**Bible Birds and Beasties Series Key Stage 1**

***Designed to be used as a series but could be used individually***

1. **Creatures Great and Small**

***Game***

Have pictures of some weird looking baby animals including a picture of a human scan. Also have the names of each animal printed out. Choose 2 volunteers and as you show each picture they have to put the name of the animal they think it is next to it. After you have revealed all the animals, give the volunteers the chance to change any of the names around. Then go through the answers.

***Talk***

Ask the children if they have ever seen any nature or animal programmes. Say that you love watching them because you get to see loads of really strange animals. If you go to the deepest jungle or the bottom of the sea there are some very strange looking animals. I wonder how they got there...

***Story***

Genesis 1 (in your own words or from a book you find helpful)

***Talk***

Explain that God created lots of different animals but his best and most loved creation was you and me. It is our job to look after the animals and care for them.

***Challenge***

God loves you more than anything else he has made but because we are made so amazingly and just like him. We have a job to do. We must care for the things he has made. How can you do that?

***Prayer***

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1. **The Talking Donkey!**

***Recap***

Get the children to tell you what we are looking at and the story from last week.

***Intro***

Get the children (either volunteers out or get everyone to play by putting their hands up) to guess the animal sounds you make or a volunteer or play on an mp3. Make sure the last sound is a donkey.

***Talk***

We often recognise animals by the noise that they make. Usually we start with babies making the noises of a dog or a cat which might be a bit boring so maybe we should start with a lion and a snake!

Explain that today’s story is all about a donkey who made a very unusual noise.

***Story***

Numbers 22:21-41

***Talk***

Balaam wouldn’t listen to God. He thought he was brainier than God and didn’t need telling anything. In the end God had to use a donkey talking to show Balaam that actually he did need help.

Sometimes that’s a bit like us. We might think that we know everything but actually there are lots of people we need to listen to. We don’t know everything and it is good to listen to people so they can help us.

***Challenge***

Today, try not to be like Balaam. Who do you need to listen to? Your teachers, parents, people who look after you, friends can all help you but you need to listen to them.

***Prayer***

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1. **The tight-mouthed lions**

***Recap***

Go through last week’s story, seeing what the children remember.

***Intro***

Set out an obstacle course and pick out a volunteer. Blindfold the volunteer and ask them to complete the course without touching any of the obstacles. It should be impossible! Then ask if they want a friend to help them. Get out one of their friends and get the friend to help them around the course.

***Talk***

Explain that today we are going to think about some lions and a man who needed a friend to help him.

***Story***

Daniel 6

***Talk***

I’m sure Daniel was very scared when he was thrown into the lion’s den. But the good news for Daniel was that God wasn’t. God went into the lion’s den with Daniel to look after him. I think that is good news because just like God helped Daniel when he was scared, he wants to help us too. God doesn’t stay in Church; he comes with us into the places where we feel scared.

***Challenge***

The next time you feel scared, why not try asking God to be close to you and look after you?

***Pray***

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1. The little sparrows

***Recap***

Remind the children of the story of Daniel and the lion’s den, and that God goes with us into our scary situations.

***Intro***

Get out 4 volunteers and tell them they are going to take part in a race. Build the excitement up and say that if anyone completes the prize then they will win a fantastic prize. After a very long build up, say that all they have to do is count the hairs on their friend’s head. As soon as you have explained, say go.

***Talk***

Explain that the challenge was impossible wasn’t it. Say that nobody could do that. Then say that actually we are going to see that someone knows exactly how many hairs are on your head.

***Story***

Matthew 10:29-31 paraphrased.

***Talk***

God created the sparrows. He made them and he knows everything about them. He cares for them. He feeds them. If God cares about the sparrows, how much more does he care for us!?

It says in the Bible that God cares about us so much that he even knows how many hairs are on our head and he knows when one falls out!

That’s amazing!

***Challenge***

If God cares for us then we should try to care for people too. How can you do that this week?

***Prayer***