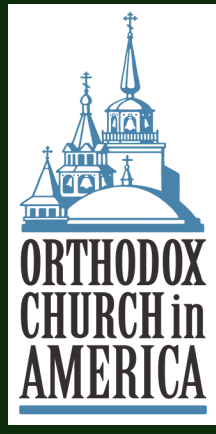


All of Creation Rejoices: Welcome to the Zoo!



Lesson 2

PreK-5th

Birds in the Bible Lesson—25 min

Tell students that you are going to talk about birds in the Bible today. Hold up an icon of Noah's ark. Say "Do you know the story of Noah's ark?" Take answers, and then guide them through the story by highlighting parts of the icon. Ask the students the following questions: "Why is there so much water?" (God flooded the Earth.) "Who are those people on the ark?" (Noah and his family) "Why are there animals on the ark?" (God brought Noah two of every animal to put on the ark to save them from the flood.) "Why is there a dove both on the ark and flying above the ark?" (Noah first sent a raven and then a dove out of the ark to see if there was dry land. The raven just flew back and forth. The first time there was not and the dove returned. The second time the dove returned with an olive branch. The third time the dove did not return because the land was dry.) "Why is there a rainbow?" (God made a rainbow as a promise that he would never flood the Earth again.)

Next, hold up an icon of Elijah being fed by the ravens in the desert. Ask the children why Elijah was in the desert?" (King Ahab built an idol and was worshipping it instead of God. Elijah did not like this and spoke out against it. King Ahab's wife, Jezebel, wanted to kill Elijah, so he ran to the desert to hide. God sent ravens with food for Elijah.) Point out the ravens in the icon.

Finally, hold up the icon of Theophany. Ask the students the following questions: "What feast is this icon showing?" (Theophany) "What happened to Jesus on Theophany?" (He was baptized by John the Baptist.) "What do you see above his head?" (A dove.) "This was the Holy Spirit coming down on Jesus. It showed that God has three persons—the Son entering the water, the Holy Spirit as a dove, and the Father who spoke "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."



Icon Links

[Noah's Ark Icon](#)

[The Prophet Elijah Icon](#)

[Theophany icon](#)

Lesson Activity

Bird Seed Ornaments

Supplies Needed: bird seed, unflavored gelatin, warm water, cookie cutters in animal shapes, paper plates, wax paper

Mix four packs of gelatin with one cup of boiling water. Stir to dissolve gelatin. Add four cups of birdseed and mix. Place a cookie cutter shape onto a paper plate, and spoon the birdseed mixture into the cookie cutter. Press the seed mixture into the cookie cutter with wax paper until packed down. Let dry 24 hours, and then pop out of the cookie cutters. Students can place them outside at home to feed the birds.

Dove Coloring Page Connection

[Dove Coloring Page For Adult](#) || COLORING-PAGES-PRINTABLE.COM



Games

Flamingo Ring Toss—10 min

Supplies needed: six rings (three per team), three to six yard stake flamingos

Split students into two teams; each team gets three colored rings. They both try to throw their rings onto the yard flamingos. The team with the most successful tosses wins.

To mix it up, move students farther or closer to the flamingos, try tossing with their eyes closed or facing backwards, or play that whichever team gets a ring the closest to the flamingo wins.



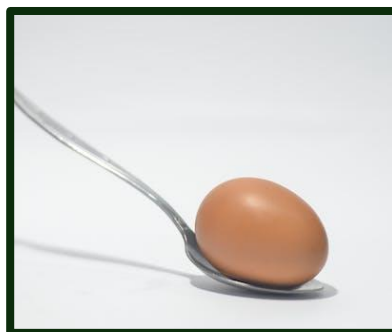
Egg Relays—15 min

Supplies needed: plastic spoons, hard boiled eggs or plastic eggs, cones

Give each student a spoon and an egg. While balancing the egg on the spoon students must walk to a cone and back. The first one back wins. To mix it up, have students try walking backwards, hop, or skip.

Divide students into teams and line them up. Have them pass the egg down the line and back only using their spoon to transfer the egg. The first team to complete this wins.

Try an egg toss. Divide into pairs. Students stand facing their partner within arm's length. One gently tosses their egg to the other. If completed successfully, then they take a step backwards. They pass the egg back and forth again. If successful again, then they take another step backwards. This continues until only one team is left without having dropped their egg.



Theophany Troparion-Tone 1

Commemorated on January 6

When you, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to You and called You His beloved Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, Confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ, our God, You have revealed Yourself And have enlightened the world, glory to You!

Craft & Snack

Clothespin Peacock—25 min

Supplies needed: clothespin, blue paint, paint brush, coffee filter, markers, spray bottle filled with water, feather, two googly eyes, yellow triangle paper beak, hair dryer, glue

Have students paint the clothespin blue. Set aside. Using markers color the coffee filter, and then spray with water so colors mix and spread. No need to color all of it, as the water will spread out the colors. Set aside to dry. If clothespin is not dry, use hair dryer to dry it. Then glue on the googly eyes, beak, and feather. Fully dry the coffee filter with the hair dryer. Glue the filter onto the back of the clothespin.

Discuss how peacocks are used in church imagery to symbolize immortality. Mention how vestments can have peacocks on them or you can see them carved into an iconostasis.



Bird Trail Mix—25 min

Supplies needed: cups, popcorn, gummy worms, raisins, sunflower seeds, nuts, jelly beans, Bingo boards, Bingo prizes

Have students assemble their bird trail mix in their cups.

While students enjoy their snack, they can play Bird Bingo with a print out of the following Bingo boards and cards.

<https://www.freehomeschooldeals.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Bird-Bingo.pdf>

Their bingo markers could be jelly beans or “bird eggs.” Prizes could be bird stickers or another small bird party favor.



Closing—5 min

Ask students what birds they learned about today. Review the dove and raven in the Bible stories of Noah, Elijah, and the Baptism of Christ. Ask what the dove in the Baptism of Christ represented (the Holy Spirit). Ask them where they might find peacocks in the church. Finally, ask them to flap like birds and fly to their parents.