

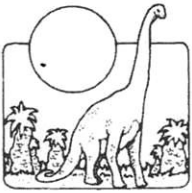
Discovery

leader's guide

**Leader's Guide
Sample Meeting &
Program Overview**

Tree Climbers





DISCOVERY 9

We Grow to Be Like Jesus

Wild Animals

Unit Aim

To want to become more like Christ in our attitudes and relationships with others.

Scripture Memory

Your Tree Climbers will memorize verses about how we are to treat other people during the next four sessions.

Learning Bible Verses

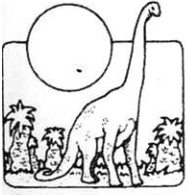
Try different ways to stimulate your Tree Climbers to learn these verses. Whisper a verse to him. Clap a rhythm as you say the verse. Knead his shoulders or shake his hand while repeating the words. Sing them all as a Gregorian chant.

Dads Demonstrate

Throughout this final discovery, take turns sharing personal experiences about how you have developed character qualities mentioned in 2 Peter 1:5-8, 1 John 2:6 and the memory verses.

Optional Activities

1. Take a trip to see fossils at a museum of natural history or visit a zoo and notice the great variety of animals that God made.
2. Check out information about some of God's incredible animals from a library or the internet. Look up megamouth, sea slugs, woolly mammoths, iguanas, pangolins and starfish. See what lives around deep sea vents too.
3. At least once this unit, tape pictures of all kinds of animals on a wall to inspire wonder at the vastness of this part of God's creation.



Wild Animals

We Grow to Be Like Jesus

Unit Aim: To want to become more like Christ in our attitudes and relationships with others.



Woody's Welcome

First show the complete Wild Animals sticker. Then introduce the theme,

Have you ever seen a dinosaur? None of us have, but they lived on earth a long time ago. Scientists believe this because they have found fossils, or dinosaur bones, buried in the soil. Dinosaur bones were first identified about 200 years ago in England when people dug up skeletons that looked like giant reptiles. One scientist named them "dinosuria," a word in Latin which means "terrible lizard." Eventually, we called them "dinosaurs."

Have you ever seen a fossil? A fossil may be a piece of bone or a whole skeleton of an animal. It could be a shell or an imprint of a leaf. In other words, a fossil is any part of a plant or animal from long ago that has been turned into stone. Usually a fossil formed when an animal or plant from long ago was buried by mud or sand. Over time, minerals in the soil turned the bone or plant material into rock. That rock lasts, so we can dig up fossils today!



Woody's Games

Cave Ball Provide one ball for each player on one team. Divide into two equal teams.

Players line up with their backs against a player from the other team. Then both teams walk 10 steps forward.

One team turns around and sits down. These players form V-shaped "caves" with their legs.

Players on the other team crouch like a football center. Each rolls a ball backwards between his legs, aiming for the cave directly behind him.

After a couple of turns, teams switch roles.

Fossil Tag

One player is "It" and one or two are "archeologists."

When "It" tags someone, that player freezes in place like a fossil. When an archeologist touches a fossilized player and says, "I dug you out!" that player is free to play again. Play for a minute or two, then select another "It."

If an archeologist is tagged, another archeologist can set him free. Or, play that nothing happens to archeologists.

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WEEK

Adventure Verses:



Matthew 7:12

In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.



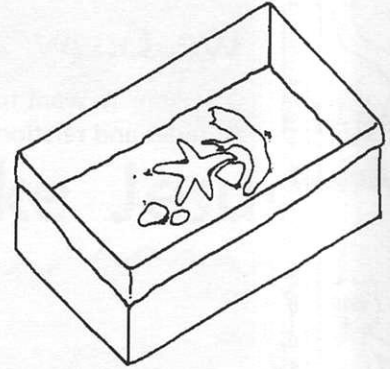
Fun To Do

Fossil Fun For each child, supply a shoebox, plastic wrap or aluminum foil, moist sand, various items (seashells, stones, marbles, coins, etc.) and prepared plaster of Paris.

