

GRADES
K-6

UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

The Dove

Printable Lesson Kit



M **GHTY MESSAGES**

THANK YOU

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LESSON OVERVIEW



THE DOVE MIGHTY MESSAGES

This lesson on the origins of the dove symbol will give kids some background on the Holy Spirit and how we use the symbol today. Children will easily recognize the symbol, know its background, and may want to wear it or keep a likeness in their homes.



How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This lesson contains many activities to help children in K-6 grade understand the subject. Feel free to fix and match activities to those that you feel will be age appropriate to your kids!



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Printable Craft
- Coloring Page
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



MATERIALS LIST:

- An image of the dove symbol, printed out or on your phone (lesson)
- Crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Flying Dove Template (follows this lesson) (craft)
- White card stock or scrapbooking sheets, one for each student (craft)
- String, or thin white craft ribbon (craft)
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)



SCRIPTURE & LESSON

PASSAGE (NIV): VARIOUS PASSAGES ABOUT THE DOVE SYMBOL:

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation), or read from your chosen Bible translation:



Matthew 3:16

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

Matthew 10:16

I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

Genesis 8:6-12

⁶ After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark ⁷ and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. ⁹ But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. ¹⁰ He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. ¹¹ When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. ¹² He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

Questions for Children

- 1. In the first verse, a dove descended upon Jesus at his baptism. What did it symbolize?** *The Spirit of God. The Spirit of God is another name for which Spirit? The Holy Spirit.*
- 2. Jesus uses two metaphors in the second verse from Matthew. First, he says he is sending his disciples out a sheep among wolves. Have you ever felt when you were with a group of children that you were a sheep among wolves? What does that mean?** *Take answers. Being a sheep among wolves means you feel like you are the only person in the crowd who feels bad about something wrong or wants to do right when everyone is doing wrong.*
- 3. The last scripture from Genesis is much older. The story of Noah and the Ark happened around 2500 BC. Noah and his family were the only people left alive on the planet. What was Noah relying on the dove to do?** *Find land, or in other words, find that life was sustainable in a very dead world. How does the Holy Spirit help us find life in a very dark world?* *It gives us power to follow Jesus and it leads us to eternal life above.*



TEACHER'S MIGHTY MESSAGE

Throughout your message, keep visible a copy of your coloring sheet, containing the Dove symbol, which you can point to.

The four gospels are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The gospels tell the life of Jesus. But often the authors chose different stories to tell. It is rare that one story is in all four gospels. Not even the Christmas story is in all four gospels! However, this story about the dove descending on Jesus is in all four gospels: (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32).

The dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit, thanks to these accounts of Jesus' baptism. It seemed to be a time when the divine side of Jesus came into its full power, like a car engine turning on. Before this, Jesus was a very well-behaved boy and man whom everyone got along with. After the dove descended as the Holy Spirit, Jesus went off into the wilderness for 40 days, was tempted by Satan, and then started performing miracles and teaching.

The dove symbolizes purity and harmlessness. At Jesus' baptism, the dove symbolized his holiness and innocence. We all want to follow God as Jesus did, which will keep us pure, harmless, holy and innocent.

The story of Noah is a foreshadowing of the story of Jesus. Who knows what a foreshadowing is? It's something that happens first that points to a bigger event coming in the future. Noah used the dove to find if the earth could sustain life. Jesus received the dove to show us life eternal. Noah's world got very messed up again, and by the time Jesus came 2,500 years later, it was a difficult and shadowy place. Today, we have our problems as well—violence, poverty, famine, plagues, greed, sin, crime, and bad choices made all around us.

This is why some people wear the dove of peace around their necks. They wear it a sign that they, too, have received the Holy Spirit, and God is guiding them. People have copies on their wall, or especially over doorways, to symbolize their belief that the Holy Spirit is present in their dwelling places.

Where have you seen a dove of peace? *People wearing one? In someone's home? On a Bible cover? Where would you like to see one in your house? Wear it...in my room, etc.*





PRINTABLE CRAFT

Students can make these hanging doves for a doorway or a lamp to symbolize peace in their dwellings. Card stock or scrapbooking sheets can make them longer lasting!



