

Scriptures:

KT June 21

**God Cares for Ishmael** Genesis 21:8-21

And

**God sees the little sparrows fall.** Matthew 10:31,

**Theme:** We are precious in God's sight. **Object:** Printed pictures of different kinds of birds; a pair of binoculars

What are some hobbies that people enjoy? (Allow time for children to respond.)

Reading, knitting, and photography are popular hobbies. Some people like to build things like model cars or airplanes. Others may enjoy outdoor activities like fishing or hiking. Do you have a hobby? What's your hobby? (Allow time for children to respond.)

Do you think God has a hobby? OK, I know the Bible doesn't tell us that God has a hobby, but if He did, do you know what I think it might be? Bird watching! If I use my imagination, I can see God sitting in heaven with a pair of binoculars. (Look through the binoculars.) Perhaps He has a book with pictures of all the beautiful birds that He has created and He is trying to see how many of them he can find with His binoculars. If I really stretch my imagination, I can even hear Him saying, "There's a Bluebird, and a Cardinal. Oh look, there's an Eagle, a Meadowlark, and a Sparrow." A Sparrow? Of course He would see a Sparrow, there are millions of them. You've seen them -- common, ordinary, brown Sparrows -- but God must have really loved them, because He made so many of them.

(Perhaps on your daily walk you can count how many different types of birds you can see.)

One day Jesus was teaching His disciples that they should not be afraid. Jesus said, "Don't be afraid when something scares you. Two sparrows are sold for a penny, they are fairly ordinary or common birds, but not a single sparrow falls to the ground without your Father knowing it. So don't be afraid; you are much more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows."

I don't think that God sees us as common or ordinary. If He did, He would not love us in such an uncommon and extraordinary way! **The Bible says, "Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you." We are more precious to Him than a whole flock of sparrows -- and we know how much He loves the sparrow.**

Dear God, we know that we are precious in Your sight. Thank You for loving us with such an uncommon and extraordinary love. In Jesus' name, amen.

# He Cares for You

## Group Activities

Sermon Title: ["He Cares for You"](#)

### **SING A SONG:**

**God sees the little sparrow fall. It meets His tender view.**

**If God so loves the little things, I know He loves me too.**

**He loves me too, He loves me too, I know He loves me too!**

**If God so loves the little things, I know He loves me too.**

**or**

JESUS LOVES ME;

JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:24-39

### **JELLY BEAN RELAY: (Pretend that the jelly beans are sparrow birds)**

Children can be divided into teams. Each team can be given a large spoon to fill with jelly beans from the teams' bowl and run the jelly beans to the other side of the playing area and drop the jelly beans into another bowl. The team will continue to take turns in running jelly beans until all the beans are gone. If beans fall off the spoon, the child will stop and place the fallen beans back onto the spoon and continue to run.

### **FLYING SPARROWS:**

ALL the children can fly around a designated area with arms out until the teacher says... FREEZE? They will stop in exactly the position they were "flying" in until the teacher says to FLY. (This is a good way to get a lot of extra energy out of the children before story time!)

### **FALLING SPARROWS:**

(This one can be added to the FLYING SPARROWS as a variation or just done separately).... All children can fly around the room like sparrows until the teacher shouts out -- FALLING SPARROWS! Children will all fall down on floor until teacher shouts out -- FLYING SPARROWS and continue as time allows. The final FALL can then be story time as children gather in a circle remembering that God loves them even if they fall. (to Fall = to make a mistake)

## **COUNTING HAIRS:**

Divide children into groups of 2, or children can pick a partner. Give children 60 seconds to COUNT the hairs of their partner's head. If children are older, the time allowed could be 90 or 120 seconds. Children will begin to realize just HOW AMAZING it is that GOD knows the hairs on everyone's heads!! *Matthew 10 verse 30.*  
“*And even the very hairs on your head are all numbered.*”

## **CROSS BEANS: for older children they can use paint dots, ( using the handle end of the paint brush to make dots,**

Give children jelly beans to glue or paint to paint onto a piece of poster board. . Let children know that the various colors of the jelly beans/ paint can stand for things that pertain to the CROSS of Jesus --- As the teacher gives a word to spell, the children will try to form that short word with their jelly beans or paint dots, such as GOD, LOVE, CARE, CROSS, etc. If children are younger, the teacher could have them form a cross or a bird, etc.

**white** for purity and being washed as white as snow;

**red** for Jesus' blood;

**yellow** for heaven;

**green** for Christian growth;

**blue** for baptism,

**purple** for our King in heaven.

## **HAND SPARROW:**

Let children trace their own hand and try to color and form into what could look like a bird with the eyes on the thumb etc. Write words from today's lesson on the feathers/fingers of the "sparrow bird" and glue the bird hand onto a piece of construction paper. Children can write today's Bible verse on the fingers of the hand, or on the piece of construction paper.

## **LETTER GAME:**

Give each child a piece of construction paper and stickers for happy faces, hearts, crosses, birds, etc. Have children write their INITIALS only of their name on the piece of paper in bright letters. Then children will make phrases about today's lesson from those initials, on their paper. (Ex: if initials are A.B.C -- child could write "Always Believe Christ", or "All Believers Care"; or if initials were A. G. L. of a child, a phrase could be "Amazing God's Love", etc (MY initials are M.G.C. so I could write "My God Cares").

## **PAPER PLATE SPINNER:**

Provide a paper plate and bright colored markers and stickers for each child. Children can lightly color sections of the outer edges of the paper plate and then write on each colored section of the plate - all the ideas of how GOD loves us and cares for us. The inside area of the paper plate can be colored and write today's Bible verse, etc. Children can then use a brad to poke into the middle of the plate and fasten onto a piece of construction paper and SPIN the "wheel" and enjoy all the colors of the SPINNING plate.

**SNACK TIME:** Jelly bean cupcakes with beans on the frosting. IF time allows, the children could be given a cupcake to frost and add the jelly beans on their own.