Jesus Tells of God’s Love

Bible Story
Matthew 6:25-34; Luke 12:22-31

Teacher Challenge
Do you find yourself worried and tense? In a world full of things to worry about, Jesus says that as a believer in Him, you don’t have to be weighed down with a load of worry. He will carry that load for you. You can be confident that your loving Father will take care of your needs when you seek Him first.

What do you worry most about?

What keeps you from trusting God to take care of you?

God’s Word and Me
God cares for me and all the things He has made.

God’s Word
“I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever.” Psalm 89:1

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Teacher’s Planning
1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.

2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.
Play to Learn

Active Game Center:
Flying Birds

Collect
Bible, Preschool Music #1 CD and player, masking tape, fabric remnants or scarves.

Prepare
Using masking tape, outline three or four large squares in playing area.

Do
1. Each child selects fabric or scarf. Children wave fabric as they pretend to fly around the room making bird noises.
2. Play “I Will Sing” (track 6 on CD) while children “fly” around the room. When the music stops, children must “fly” to a masking-tape nest and pretend to go to sleep. (Note: Remove masking tape immediately after this activity.)

Talk About
❖ The Bible says, “I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever.” God loves and cares for everything He has made. One time, Jesus told how much God cares for birds and flowers. Let’s play a game by pretending to be birds.
❖ Where do birds sleep? Stephen, what do birds use to make a nest? God made birds so that they know how to make nests to sleep in. What do you sleep in?
❖ God gave the flowers beautiful petals to wear. Beth, what is your favorite thing to wear? Who bought it for you? God showed He cares for you when He gave you people to buy you clothes to wear.

For Younger Children
Instead of moving randomly around the room, lead children to “fly” in a line behind you.

For Older Children
Lead children in moving in a variety of ways (flapping quickly, swooping, turning, etc.). Choose a series of leader birds to demonstrate motions for others to imitate.
Play to Learn

Art Center:
Tissue Birds

Collect
Bible, white construction paper, marker, tissue paper in a variety of colors, glue; optional—Lesson 18 Bird Pattern from Discovering God’s Love CD-ROM.

Prepare
Draw a bird outline on paper, one for each child. (Optional: Make a copy of Lesson 18 Bird Pattern for each child.)

Do
Give each child a bird pattern. Child tears tissue paper into small pieces and glues onto bird to decorate.

Talk About
- The Bible says, “I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever.” God cares for everyone and everything He has made! Let’s use this tissue paper to make colorful birds.
- God cares for the birds. What is one thing God gave the birds to care for them?
- God loves and cares for us even more than the birds! God gave each one of us the people in our family to care for us. Billy, what is one thing someone in your family did this morning to help care for you?

For Younger Children
Some children may place a few pieces of tissue paper on their bird and declare they are finished. Others may take their time and fill the outline. Allow each child to work at his or her own pace.

For Older Children
Children glue craft feathers onto bird outline.
Play to Learn

Block Center:
Block Garden

Collect
Bible, construction paper in a variety of colors, scissors, blocks.

Prepare
Cut circles from paper in a variety of sizes to represent flowers. Cut diamond-shaped papers and fold in half to represent birds.

Do
1. Children use blocks to outline a garden. To stimulate imaginative use of blocks, begin building a garden and invite children to join you.
2. Children use paper circles as flowers in their gardens, and pick up folded papers to pretend birds are flying around the garden.

Talk About
- In our Bible story today, Jesus told people about God's great love. Jesus said that God gave the birds food to eat. Jesus said that God gave the flowers beautiful petals. God cares for everything He created—especially you and me! Let's build a garden with our blocks.
- Jessica, you have strong arms to lift that long block! I'm glad God made your arms, so they can lift heavy blocks. God loves and cares about you.
- Jacob, did you know God cares about you, even more than He cares about the flowers and the birds? God cares for us. God loves us!
- The Bible says, “I will sing of the Lord's great love forever.” Let's thank God that He cares for us and all the things He's made. Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for caring for us. Thank You for caring for all the wonderful things You have made.

For Younger Children
Building representational objects may be too advanced for your youngest children. Instead of building gardens, children simply play freely with blocks and paper circles.

For Older Children
Children build a pathway through the garden. Take a walk through the garden and ask children to describe the flowers along the path.
Play to Learn

Science Center: Bird Talk

Collect
Bible, one or more objects having to do with birds (live bird in bird cage, feathers, bird's nest, pictures of birds and nests, etc.); optional—Bird Photo from Discovering God's Love CD-ROM.