MATERIALS:

- Paper Dove Printable Craft Template (follows)
- White Paper
- Coloring Utensils
- Scissors
- Glue Stick



PREPARATION:

- Print out a copy of the printable craft for each student

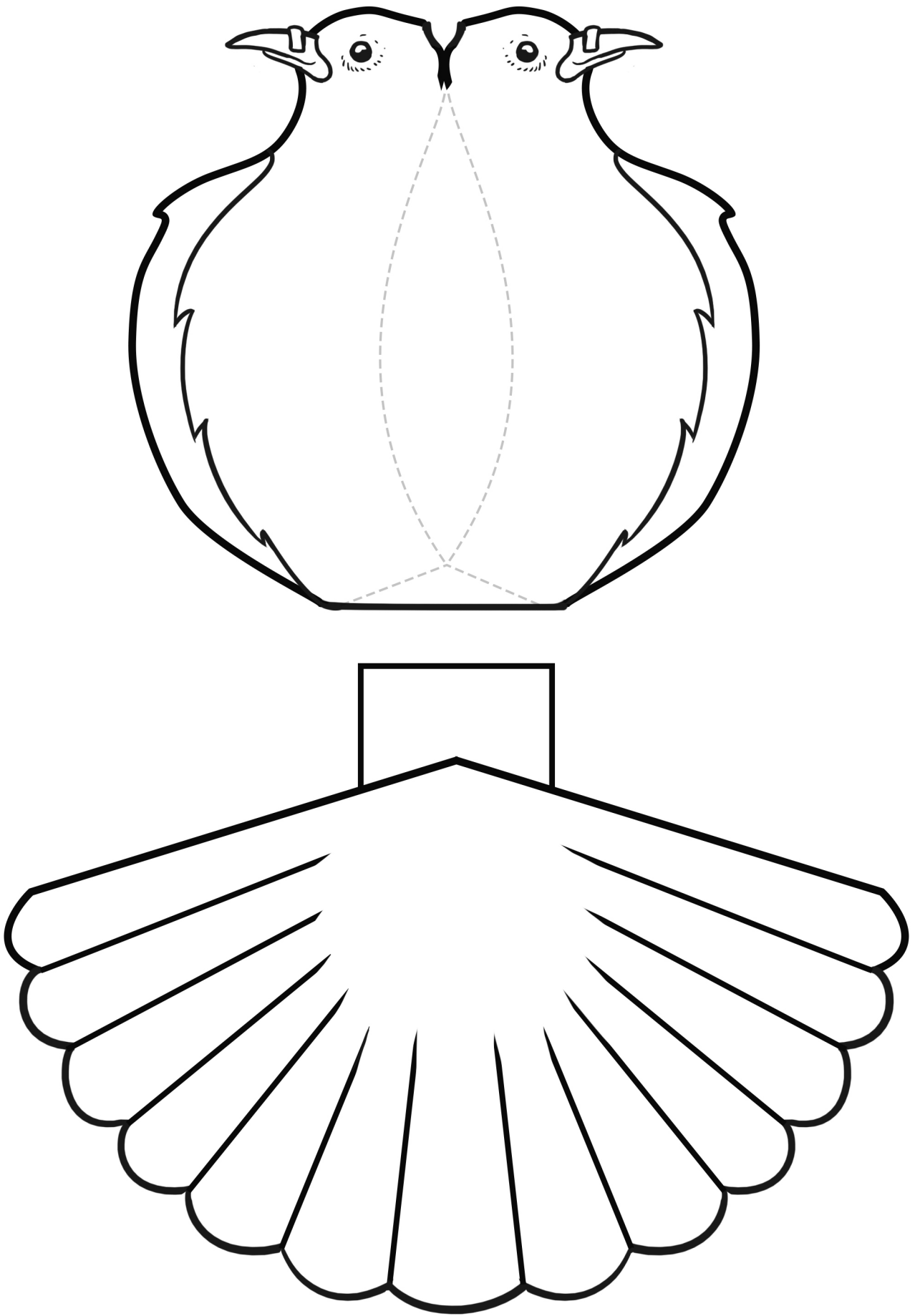
INSTRUCTIONS:

