v.2 Who feeds the birds, can you tell?  
God, our Father.  
Who feeds each of us as well?  
God, our Father.
- v.3 Who loves the world, can you tell?  
God, our Father.  
Who loves each of us as well?  
God, our Father.

*Music: Traditional.*