There are three types of fossils: the imprint of an animal, the actual plant or animal, and a petrified (hardened) specimen. In this activity, you will make your own fossil!

1. Line a shoe box with plastic wrap or aluminum foil. Fill it halfway with moistened sand. Firmly press into the sand items such as stones, seashells, marbles, coins, your hands.
2. Pour some plaster of Paris onto the sand and allow it to dry.
3. Carefully remove the plaster from the sand. Note that the top layer of sand will come with the plaster. Turn the plaster over to see the imprints you have made. Then take them home!

Adults: carefully dispose of leftover sand and plaster. (Do *not* pour it down a drain!)



Woody's Checkup

Memorize Matthew 7:12 and talk about these questions:

1. This verse is like Luke 6:31, which we learned a few weeks ago. Have you been treating other people the way you'd like them to treat you?
2. Have people noticed that you are treating them with more kindness and respect?
3. How would people act if everyone behaved toward others in the ways they'd like to be treated?



Woody's Stretch

Swampy Monsters

Make inner and outer circles with the same number of players. Each person faces someone in the other circle.

This is like "Rocks, Paper, Scissors." Players choose to be an alligator (growl!), frog (croak!) or mosquito (buzz!). At the signal, they growl, croak, or buzz. Alligators eat frogs. Frogs eat mosquitoes. Mosquitoes bite alligators. Play a few times, then move one circle left or right to change partners and play again.



Tree Climbers Circle

Tell the story, "A Dinosaur Named Sue."

A Dinosaur Named Sue

by Melody Bourland

Have you heard about Sue, the Tyrannosaurus rex? That is, she used to be a T rex. Now she's a skeleton. She's a fossil. Her bones are on display at the Field Museum in Chicago.

How did Sue become a fossilized skeleton? There are six ways a plant or animal turns into a fossil. One happens when an insect or plant is trapped in something gooey, such as tree sap, which hardens around it. In four other ways, a plant or animal is covered by soil, sand or mud. Over the years, minerals take the place of the hard tissue such as bones and teeth. In the last way, the material surrounding the plant or animal hardens. Then all the tissue dissolves away. The only thing that's left is a cast or mold of the original. No part of the plant or animal remains.

When the dinosaur named Sue died, its body was quickly covered by sand and mud. As more sand and mud covered it, minerals replaced the bones. Those minerals turned the bones into rocks. That's what fossils are.

Sue is special because she is the most complete T rex fossil ever found. Only a few of her bones were missing when scientists put them all back together. Actually, the scientists recovered more bones for Sue's skeleton than any other Tyrannosaurus skeleton ever found — more than 250! They found some bones they had never seen before. None of them had been recovered in any of the other T rex skeletons.

Another thing that makes Sue special is that her bones were preserved so well. They show where tendons attached muscles to the bones. Knowing this should help the scientists who study dinosaurs (called paleontologists — PAY-lee-on-TAHL-o-jists) figure out how a Tyrannosaurus stood and walked.

One thing we can't tell from these bones is if Sue was a male or a female. So why is her name "Sue"?

On August 12, 1990, a fossil hunter named

Sue Hendrickson noticed some bone fragments on the ground. She looked at the cliffs above her and saw some big dinosaur bones. When she and the rest of her fossil hunting team looked closer, they discovered she had found a T rex. The team named the dinosaur "Sue" in her honor.

There are several things we still don't know for sure about Sue or any other T rex dinosaurs. Think about these questions:

What color was a Tyrannosaurus rex?

We don't know what color they were. Only three pieces of fossilized T rex skin have been found so far. The minerals that turned this skin into fossils have their own color, so these pieces do not tell us what color the dinosaur's skin used to be.

The minerals replaced the skin in the same shape, though. Run your fingers inside your arm from elbow to wrist. T rex skin wasn't that smooth. The fossilized skin pieces are bumpy or pebbly, like an alligator's skin or an elephant's hide.

How fast could a T rex run?