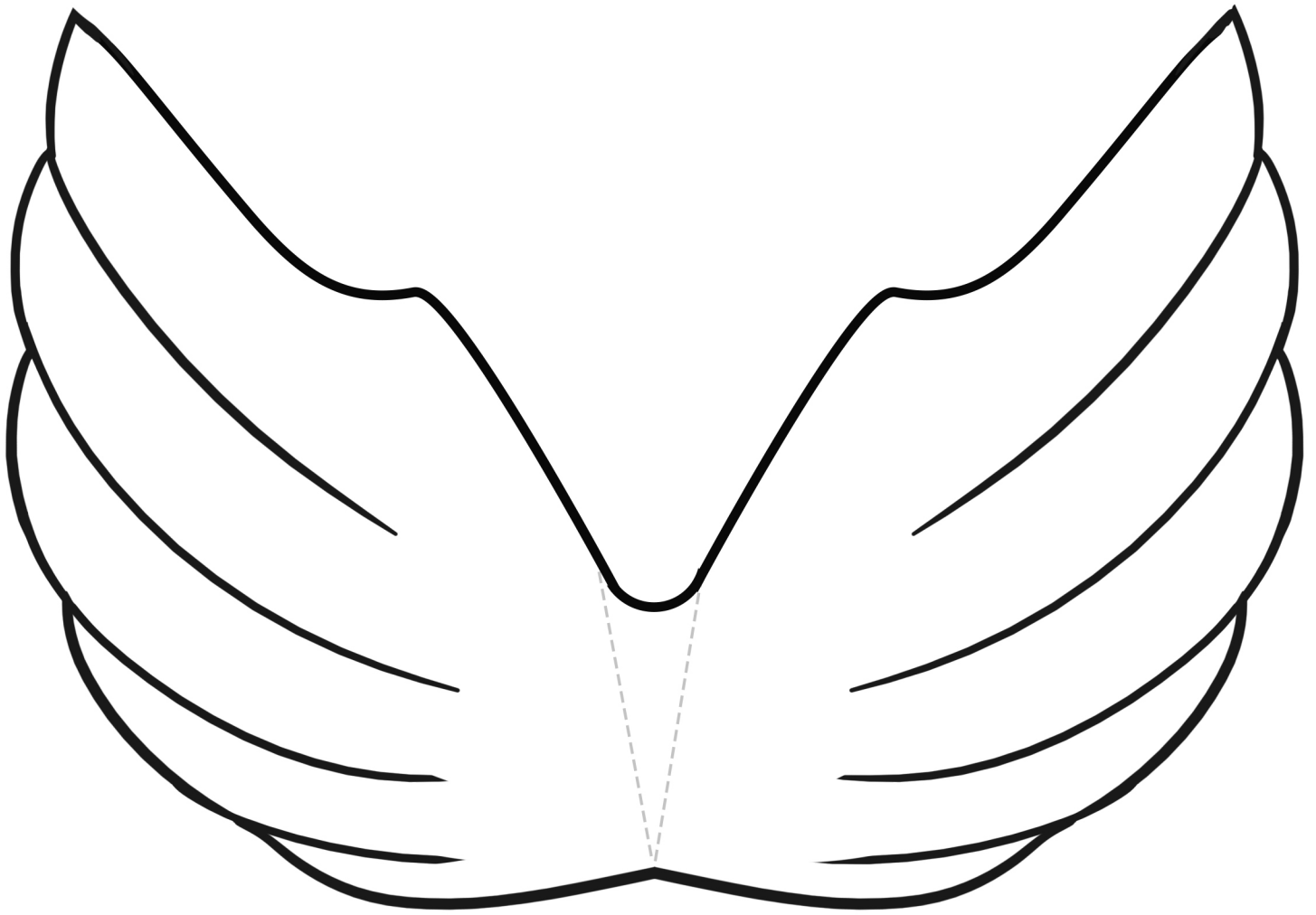
1. Color images as desired
2. Cut out Dove Pieces
3. Glue Dove Tail on top of Dove Body, matching up angled ends
4. Glue Dove wings on top of Dove body covering tab from Dove Tail
5. Fold Dove body slightly and glue Dove body pieces together.