Do
1. Guide children in observing the bird-related objects. (Optional: Show Bird Photo.)
2. Ask simple questions to increase children's awareness of bird features and to hear what they already know about birds.

Talk About
- In our Bible story, Jesus told others about God's love. Jesus told how God cares for flowers and birds. Let’s find out ways God cares for birds!
- Birds don’t have hair like we have. Lee, what has God made to cover birds? Do we have feathers? Why are feathers just right for a bird? The bird's feathers have oil on them to help keep the bird dry. Feathers also help a bird fly.
- Why do you think God made claws on the bird's feet? (To hold onto a branch.) God has made the bird just right! God cares for birds.
- God cares for the birds He has made. But God cares about you even more than the birds! God loves you. The Bible says, “I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever.”
- Rachel, who did God make to help care for you? God loves you and me and all the things He has created!

For Younger Children
To extend the activity, lead children in walking around the room, waving arms like birds and twittering and chirping.

For Older Children
After looking at objects, let children make several different bird sounds (cawing like a crow, clucking like a chicken, hooting like an owl, crowing like a rooster, cooing like a dove, etc.).
Listen to Learn
Matthew 6:25-34; Luke 12:22-31

Collect
Bible, Bible Story 31 pictures from God’s Story for Me Poster Pack #1, Preschool Music #1 CD and player, large index cards, markers, rhythm instruments.

Greet Each Other
Give each child a large index card. Provide markers and invite children to draw pictures of themselves on the cards. Collect cards and show each picture. These are the pictures of people God loves and helps. As you point to each picture say, God loves and helps (Sammy). Let’s thank God for loving us and helping us.

Tell the Story
Open your Bible to Matthew 6. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 31 pictures.

If you had a pet bird, what would you do to take care of it? If you had a garden, how would you take care of the flowers? Listen to hear what Jesus told us about the ways God cares for birds and flowers—and us!

One day Jesus was sitting on a hill talking with His friends. “Look at those birds up in the sky,” Jesus said. “Just think about those birds.” Jesus’ friends watched as the birds flew high in the air. The birds ate the grain that grew in the fields. At night they had a place to sleep in the trees.

“Those birds don’t plant the seeds they eat,” Jesus said. “But God, your Father in heaven, feeds each one. He cares about them.”

Then Jesus might have bent down and picked a beautiful flower. “Think about the way the flowers grow,” Jesus said. “Flowers don’t sew their leaves onto their stems with a needle and thread. Yet even kings do not wear clothes as beautiful as this flower.” Jesus’ friends listened.

Then Jesus said, “God makes beautiful flowers. And He cares about them. He sends rain. He sends the warm sun to help the flowers grow. If God does that for the flowers, He will surely take care of you!

“God loves you much more than birds and flowers. Do not worry about what to eat or what to wear. Our Father in heaven knows just what you need. Always try to love and obey God. He will take care of you. He loves you.”
Talk About the Story
What does God give the birds? What does He give the flowers? (Food to eat. Beautiful colored petals.) Jesus wanted people to know how much God cares for each of us. God cares for you and me and ALL the things He has made! What has God given to show His care for you?

Sing to God
Let’s sing a song about God’s great love! Lead children in singing “I Will Sing” (track 6 on CD). According to this song, when are some times we can sing?

Hear and Say God’s Word
Holding your Bible open to Psalm 89:1, say verse aloud. “Lord” is another name for God. When we talk about singing to the Lord, we mean singing to God. We like to sing to God because He loves us. Provide rhythm instruments for children to play as you lead children in singing the words of the verse to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”:

I will sing of the Lord’s great love,
The Lord’s great love, the Lord’s great love.
I will sing of the Lord’s great love,
Forever and forever.

Pray to God
One at a time, call on children to name a person and complete the following prayer: Dear God, thank You for loving and caring for __________. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Praise to God
Lead children in this finger play.

I’m a tiny seed in the earth so low.

God sends sun and rain and then I start to grow.

Up, up, up, slowly I grow,

Then my leaves and flowers show!
Talk to Learn

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect
A copy of Activity 31 from The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages # for yourself and each child, crayons or markers, scissors; optional—flower stickers.

Do
Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children add flower stickers.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect
Copies of Puzzles 35 and 36 (p. 77 and p. 79 from The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do
Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect
A copy of Story Picture 18 from The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1 for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do
Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.