A Tyrannosaurus had strong legs, but scientists don't know if these big dinosaurs could run fast or not. The marks where Sue's tendons connected to her bones may help them learn about the muscles attached to them. This may tell them if she was built for slow steps or quick dashes.

T rex heads and tails affected how well they ran, too. Paleontologists used to think that these dinosaurs stood upright and dragged their large tails behind them. Now they think that the long tail helped balance a Tyrannosaurus' huge, heavy head. (Sue's skull weighs 600 pounds. That's the same as three grown men!) Does this mean a T rex could run fast or not? We can't tell.

Was a Tyrannosaurus smart for a dinosaur?

Sue's 5-foot long skull has room for a brain that's one foot long. It's shaped like a knobby sweet potato or a head of broccoli.

The size of an animal's brain doesn't tell us how smart it is, though. Scientists think that a large part of a T rex's brain helped it smell, so it could probably smell very keenly. But what Sue smart? There's no way to know.

What did a T rex use do with its tiny arms?

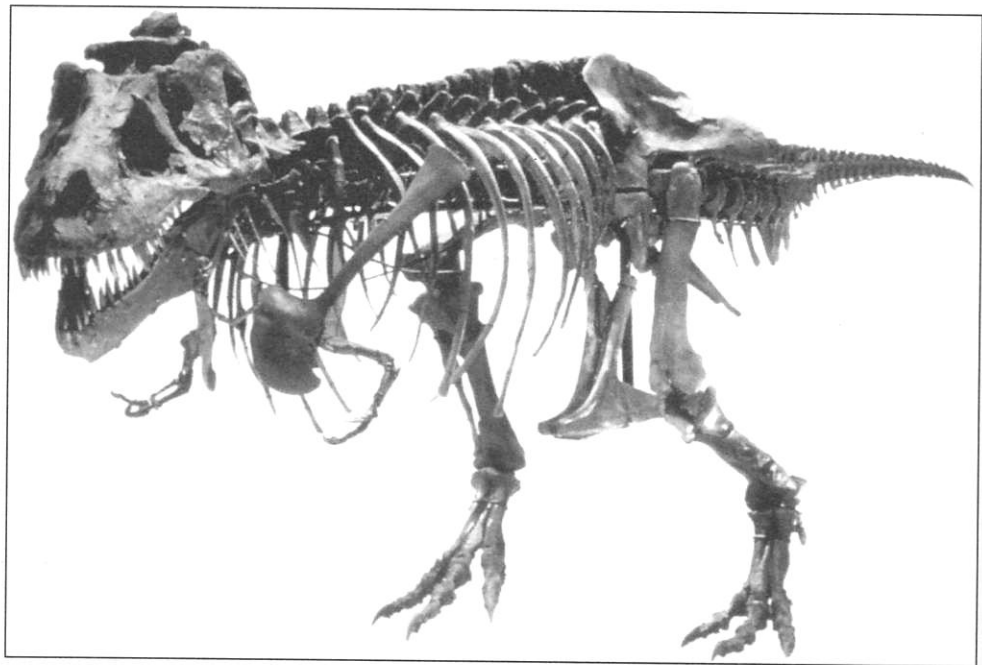
As large as a Tyrannosaurus rex was, its arms were only as big as an adult human's arms. Each arm had two fingers. These small arms

couldn't reach the dinosaur's face, so they couldn't have used them for eating. Sue's arm bones show evidence of very strong muscles, but no one has figured out what useful things she could have done with them.

As paleontologists study Sue, they may find information that will help them answer some of these questions. Others, such as the color of a T rex's skin, may never be answered.

Scientists will keep asking questions and looking for the answers. We get to read about what they discover. They'll do all the work and we'll have the fun part!

Sue is the largest and most complete T rex fossil found so far. She is 42 feet long from nose to tail. Sue probably weighed about 7 tons — 14,000 pounds. (Elephants weigh 10,000 - 20,000 pounds.)



Sue had 58 teeth. The shortest is 7½ inches and the biggest is 12 inches.

Her skull is 5 feet long and weighs 600 pounds.

Photos: The Field Museum, taken by John Weinstein