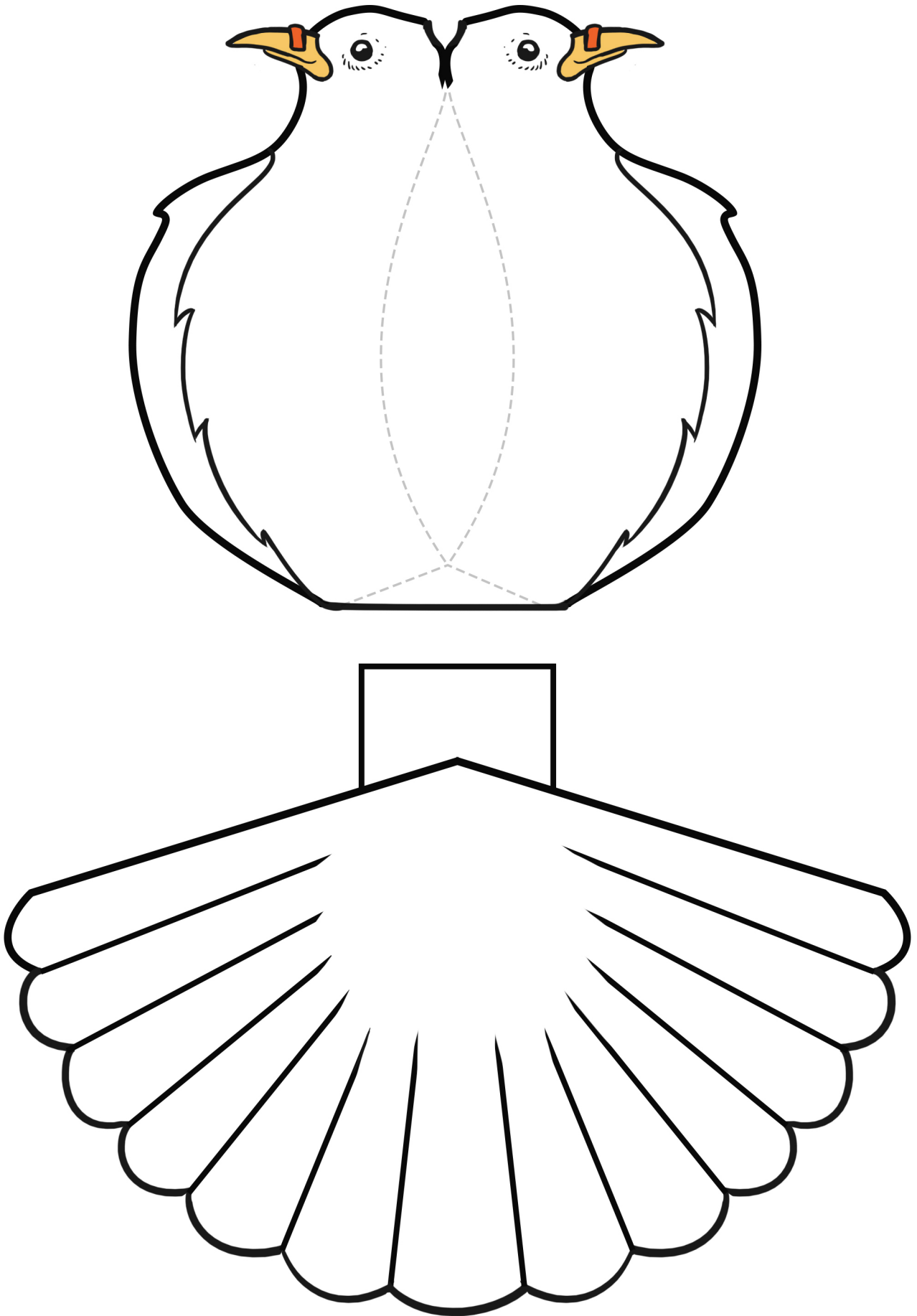
Introduction or Conclusion

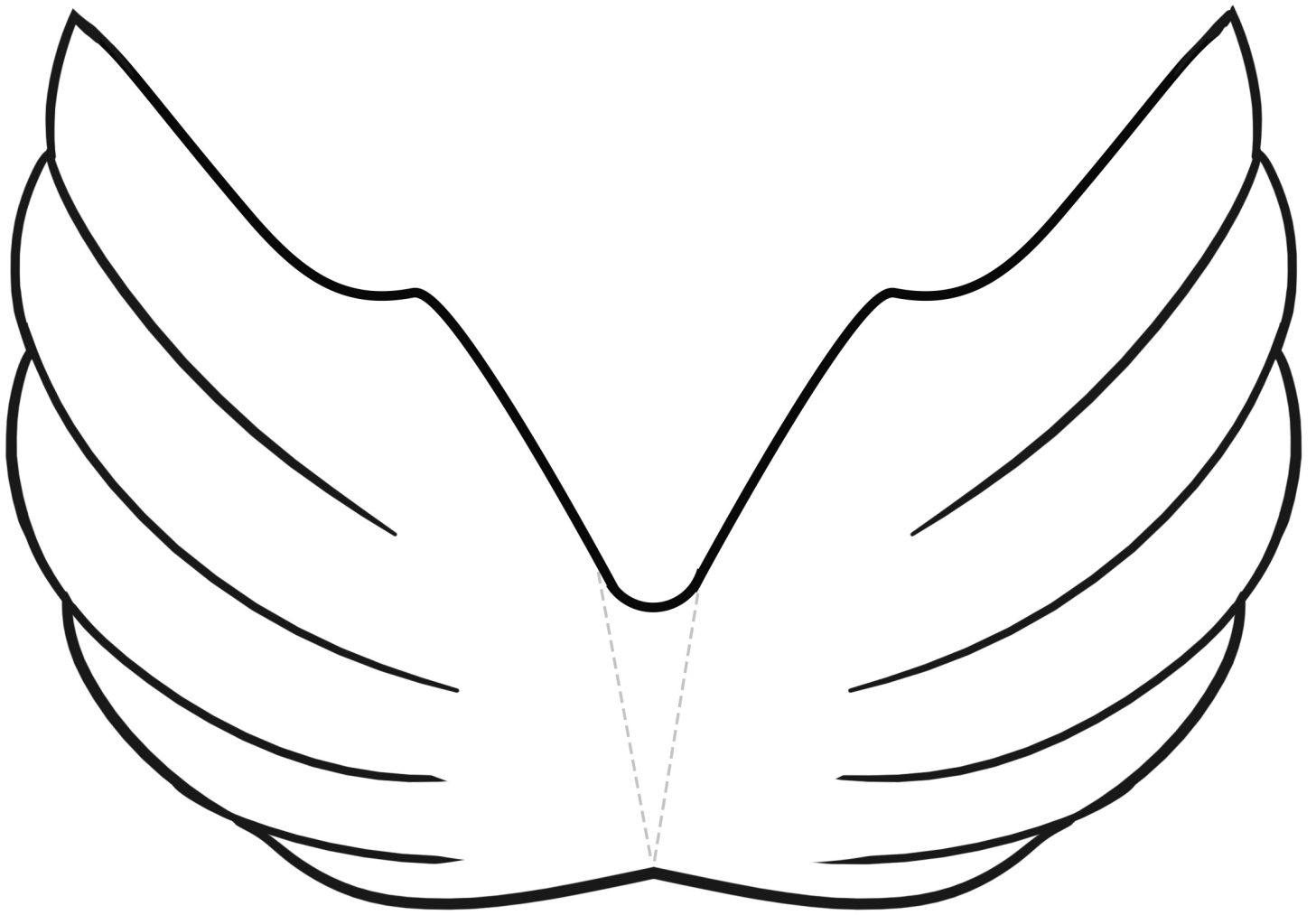
The Dove of Peace came to show peace, hope, and guidance—first, to Noah, and then to those who saw Jesus 2,500 years later. Do as people do today, and hang your dove in your house to symbolize, peace, hope, and guidance for you and your family.

