

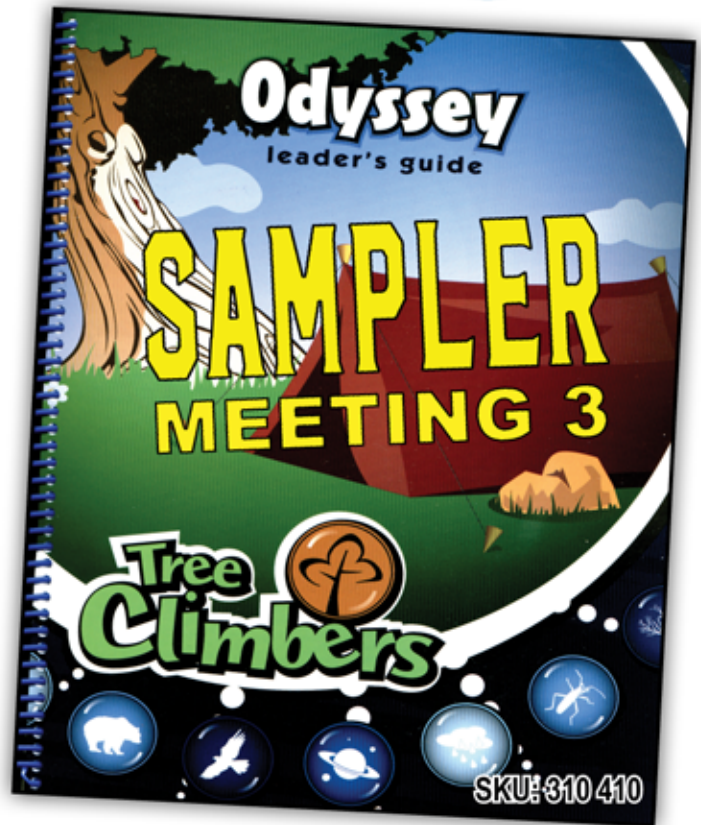
Odyssey Meeting 3

Tree Climbers SAMPLER

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 2:1)

You can obtain *Tree Climbers Odyssey* from:
CSB US - store.csbministries.org
CSB Canada - store.christianservicebrigade.ca



There's no greater call we can answer than to be the instrument that God uses to unlock a young person's potential.

From the Tree Climber's Leader's Guide:

Welcome to the world of Tree Climbers, an exciting journey for dads and sons to grow in their relationships with Christ and with each other, while making new friends. At Tree Climbers, young boys spend quality time with their dads and other adult Christian men. Together, men and kids have fun, learn about God's creation and grow closer to God and each other. Games, projects and adventures are centered around a weekly theme and Bible verse. Young boys flourish with the one-on-one time with godly men. Dads gain leadership skills and confidence by taking turns leading games, explaining projects and sharing Bible stories.

God bless you on this journey and have a terrific year!

Contact CSB for information regarding the companion volume, *Tree Climbers Discovery*.

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A Component of CSB Ministries

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God Takes Care of Us

Unit Aim: To recognize that God protects us and provides for us in all circumstances.

3

WEEK



Woody's Welcome

If you spot a bird, how do you tell what kind it is? A number of clues will help you to identify a bird.

Size is a very important clue. Is the bird large, small or in-between? Crows and hawks are big. Wrens and sparrows are small. Robins are medium-sized.

A bird can be identified by its shape and color, too. Does it have a plump or slim body? Does it have a crest on its head? Is its tail long, square, tilted, forked? Are its wings big or small? Is it all one color like a cardinal? How many colors are there and which part of the bird's body is which color?

Different birds also behave differently. Watch what a bird is doing. Is it perching, hopping, bobbing, darting, diving, hovering, soaring or flying?

Last, each kind of bird has a voice or sings a unique song. Many birds, such as the whippoorwill, are named by the repeated song they sing.

Adventure Verse:



1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.



Woody's Games

Get the Worms Use gummy worms (or roll up 4" long paper worms) plus two bowls per team. Put an equal number of worms into half the bowls.

Divide into teams of four. Give one player on each team one of these bird names: robin, blue jay, blackbird, sparrow. Put a bowl of worms at one end of the room for each team and an empty bowl behind each team. Teammates stand side by side in front of their bowl.

When the leader calls one bird name, those players race to grab one worm from his team's bowl and drop it into the one behind his teammates. Call another bird name quickly. Occasionally, call for two birds at the same time.

Migrating Birds Act out a bird's life for the children: fly north (one end of the room) in the spring, feed the chicks (fly from one side of the room to the other), fly south (other end of the room) for the winter. When a predator (such as a hawk or cat) tries to get them, they scatter.

Let the players practice following your directions, then start calling them randomly ("Winter!" "Hawk!" "Hungry chicks!") and watch your birds fly!



Fun To Do

Bird Dot-to-Dot Pictures

Provide the dot-to-dot bird pictures page from the Activity Packets, pencils, markers, crayons and masking tape. Also, put a long strip of butcher paper on a wall. Draw or attach pictures of places where birds would perch, nest, feed (trees, houses, meadows, bushes, etc.) ahead of time.



1. Connect the dots to draw five different birds.
2. Color your birds and cut them out.
3. Write your name or your initials on the other side of each bird.
4. Tape your birds to the mural.



Woody's Checkup

Read 1 Peter 5:7 together. Use the following questions to talk about what it means. Then memorize the verse.

1. What does "anxiety" mean?
2. Who is the "him" and "he" in this verse?
3. Do you understand what "cast on him" means? It means to let God take care of it. What things do you worry about or make you afraid? You can ask God to take care of those things for you so you won't have to feel bad about them.
4. Let's thank God now because he takes care of us.



Woody's Stretch

Bird Watching Bring some binoculars. Arrange some chairs as trees.

Tell your Tree Climbers that you're going bird watching. They'll have to be quiet and move slowly so they don't scare the birds away. Creep around the room, keeping the "trees" between you and the bird mural. When you're as far from the mural as you can get, stop. Bring out the binoculars and help each child spot some birds. Can they see any bird that's eating? Can they find any baby birds?



Tree Climbers Circle

Tell the story, "The Courageous Killdeer."

The Courageous Killdeer

Leader: Show the children the picture from the next page as you tell this story.

Do you know what kind of a bird this is? Has anyone ever seen one? What is it doing?

Most birds look for food on the ground; but this bird, called the killdeer, actually lives on the ground. The killdeer is not a big bird like a duck or a goose. It's a small bird like a robin, but it has long legs. Many small birds hop around looking for food, but the killdeer walks like most large birds do — like cranes or storks.

Does anybody know where on the ground a killdeer will build a nest? It can be found in open fields near a bush or some tall weeds.

The killdeer protects its young in a most unusual way. Instead of flying up into the air when danger approaches and then diving down at its enemy to scare it away, the killdeer makes a big fuss to get its enemy's attention.

If the predator is still too close to a killdeer's nest, one of the parents will pretend to have a broken wing. The hungry animal will think the bird is easy prey and follow it. The adult killdeer hobbles away from its nest, drawing its enemy away, too.

Sometimes, the predator catches one of the parent birds. The adult killdeer would rather lose its life than lose its babies.

Do you know how you and I are like baby killdeer? God says we are in danger because we sin and that people who sin must be punished. In Romans 6:23, God's Word says the punishment for our sin is death.

Do you know how God is like an adult killdeer? He protects us in an unusual way. God sent Jesus to rescue us from being punished for our sin. Like an adult killdeer, Jesus gave

his life to protect us. Because he loves us, Jesus took our punishment by dying on the cross so that we could be with God some day.

However, we face a predator that baby killdeer don't have to worry about. Our enemy, Satan, doesn't want us to believe that Jesus loves us. He doesn't want you to believe that Jesus died for us. Satan doesn't want you to know that Jesus rose from the dead or that he's alive in heaven today. Satan wants to deceive us and keep us away from God's love.

In Galatians 1:3-4, the Bible says, "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, *who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.*"

It takes a lot of courage for a killdeer bird to risk its life for its young. But it took more than courage for Jesus to die on the cross for us. It took God's perfect love to love us that much in spite of our sins.

God loves us, so he sent his only Son to die for us and rescue us from Satan's clutches.

Let's thank God for loving us that much.

Talking about it

1. How does a parent killdeer protect its babies from hungry predators?
2. Do you think the parent bird tries to get away from its enemy so it can get back to its little ones?
3. What did Jesus do that was like the way a killdeer protects its young? Did you know that Jesus didn't try to get away? He gave his life on purpose.
4. When a killdeer gives its life for its babies, it isn't there to take care of them any more. Do you know why Jesus can still take care of us? (Matthew 28:5-6; Luke 24:1-8, 34-36, 44-47)