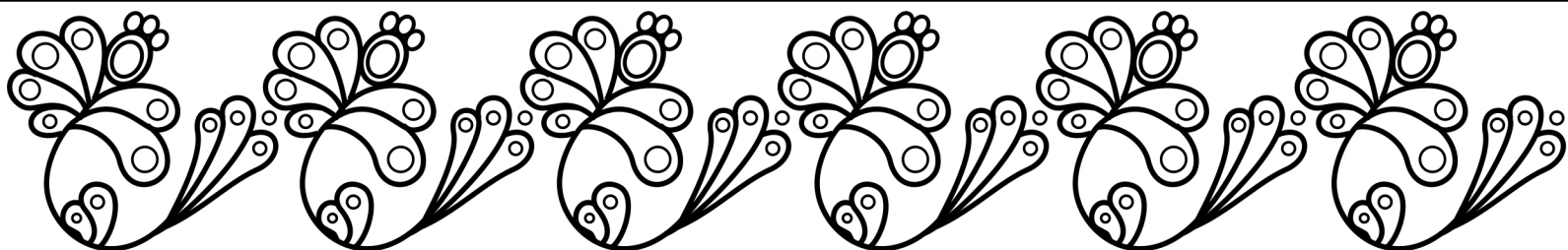
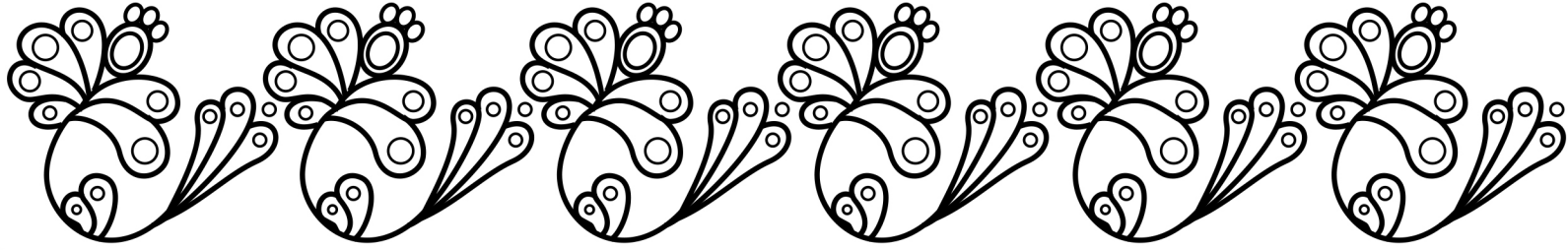














WORD SEARCH

Instructions: Doves are very important in our Bible, but are certainly not the only birds mentioned! There are more than 35 mentions of birds—some symbolizing good things, some symbolizing bad things! See how many you can find in the word search below that are mentioned in the Bible.

C	B	M	N	X	H	B	S	P	A	R	R	O	W	W	K
S	S	M	Q	N	C	W	R	E	A	G	L	E	N	Z	R
R	W	S	A	U	H	O	K	O	V	H	A	W	K	L	R
A	A	V	T	P	A	C	R	S	O	H	O	O	P	O	E
V	L	A	I	O	O	I	N	M	V	S	B	W	L	H	N
E	L	S	W	C	R	Z	L	N	O	C	T	U	V	O	R
N	O	T	A	V	G	K	B	Z	H	R	H	E	E	T	O
F	W	E	S	V	U	L	T	U	R	E	A	G	R	U	S
A	P	P	A	R	T	R	I	D	G	E	I	N	F	R	T
L	D	Y	S	R	P	O	K	T	G	P	V	E	T	T	R
C	X	W	H	U	G	E	W	T	U	O	W	L	A	L	I
O	Q	T	E	K	M	U	L	P	L	J	M	E	L	E	C
N	C	T	R	F	E	T	X	I	L	T	D	B	K	D	H
Y	A	U	O	D	O	V	E	L	C	P	F	I	B	O	L
B	A	N	N	E	I	J	N	N	Y	A	Z	M	S	V	E
I	B	M	K	B	U	Z	Z	A	R	D	N	N	R	E	P

Words to Find:

DOVE
SPARROW
EAGLE
OWL
VULTURE

BUZZARD
FALCON
HAWK
OSTRICH
PEACOCK

PARTRIDGE
STORK
HERON
HOOPOE
BAT

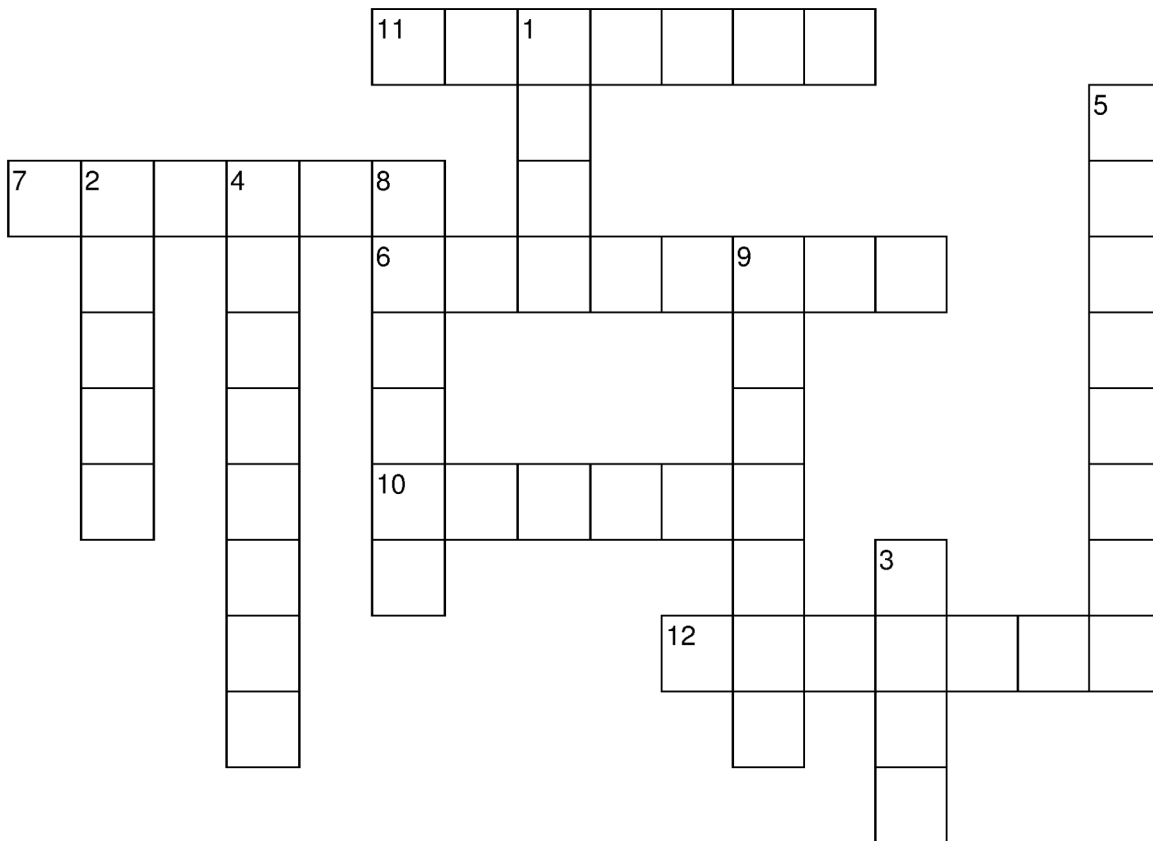
GULL
PELICAN
CORMORANT
PIGEON
TURTLEDOVE

GULL
PELICAN
CORMORANT
PIGEON
TURTLEDOVE



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Instructions: Doves are very important in our Bible, but are certainly not the only birds mentioned. Use your At-A-Glance Sheet, Most Popular Scriptures About Birds, to complete the answers to the crossword puzzle below.



Across

6. Jesus used this word to describe the hairs on our head in God's mind
7. Jesus sends us out as sheep among these
10. They that wait on the Lord will fly like this type of bird
11. Several famous bird scriptures are found in this book
12. Bible book in which the creation story is told

Down

1. Verb used in the creation story that means to cover with many birds and creatures
2. The dove returned to Noah with this kind of branch in its beak
3. The birds of the air neither sow nor do this
4. A word Jesus used to describe us in comparison to the birds of the air
5. Two of these birds were sold for a cent
8. Jesus wants us to be innocent as doves while being shrewd as these
9. Peter denied Jesus three times before this type of bird crowed



AT A GLANCE: MOST POPULAR SCRIPTURES ABOUT BIRDS

Many birds are mentioned in the Bible, and the verses below are quite famous! Some birds are mentioned literally. Others are symbols--metaphors or similes. Put an X beside those that are metaphors or similes.

GENESIS 1:20-21

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky."²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind.

GENESIS 8:11

When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth.

MATTHEW 6:26

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

MATTHEW 10:29-31

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.[a] ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

MATTHEW 10:16

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

MARK 14:30

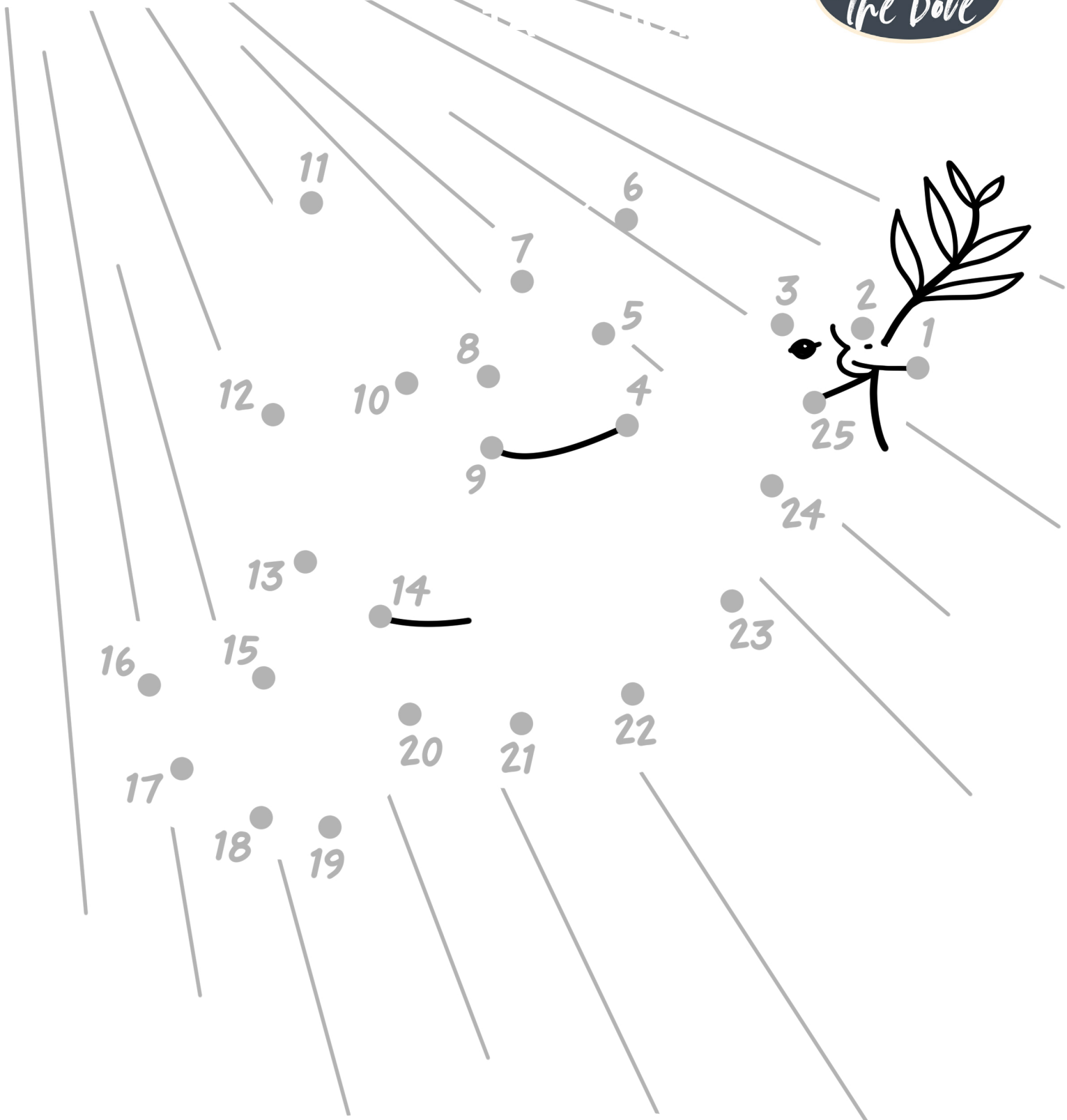
³⁰ "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times."

ISAIAH 40:31

but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Connect the Dots!



The Holy Spirit came
down on Jesus as a dove

Lookup: Isaiah 40:31 and write it down

Lookup: Matthew 10:16 and write it down.

Question: These two verses use birds as metaphors to help us learn how to work with God. Write of a time God gave you strength to fly like an eagle:

Create a prayer below. Speak to God and write it. Ask God to show you how to be innocent as a dove while being wise as a serpent, using your own words:



Instructions: Use your At-A-Glance Sheet to fill in the scripture verses below that have to do with birds:

BIRDS IN THE BIBLE

Genesis 1:20-21: And God said, “Let the water teem with living _____, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” 21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their _____, and every winged bird according to its kind.

Genesis 8:11: When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its _____ was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had _____ from the earth.

Matthew 6:26: Look at the _____ of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more _____ than they?

Matthew 10:29-31: 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your _____.[a] 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all _____. 31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

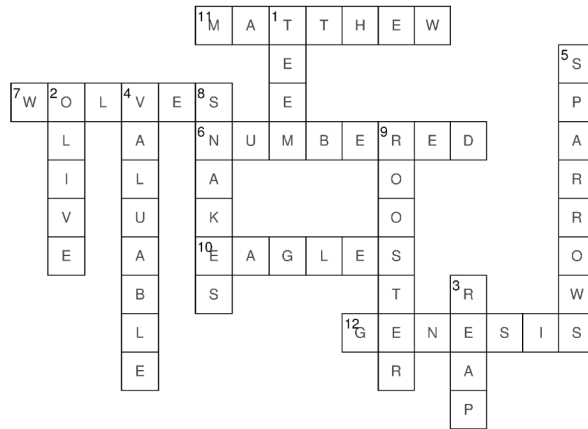
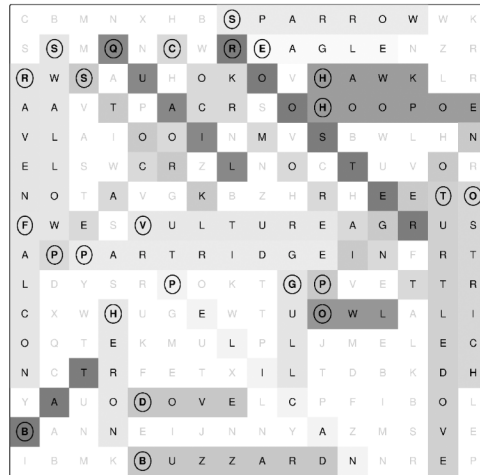
Matthew 10:16: I am sending you out like sheep among _____. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as _____.

Mark 14:30-30: “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “today—yes, tonight—before the _____ crows twice you yourself will disown me _____ times.”

Isaiah 40:31: but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like _____; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not become _____.
Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like _____, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become _____.



ANSWER KEY



Teacher's QUIZ ANSWERS in order:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1) Creatures | 10.) Doves |
| 2) Kinds | 11.) Rooster |
| 3) Beak | 12.) Three |
| 4) Receded | 13.) Eagles |
| 5) Birds | 14.) Faint |
| 6) Valuable | 15.) Eagles |
| 7) Father's care | 16.) Faint |
| 8) Numbered | |
| 9.) Wolves | |

**UNDERSTANDING
CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS**

The Door

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION



NAME:

DATE: