

Different friends

Vicki bounced into the room. "It's come, it's come," she announced excitedly. Vicki, Kaylee and Sean had been waiting for six days for a reply to their email. "We would love to be your "pen friends" wrote CQ, Wesley, Whooton, Lyn and Vuwe.

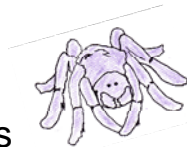


"You're too young to have Facebook," mum and dad had said. But when grandpa suggested being email friends with some children he knew about who lived on the edge of the Amazon jungle in Ecuador, in a town called Shell, mum and dad had said okay. And now here was a long email with photos and stories and pictures of weird, scary and unfamiliar animals. It was an unusual way to make friends but this was going to be loads of fun.



Listen to God! Acts 9:10-19

Saul (the apostle Paul) and Ananias became friends in an unusual way too. Cross out the words that are wrong in the following story.



"Their names are sure different!" said Sean. "Those are their cyber names," laughed Kaylee. "I can't wait to find out more about them, but I don't mind if they don't tell us about the tarantulas!"

God spoke to Ananias in an email / vision.

God said go and see Saul / keep away from Saul.

Ananias obeyed God / disobeyed God.

Ananias just spoke to Saul / spoke to Saul and touched him.

Saul was able to see / Saul still couldn't see.

Saul was angry and left / was baptised.

Talk to God!

Heavenly Father, thank you for friends. Thank you for the fun we have with them, and the way we can help and learn from each other.

In these "jungle" snack packs our Australian family will learn about jungle plants, animals and people. They will learn about missions, missionary families, and the people they befriend and share their lives with.

And Lonzo and Curro will help them, and us, learn some special things about God, the best friend of all, along the way.

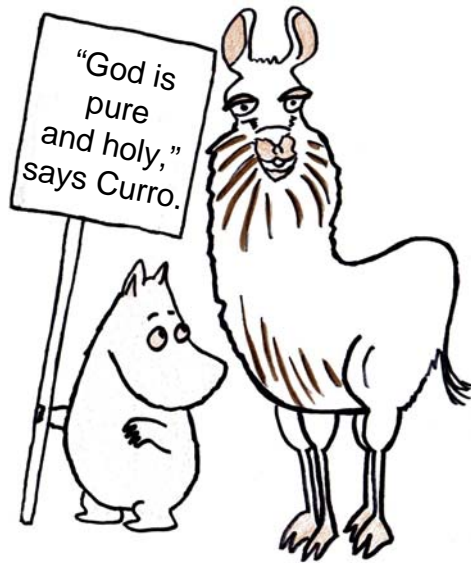


Good pig, bad pig

CQ writes, "Life in Shell is different because they hang up pigs and chop them with a machete and sell them to you. Everything else here is normal except there are different animals and insects."



Pork is very popular in Ecuador, especially roasted or fried. Yumm! It's even cooked and sold in the streets.



Listen to God!

Leviticus 11:1-8, Mark 7:14-23

Among the instructions God gave the Israelites (Jews) after he rescued them from slavery in Egypt were rules about food. They not only protected them from disease but showed how God wanted them to obey him and keep themselves away from anything that might harm them, not just food. Although Jews still keep these rules, Jesus taught that it is not what we eat that is important to God but our thoughts, words and

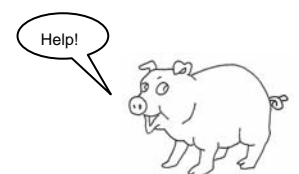
behaviour.

Food "goes in one end and out the other" but what comes out of our heart shows what we are really like.

Talk to God!

Lord God, please help us not to think, say or do those things that will make us unclean.

<p>Write or draw what God said was unclean for Jews (from Leviticus 11:1-8)</p>	<p>Write what Jesus said makes us unclean (from Mark 7:14-23)</p>





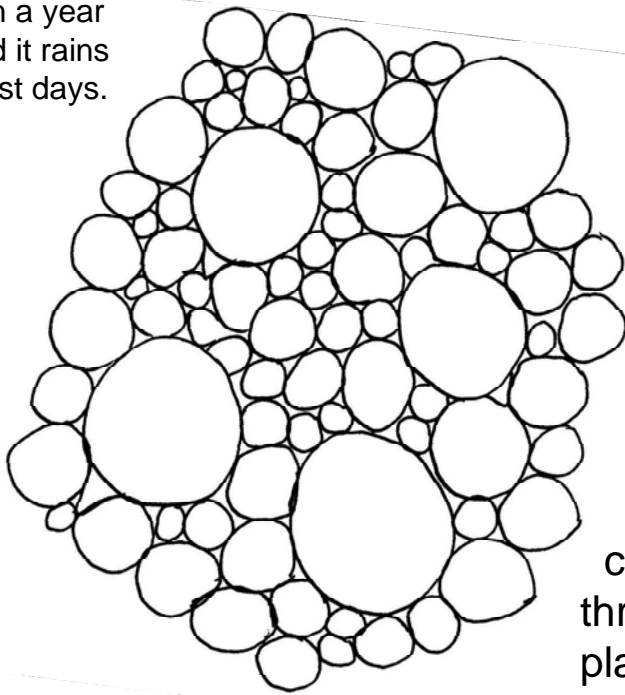
Nothing is going right!

Whooton wrote, "Robbie and Becca are sick and it's raining. It sometimes seems that God is out of control. People are getting sick all the time and nothing seems to go my way. I don't get the part in the play that I wanted. I don't get the grades I try to get. But when I read the Bible, it tells me it'll turn out alright."

Vicki didn't think being a missionary kid sounded easy when she read that email, but then she remembered something she had recently read in the Bible too.



Shell gets about 6 metres (20 feet) of rain a year and it rains most days.



Find and colour the three turtles playing in the rain.

Listen to God! Psalm 18:30-32

This Psalm was written by King David after God rescued him from his enemies.

Although David was a brave and mighty warrior, he knew that he always needed God's help and guidance. He knew that even when bad things are happening, God knows best and all he does is perfect.



Talk to God!

Dear God, thank you that you know what is best for us. Help us to trust you even when things seem to be going wrong.



Once upon a time a man was riding his horse through the forest. When it began to rain he grumbled and blamed God. Just then a bandit appeared and shot at the man but the gun did not go off as the gunpowder was damp. The man rode off and escaped. He thanked God for the rain because if it hadn't been raining the bandit would have killed him. Moral : Whatever God does is best.

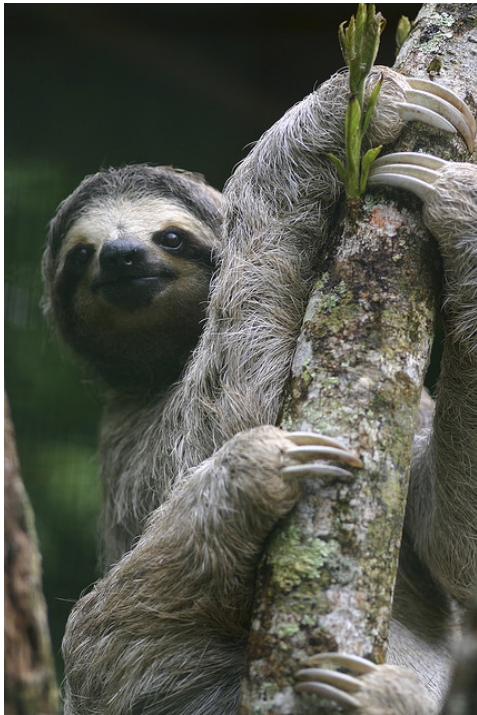


Photo source: brian.gratwicke

Lazy as . . .



“There are lots of weird animals in Ecuador, but I think that sloths are the weirdest,” Whooton told his new friends. The 3 toed sloths of South America don’t go anywhere fast. They are the world’s slowest moving mammal - so slow that green algae grows on their fur and 100 or so moths live in it. They spend most of their time in the tree tops where they sleep 15-20 hours a day. Did you know that the name sloth means laziness?

Listen to God! Proverbs 24:30-34

The Bible says that we are not to be lazy or slothful. God intends us to work. We are to look after ourselves, our families and others around us. God made us for both work and good works.



Talk to God!

Thank you God that you never stop caring, never stop loving, never stop watching. You are always there for us. You are definitely not lazy.

Here is some work for you to do. Look up some or all of the verses below and write what they say happens to lazy people.

Proverbs 12:24

Proverbs 13:4

Proverbs 15:19

Proverbs 18:9

Proverbs 19:24

Proverbs 21:25

Proverbs 26:13

The Australian children's new friends attend the Nate Saint Memorial School in Shell, named after one of five missionaries who were killed by Waorani Indians (see story entitled "I Forgive You!") It's an English speaking school for missionary families. Without this school children would have to live away from their families or learn by correspondence. Have you ever lived away from your family?

Lyn wrote, "I love it at our school but lots of balls get caught in the roof of the covered court we play on at recess. My mom is a teacher at this school."

Leaving home



Listen to God! 1 Samuel 2:11-12, 3:19

Samuel left home when he was very young (maybe only three or four years old). He was taken by his parents Elkanah and Hannah to live in God's house (the tabernacle) with Eli the priest. You can find out why by reading 1 Samuel chapter 1. He only saw his mother once a year. Can you imagine what that would have been like? Although Eli cared for, and taught Samuel it must have been hard for a little boy. But God was always there caring for him too and Samuel grew up to follow and obey God all his life..



Talk to God!

Heavenly Father, we thank you that we can be sure you will always be with us like you were with Samuel. Help us to remember that when we are scared or lonely, even when we may have to be away from our family for some reason.



Colour the verse and decorate it.

Suggestion – make it into a bookmark or fridge magnet

God will be with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9



Photo source: Jardín Botánico Las Orquideas

Tiny but valuable

“Where do you go on school excursions?” enquired Vicki. “Last time we went to the

Jardín Botánico Las Orquideas - that means, The Orchid and Botanical Garden,” Lyn wrote back. “Thirty years ago a man called Omar got worried about the jungle trees being cut down and local flowers being destroyed. He started planting a garden with plants, especially orchids that he rescued from the jungle. A lot of orchid flowers are so tiny you can hardly see them, but they are beautiful, and Omar thinks they are very important and takes great care of them. Now lots of other people help too. Can you see the one half the length of a finger nail?”

Listen to God!

Luke 12:6-7

God values all the things he has made including delicate orchids and noisy sparrows. But we are more valuable to him than anything else.



Complete your own certificate of value.
Genesis 1:27 and 1 Peter 5:7 will help you fill it out.

Certificate of value

Name:

Date:

Made by:

Made like:

Cared for by:

God says: “ You are precious to me.
You are honoured, and I love you.”

Isaiah 43:4 New Living Translation

Talk to God!

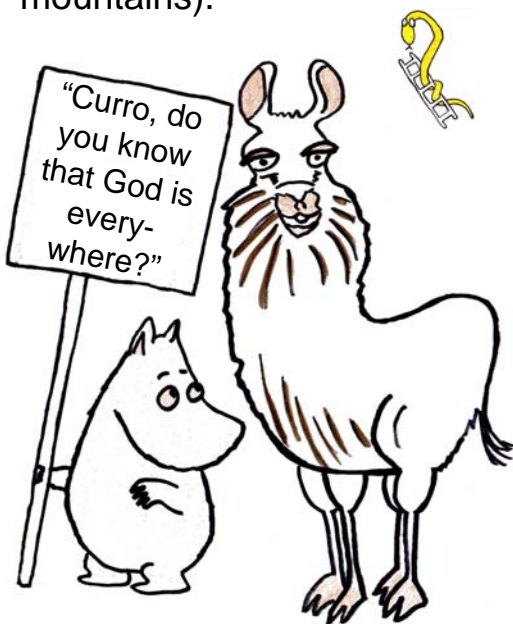
Thank you that I am so important to you God.



What's this place?

"Why is your town called Shell?" asked Kaylee in her email. "It seems a very strange name for a town in the South American jungle." CQ replied, "It's because 75 years ago the Shell Oil company decided there might be oil here so they built a road, an airstrip and some sheds. They got attacked by Indians and didn't find any oil, so they left and Mission Aviation Fellowship took over the airstrip. My dad is a radio mechanic for MAF.

10 years later a mission called HCJB opened a hospital in Shell. MAF could then bring sick or injured people from jungle villages to the hospital. It's called Hospital Vozandes del Oriente which means Hospital of the Eastern Andes (Andes mountains).



Listen to God! Genesis 28:10-19

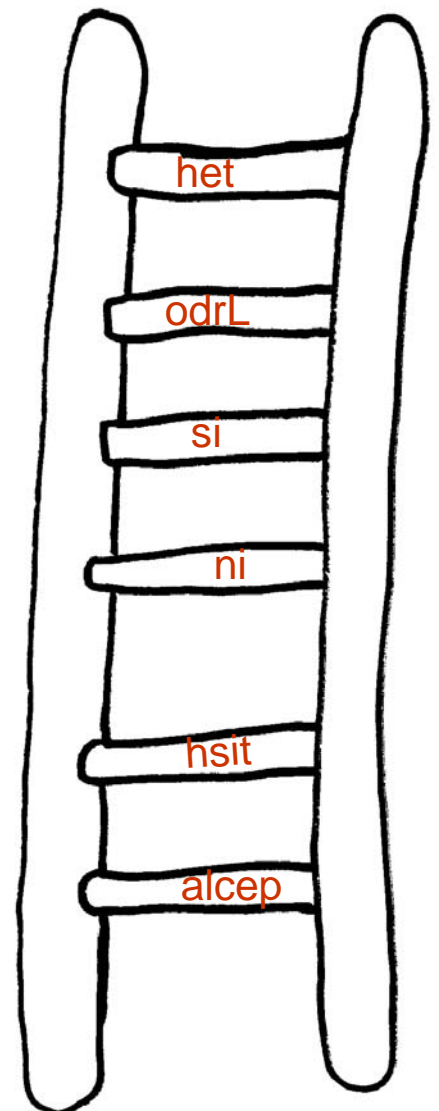
Towns and places are named for many different reasons.

The town of Shell was named after an oil company. Jacob named the place where he dreamt about God, Bethel which means "House of God" because he saw God there.

Talk to God!

Thank you Lord God that wherever we live and wherever we go, you are always there.

Unjumble the words on the ladder and write them above each rung to find out what Jacob said about Bethel.



Watch out!



Photo source: Fogdon/Corbis

Sean was learning about bats at school and discovered that vampire bats live in the jungle in Ecuador. "Have you ever been bitten by a vampire bat," he asked his friends there.

Bats are the only mammals that fly, and vampire bats are the only mammals that feed entirely on blood. In the darkness of night, a heat sensor on the bat's nose points to where blood is flowing close to the surface of a sleeping victim's skin.

It's not common for them to choose humans but when they do, it's often toes. The bat takes a bite (the victim doesn't even wake up) then laps up the blood. Their saliva prevents the blood from clotting, and although blood loss is not a danger, infection and disease can be. People are sometimes admitted to the hospital in Shell with infected bites. And occasionally people even die.

Listen to God!

Joshua 7:1, 13-15

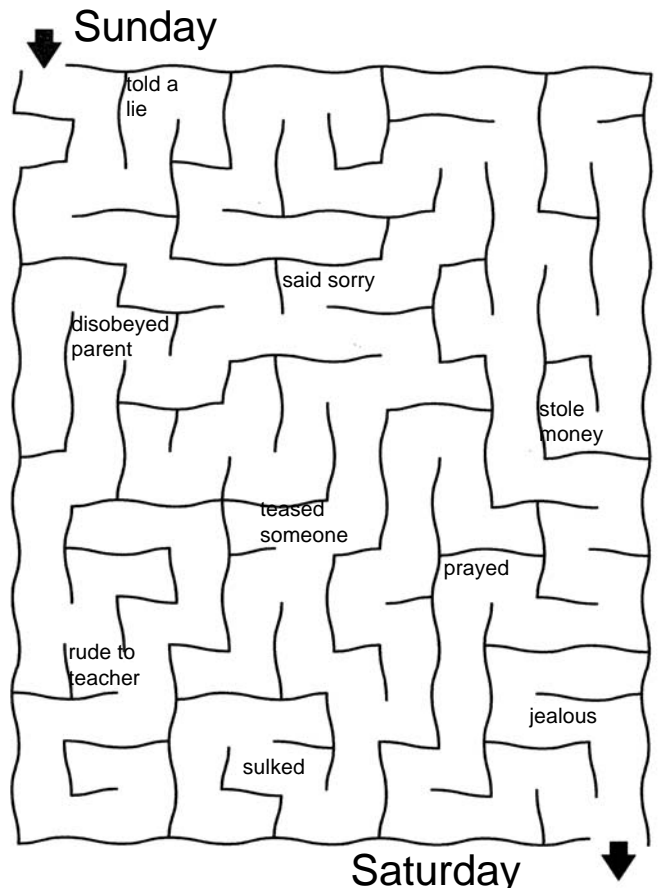
When Joshua and the Israelites captured the town of Jericho, one man was "bitten" by greed; and as a result God punished everyone by causing them to lose the next battle they fought. (Read the whole chapter for details.) Just as a bite from a bat is serious and has to be treated, Achan's sin was serious - he brought disaster on the whole nation - and God treated it in a very serious way.

Find your way through the week.
Circle the things that lead to dead ends.



Talk to God!

Please forgive me when I sin.
Help me not to do it again.





A place to stay

“What are houses in the jungle made of?” Kaylee asked Lyn. “Ours is made of timber with an iron roof,” Lyn replied, “but some people in the jungle have houses with thatched roofs. The thatching is made from palm fronds or broad waterproof leaves. When the roof starts to leak, a new one can be put on free of cost. It takes a lot of work but all the family, and even the neighbours pitch in to help.

Listen to God!

2 Kings 4:8-17

Elisha was a prophet who travelled all over the country speaking messages from God and demonstrating God’s power. A woman and her husband kindly provided him with a place to stay when he passed their way. They were showing hospitality.



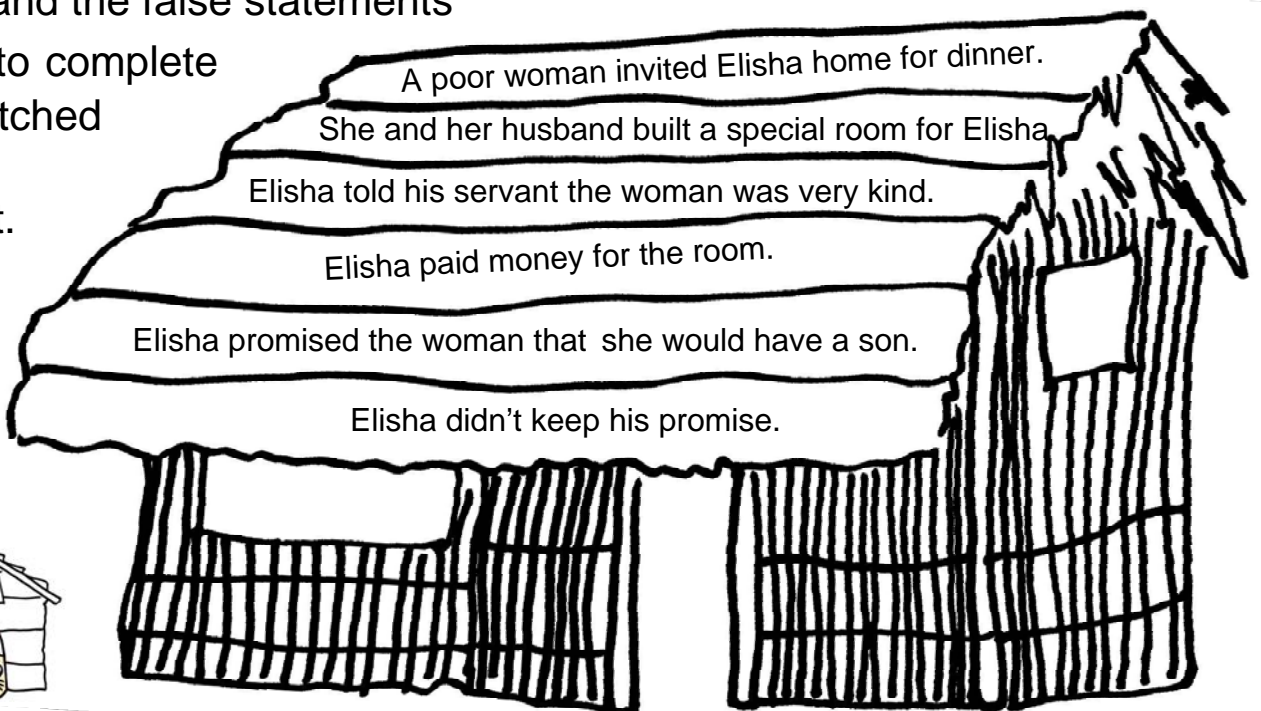
Here comes the new roof!

Photo source: Cleio Azuli Images

Talk to God!

Heavenly Father, thank you for comfortable homes to live in. Thank you for those who kindly give people in need somewhere to stay. Help us to be like that too.

Colour the true statements green and the false statements brown to complete the thatched roof on this hut.



Smarter than your average bear



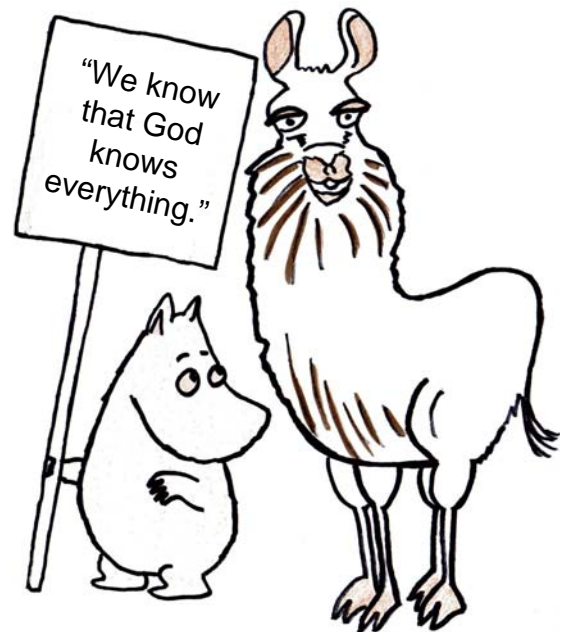
Kaylee enjoyed hearing about the Andean (speckled) bears that live in the Ecuadorian jungle.

Wesly wrote, "Speckled bears really like wild honey and fruits. They build sort of platforms high in trees by pulling down branches to form a flat area. These aren't for sleeping but for sitting on during the day and they also seem to use them for spying on cornfields. Dad says that as the jungle is cleared and there are more farms the bears have to eat corn and maize, but they have to be clever enough not to get caught by the farmers or they might get shot."

Listen to God! Daniel 1:1-4, 17-20

Daniel and his friends were taken to live in Babylon. Life had changed and they needed special abilities from God so they would do well in this new country. Just like Daniel and the speckled bears in Ecuador, we face changes all the time, but God has promised to give us the understanding and abilities we need.

Talk to God! Lord God, thank you that you know everything. Please help us to pay attention and learn from you everyday.



Unjumble the words to find out what we learn from Proverbs 2:6
(Contemporary English Version of the Bible)

IAI dosiwm mseoc rmof het

odLr dan os od moonmc essen

nda standderuning.



Hidden or not?

“One day my friend and I were walking home and we saw a capybara, we wanted to get a closer look at it but it ran away shortly after we came inches from it’s reach,” wrote Lyn



Photo source: kookra

The Aussie children were fascinated when they learnt Capybaras were cousins to guinea pigs but much larger. They are the largest rodents in the world - 60 cms tall, 130 cms long with an average weight of 45 kgs (100 pounds). Capybaras live near swamps, lakes and rivers. They have webbed feet and are excellent swimmers. A capybara can hide deep under water without breathing for five minutes or lie just under the surface keeping it’s nose out.

Listen to God! Psalm 139:15-18

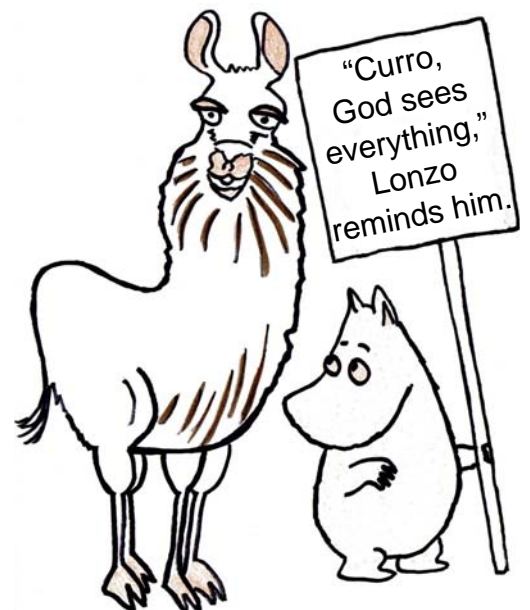
Although Capybaras are good at hiding, they aren’t hidden from God. In fact nothing is hidden from God. Sometimes the thought that God is near and sees everything about us is scary. BUT God is close by to guard, guide and love us, not to scare or harm.



Find and colour the following animals hidden in the jungle: deer, rabbit, frog, bear, duck, snake, bird, owl, fish.

Talk to God!

Thank you Heavenly Father that nothing about us is hidden from you. Thank you that you are always near, watching over us in love.



Who is a missionary?

Sean wanted to know what made someone a missionary. The families of the children in Ecuador are all missionaries. They have come from other parts of the world because they want to share God's love and the good news about Jesus Christ with people who may not otherwise hear.

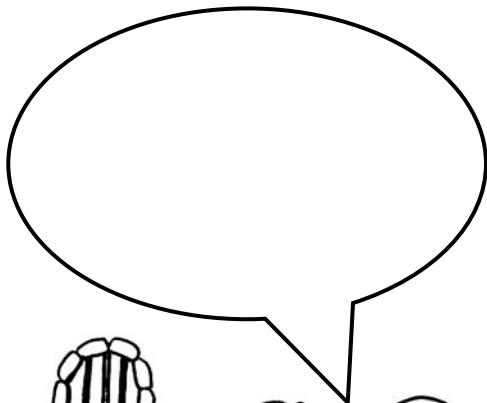
They don't all teach or preach. Lyn and CQ's dad is a radio and computer technician. Their mum teaches at school. Wesley's dad is an Ophthalmologist – that's an eye doctor. Whooton's dad is translating the Bible for people who don't have it all in their language yet. And Vuwe's family teach and help the Waorani Indians.

Anyone who is a follower of Jesus can be a missionary. You don't have to go to another country, or even have a special job. If you talk to your friends at school about Jesus, you are being a missionary.



Listen to God!

Acts 16:25-34



Talk to God!

Thank you Lord Jesus for those people who have told me about you. Please help me be a missionary by sharing what I know with others.

Missionaries Paul and Silas had been put in jail.

What did they do? (verse 25)

What happened? (verse 26)

What was the jailer scared of? (verse 27)

What did he ask? (verse 30)

Write the missionaries answer in the bubble.



Tropical stinkhorn

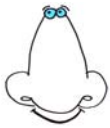
What's that smell?

"When we were at the botanical gardens," wrote Lyn, "we noticed a lot of the plants had a nice scent." There was one called a pipe vine that attracts flies and other insects right inside it's flower. They get covered in pollen that they then carry to another flower. But we also smelt the most disgusting smell ever! It was a stinkhorn fungus.



Pipe vine flower

Photo source: Jardin Botánico Las Orquideas

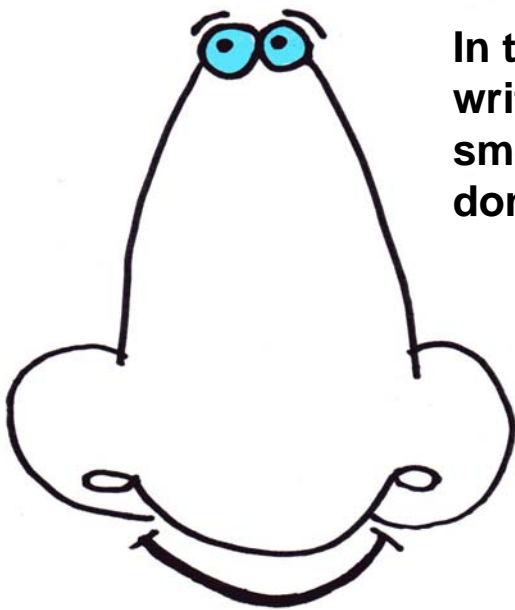


Listen to God!

Genesis 8:13-22

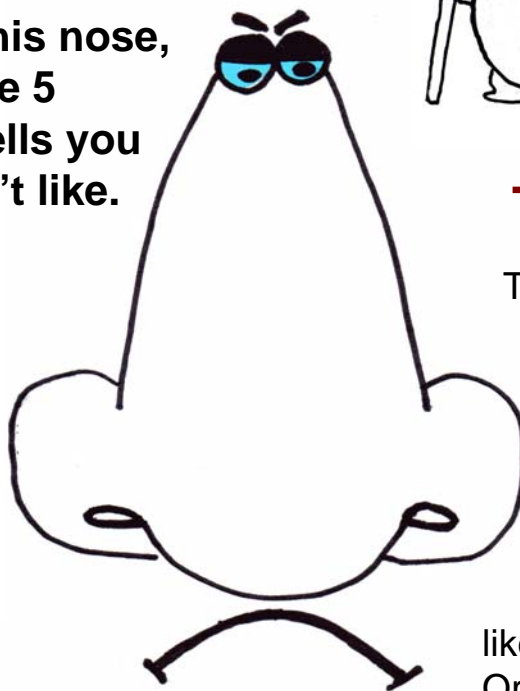
Stinkhorns smell like rotting dead animals. That smell attracts flies too. They eat the gooey mass of spores the fungus produces and carry them to other places where new stinkhorns then grow.

The story of Noah and the ark makes us think of many smells. Imagine the smells inside the ark after 10 ½ months. Imagine the smells as they came out of the ark. Would it smell fresh and clean, or of dead animals, and plants and stagnant water? After the flood, Noah burnt a sacrifice to God. The Bible says the smell of that sacrifice pleased God. He liked that smell because it showed him how thankful Noah was.



In this nose, write 5 smells you like.

In this nose, write 5 smells you don't like.



Talk to God!

Thank you God for giving us a sense of smell. Thank you for pleasant smells we enjoy. Thank you for the smells that warn us of possible dangers like fire or leaking gas. Or the baby's need for a nappy change!

A warm woolly coat

Vicki and Kaylee were becoming more and more intrigued by the animals of Ecuador as their friends wrote and described them. "I really like the mountain tapir," said Vicki. "it's looks so cuddly." Also known as the woolly tapir, it has a thick woolly coat which means it can live high in the Andes mountains even when the temperatures are below freezing. It is the only tapir that doesn't live in tropical rainforests, and the only one that has such a warm coat. Their splayed (spread out) feet help them to walk on ice and snow, so it's well suited to living in the high mountains.



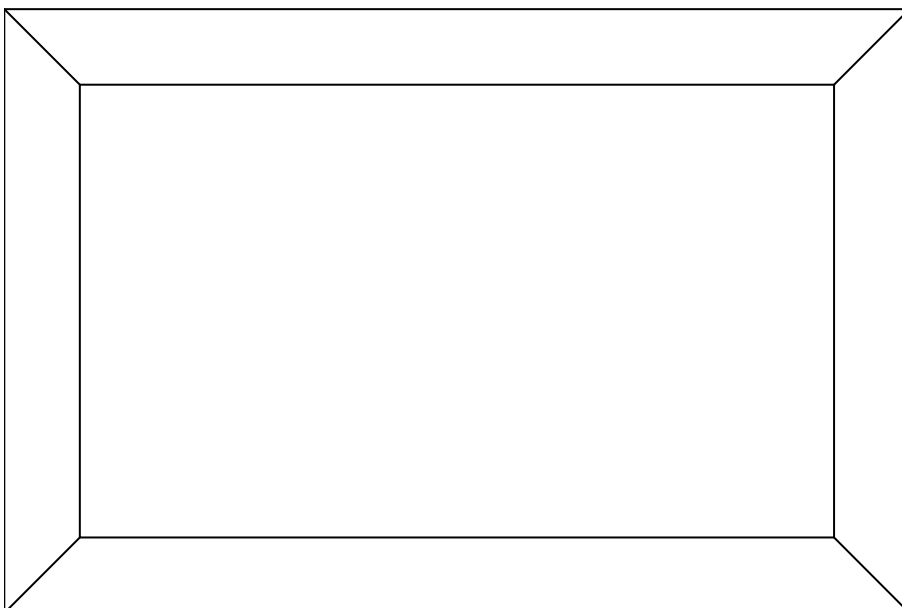
Photo source: John Abbott, Kendra Bauer



God not only rescued the Israelite people from slavery in Egypt, but he also looked after them and provided everything they needed during 40 years living in a desert. In that whole 40 years their clothes and shoes never wore out. Wow!

But the people hardly noticed – they took what God gave them for granted. God has provided the mountain tapir with what it needs to live in the mountains. He provides all that we need too. Do we notice?

In the frame, draw or write things God provides for you.



Listen to God!

Deuteronomy 29:1-5



Talk to God!

Thankyou for all the good things you give us Lord God.

Help us to always be grateful.

Is this home?

"I can't imagine going to live in a country like Ecuador," exclaimed Vicki as she read the latest email. CQ and Lyn had just returned to their home in the town of Shell in Ecuador, South America after visiting their "other" home in the United States.



At the moment CQ and Lyn don't quite know where they belong. Their grandparents and favourite cousins are in the USA, but their house, school and friends are in Ecuador.

Five years ago, God prompted their family to come to Shell with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) as missionaries. Their dad looks after radios and computers used by jungle communities and the planes that fly to them.

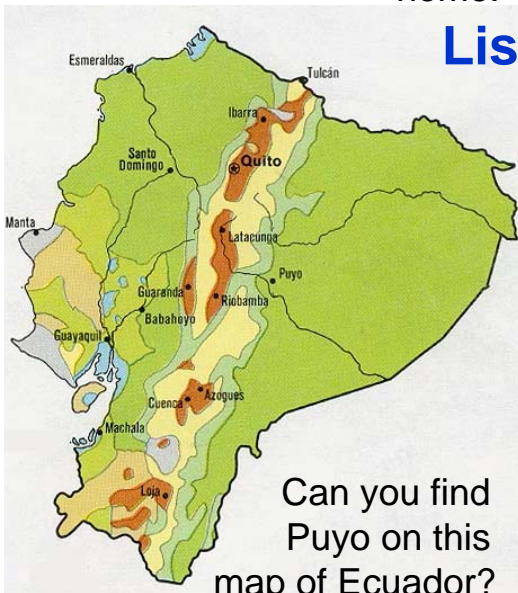
"I had an interesting day today," he told the family. "I heard yelling and looked out to see Captain Dan jumping out of his plane a lot faster than he ever jumps in. He had discovered ants swarming all over the radio. I had to pull it out and remove an ant's nest before Dan would get back into the plane. He didn't want to share his flight with thousands of biting ants!" That definitely wasn't the right place for their home.



Can you find Ecuador on this map of South America?

Listen to God! Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

God told Joseph to take his family to another country. This wasn't because God had a job for them to do there like the missionaries in Ecuador. It was to keep Jesus safe as a young child. God told them when to return and where to live as well. He can guide our families to where we should live also.



Can you find Puyo on this map of Ecuador?

Shell is right near Puyo. The green is the jungle.

On a separate piece of paper, draw a map of where you live.

Talk to God! Thank you Heavenly Father that wherever we live, you are there with us. Help us to remember this if we ever have to move to a new school, a different town, or even another country.





Singing praise

CQ wrote, "We have monkeys outside our classroom window sometimes. There are also red breasted birds that look like cardinals. There are lots and lots of birds around Shell." There are nearly 1600 different bird species in Ecuador, from large condors, colourful parrots to tiny hummingbirds. Many birds dance, and most birds sing.

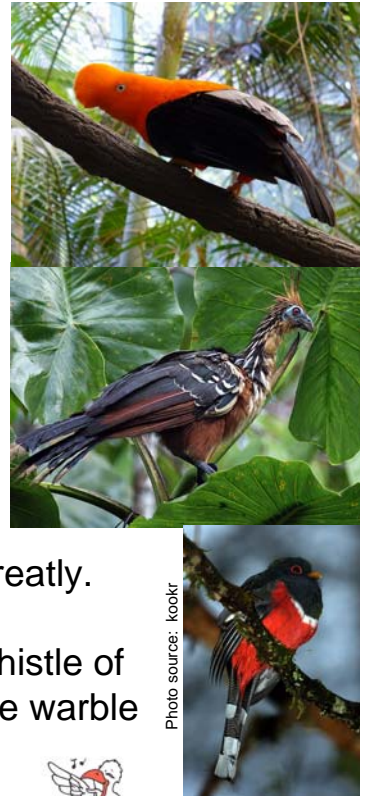
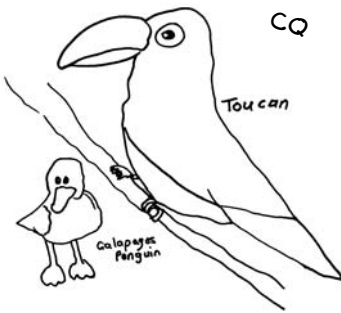


Photo source: kookr

The singing of birds praises God. It draws attention to all he has made. Bird songs differ greatly. The jungle can be full of the loud screeching of macaws, the croak of toucans, the melodious whistle of a tinamou, the quiet chirps of wood creepers, the warble of saltators, and the beautiful song of a thrush all at once.

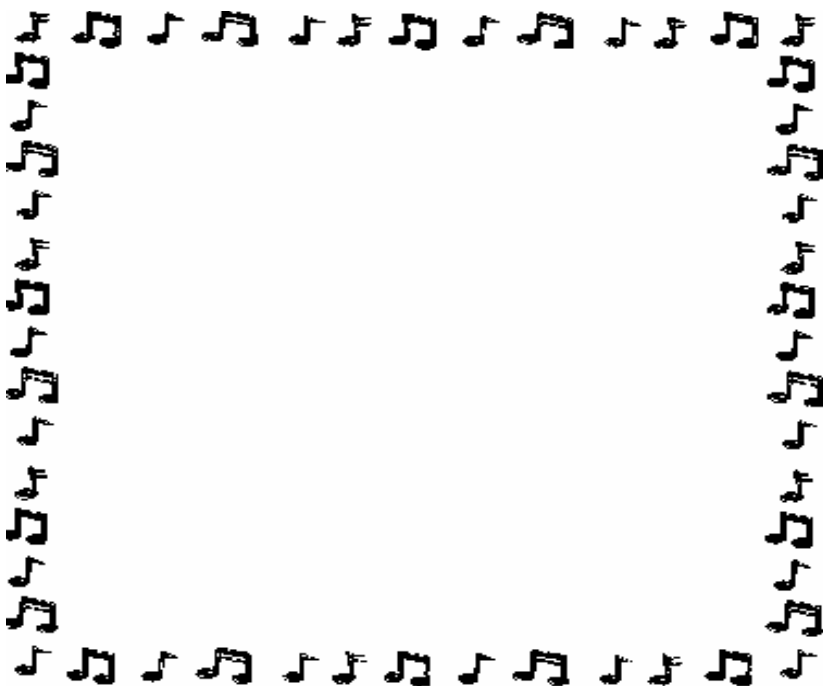


CQ

Listen to God! Psalm 92:1-5

It's good for us to sing and praise God too. We also have many different types and styles of music, (even different levels of loudness) but God enjoys it all, if it's aimed at praising him.

Write a song or poem you could use to praise God.



Talk to God!

Thank you Lord God for giving us voices and songs to sing. We want to always sing songs that praise you.



So they'll know about Jesus

Whootan wrote to Sean, "my dad is not a pilot, much as I may wish. He's helping translate the Bible into Salasakan Quechua (pronounced Keechua)." The Salasakan Quechuas came to Ecuador from Bolivia 500 years ago after the Spanish conquered much of South America.

Many Salasaka make a living by selling tapestries and other handcrafts. Like all people around the world, they need to know God loves and cares for them, and that Jesus died to save them.



Photo source: viiseskogen

Listen to God!

Acts 1:6-9



Just before Jesus returned to heaven after his resurrection, he told his followers that they would now take God's message, not just to Israel, but to the whole world. And that is what people like Whootan's family have been doing ever since. There are still more than 353 million people around the world that don't have any part of the Bible in their own languages (2,250

languages) so there is still a lot of translation work to be done.



Can you help translate the following Quechua words into English? You will need to unjumble the letters in brackets to find the English words.

Papo (ttaopo) _____

Cushma (trhsi) _____

Chacra (marf) _____

Wasi (eohse) _____

Ayllu (lyifam) _____

Wawa (ybba) _____

Talk to God!

We know Lord that you want everyone in the world to know how much you love them. We pray that you will help and guide those who are translating the Bible into different languages.

Who is the most important?

Kaylee was learning about the helmeted honeyeater at school. "It's the bird emblem for the state of Victoria where we live," she told her friends. "It's in danger of extinction," she explained. "There are only 2 places where it still lives."



"Ecuador has a national bird emblem," Vuwe told her. "It's the Andean condor and it's endangered too."

The helmeted honeyeater lives close to the ground in bushes and trees but the condor lives in the Andes mountains, flying high in the air and nesting on rock ledges that can be 5,000 metres (16,000 feet) above the ground. It's the largest flying bird in the world and one of the longest living. To Ecuador, it is a symbol of power and greatness.

Listen to God! Psalm 113:2-8

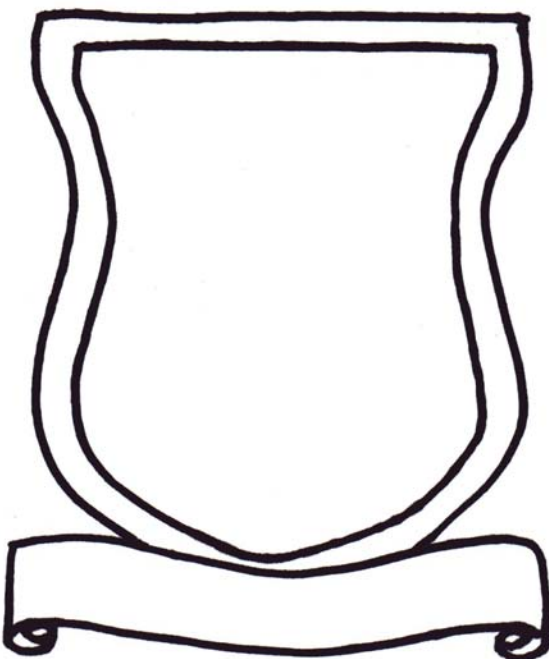
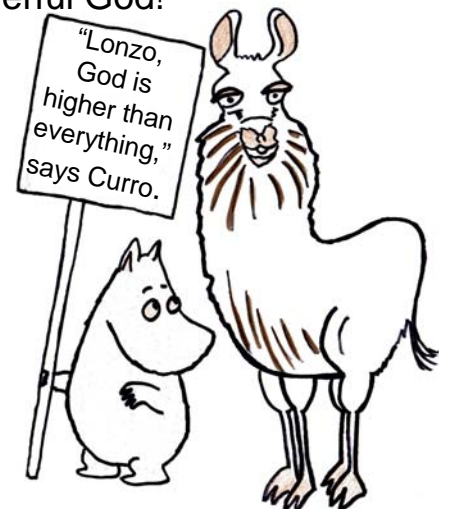
Talk to God!

Lord God, even though you are higher and more important than everything, we know that you see us as important too.

The condor reminds us of this description of God. The condor can look down on the land far below. The only way the writer of this Psalm can describe God is that he is so important that he lives above all heavens and he looks down on everything and rules over it all. But God also bends down to see and take an interest in every part of our lives. What a wonderful God!

Emblems – an emblem is like a badge or coat of arms. Countries, families and organisations have emblems that shows important things about them.

Make an emblem for yourself. Write your name at the bottom and then draw things that are important to you. Eg. family, pets, sports, hobbies.



Emblems of Ecuador and Australia

When the water stopped



Can you see the suspension bridge and the house?



Water always flows or falls to the lowest point. That's why a waterfall is called just that. It's flow can only be stopped by a dam OR by God.

Listen to God!

Joshua 3:9, 13-17

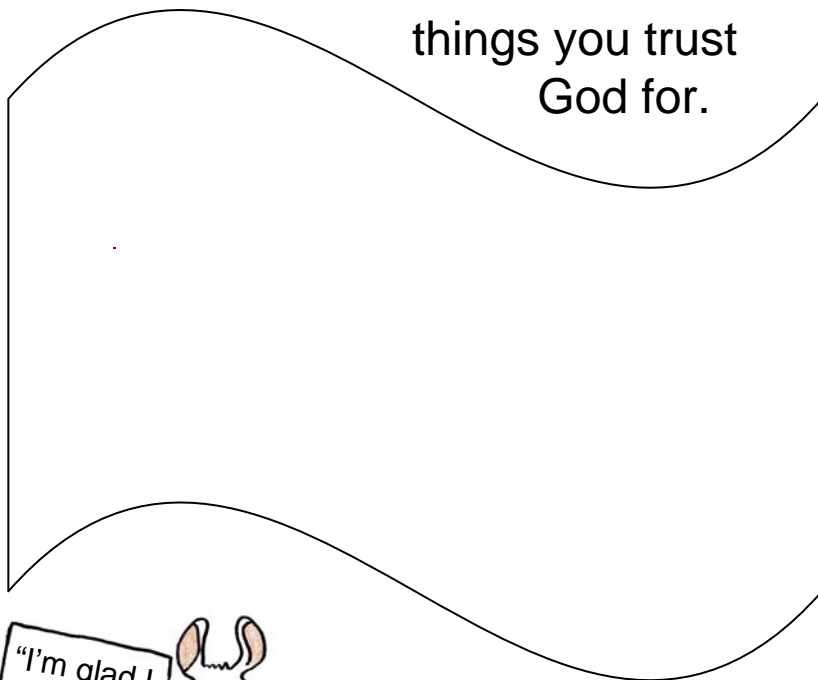
To enter the land God had promised them, the Israelites had to cross the flooded Jordan river. There was no bridge or cable car. They had to trust God to work a miracle – and he did. How did Joshua show his trust in God?

How did the priests show they trusted God?

How did the people show they trusted God?

From the capital city of Quito to Shell, the road passes through the town of Baños and along "La Ruta de las Cascades." Can you guess what that is in English? There are many waterfalls along the way - some a trickle, some a gentle stream, some a powerful torrent. Suspension bridges and cable cars cross the river to them in places. Lyn wrote to kaylee, "we were driving to a place and while we were going there, a waterfall washed off the car." That's cheaper and more fun than the car wash!

Draw or write some things you trust God for.



Talk to God!

Lord God, thank you that we can always trust you. Help us to remember you are there and to trust you when we don't understand, when we feel lost and alone, when we feel scared.

Which is the airstrip?
Which is the river?

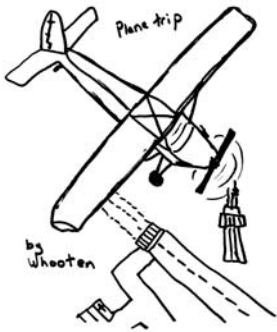


What will I be?

Whooten wants to be a missionary pilot, flying people, medicines and supplies in and out of the jungle and telling those he meets about Jesus.

Listen to God! 2 Timothy 2:1-2

This is part of a letter the apostle Paul wrote to a young man named Timothy who was a missionary too. He had had a very special job, travelling with and helping Paul. Now Paul wanted him to have a new job teaching other "missionaries".



Talk to God!

Dear God, I know you have special things for me to do when I'm older. Teach me what I need to know and make me strong and ready.



Complete Timothy's job application.

Job Application.

Name: _____

Skills: - given by Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 1:7)

Education: Has known Bible since _____
(2 Timothy 3:15)

Experience: – travelled with Paul, sent to teach the Corinthians about _____
(1 Corinthians 4:17)

References:

1. Jesus followers in _____ and _____ (Acts 16:2)

2. Paul says, "Timothy is like my _____" (Philippians 2:22)

Serving special guests

"Vicki, Sean, come and listen to what Wesly wrote to me," called Kaylee. She says, "Life in Shell is very different. For example when my mom wants to have chicken that night, she will go into town and get a whole chicken: the head, feet, and all! Yeah... I don't eat it." "I wouldn't either!" grimaced Kaylee.

Another meat dish that is actually served with the head and feet left on is cuy (pronounced kwee). That's roasted guinea pig. The sight of the little paws and teeth may put you off at first, but a cuy feast is considered quite an honour in Ecuador and is often reserved for special occasions like christenings or weddings. Locals think it is delicious – it's high in protein and low in fat too!



Listen to God! Genesis 18:1-8



Abraham wanted to honour his special guests by showing them hospitality and giving them special food. He may not have realised but one of his visitors was actually God himself.

Complete the sentences to see what Abraham did to show honour to his guests.

Abraham ran to meet them and _____

He invited them to _____

Abraham got his servants to _____

He got his wife to _____

From his herd Abraham got _____



As well as meat he gave them _____

Talk to God!

Lord God, we want to honour you by praising you, being thankful and living in ways that please you. **We want to make you smile!**

What are some ways you can honour God?



Who's telling the truth?

Sean read a story about an anaconda that was 15 metres long and ate people. He knew they lived in Ecuador so he asked his friends, "Is that true?" "That's definitely not true", CQ replied.

"They only grow to 5-6 metres (16-20 feet) and there is no proof that they ever eat people.

Anacondas are one of the largest snakes in the world, but they're not poisonous. They live around swamps and rivers in the jungle and eat fish, birds, animals and other reptiles."

Photo source: Pierre Pouliquin



Listen to God!

Numbers 23:18-19

Balaam was a greedy man. Although he knew about God's power, Balaam was willing to help the enemies of God if they paid him well enough. But he could not deny that God never tells lies and never breaks a promise - and he had to tell the enemy king just that.



Tick which of these facts

about God are true.

- God lives forever. (Psalm 90:2)
- God is everywhere. (Psalm 139:7-12)
- God knows everything. (Psalm 139:2-6)
- God never changes. (Psalm 102:25-27)
- God is wise. (Proverbs 3:19)
- God is holy. (1 Peter 1:15)
- God can be trusted. (Psalm 89:1-2)
- God is good (Psalm 34:8)
- God is love. (1 John 4:8)

Talk to God!

Dear God, because you always tell the truth, we know we can trust you.

Please help us to be truthful too.

I forgive you!



Young Waorani men dressed in their best!

Photo source: Cielo Azul Images

In 1956 five young missionaries were killed when they landed their plane in the Ecuadorian jungle and tried to befriend the Waorani people. The Waorani had a reputation as fearsome warriors and viewed these strangers as invaders. These men are just some of many who have lost their lives because of their desire to tell others about Jesus.

Later Rachel Saint (sister of the pilot Nate) and Elizabeth Elliot (wife of Jim Elliot another of the missionaries) lived among the Waorani and shared about Jesus with them. Now many are Christians. Vuwe's dad works among them today and Vuwe is a Waorani name - it means "grape". Some Waorani still live deep in the jungle, but many have moved to towns as their land faces more and more threat from development and deforestation.



Listen to God Acts:7:51-60

Stephen was not afraid. He wanted others to know and love God and was willing to give his life so they could. He even prayed for and forgave those who killed him (as the families of the Ecuadorian missionaries did.) It's very hard to forgive people who hurt us but remembering how much God forgives us helps.



Talk to God!

Lord God, sometimes it's really hard to forgive people who hurt us. Please help us to.

Use this "wild" language to translate Ephesians 4:32 into English.

a= b= c= d= e= f= g= h= i= j= k= l= m= n= o= p= q= r= s= t= u= v= w= y=

Warning, beware, it might get you!



Vuwe's family recently went to stay with the Waorani Indians who live in the jungle. Vuwe wrote, "we went spear fishing. You wear goggles or home made masks and need a harpoon. Then in order to catch big fish, it is a 2-4 hour walk there and back. We also caught some piranha with a line and hooks".

Piranha have a very bad reputation. You may have heard that they often eat people or large animals - in minutes, but this is untrue. They have razor sharp teeth and in the dry season when water is low and food scarce they can attack humans. So be warned, you do need to watch your fingers and toes!

Listen to God! Genesis 19:15-17, 23-26

The Bible contains many warning for us. Most are warnings against doing wrong and not taking notice of what God says. The people in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were evil and had not listened to God's warnings. God chose to destroy them, but he sent two angels to rescue Lot and his family. The angels warned, "Run for your lives, don't look back." But Lot's wife stopped and looked back. What happened to her?



Photo source: Cielo Azul Images



Colour
the
picture



Talk to God!

God, our Father,
we know that the
warnings in the
Bible are for our
good. Help us to
listen to them and
do what you say.

Where are Lonzo and Curro?
I hope they're listening!

CAN THAT REALLY FLOAT?

Sean and Kaylee called out to Vicki, “Quick, come and look, there’s a parcel from Ecuador!” Inside they found three balsa birds that their “pen” friends had sent them. “They come from a factory near here where they are carved and painted” the card explained. The children decided to sit them on top of the computer screen to remind them of their kind friends.



Most of the balsa used in the world is grown in Ecuador. The name balsa comes from a Spanish word that means “raft”. Balsa trees contain a lot of water. When the wood is dried, large holes filled with air are left making it light, strong and able to float.



Listen to God! 2 Kings 6:1-7

While Elisha and the other prophets were working, one of them dropped a metal axe head into the river. Metal doesn’t float. The man would have to replace the expensive axe that he had borrowed. Through Elisha, God worked a miracle and the axe head was recovered. This shows us that God cares about everything that happens to us. And that God can do anything!



Colour the verse. Try to use a different colour for each letter. Can you?

God
can do
anything.

Talk to God!

It’s good to know you can do anything Lord God.
Thank you that you care about everything that happens to us, even “lost axes.”

Matthew 19:26 Contemporary English Version



Without it, we'll die

Lyn wrote, "Lizzy from HCJB went to help set up a water system in a village that didn't have a radio*. Dad lent her a MAF one. While she was there a boy who was eight was bitten by a poisonous snake. Because she had the radio, Lizzy could get a plane to come and bring him to hospital in Shell."

There was no medical help in the village. Without the radio and the plane, the boy would have died.

*The radios are used in places where there are no telephones. They are "two way" so people can talk to each other.

Listen to God!

Romans 3:23-26, 6:23

Everybody has been poisoned by sin and the Bible tells us that because of that we will die, not just physically, but spiritually – that means being separated from God forever. Only Jesus, who never sinned, is able to take the punishment for us. When we put our trust and faith in Jesus' death for us, God forgives our sin and gives us life with him forever.



Find the following words in the word search:

sin wrongdoing guilt
punishment death Jesus
sacrifice pardon right
forgiven grace life
free gift accepts trust
faith believe eternal

What do the remaining squares spell out?
(Minus the Xs)

a	c	c	e	p	t	s	G	b	o
d	J	e	s	u	s	i	x	e	g
i	v	w	e	n	s	n	x	l	u
f	o	r	g	i	v	e	n	i	s
a	s	o	d	s	p	t	x	e	a
i	l	n	e	h	a	e	i	v	c
t	f	g	a	m	r	r	e	e	r
h	r	d	t	e	d	n	x	t	i
l	i	o	h	n	o	a	f	r	f
i	g	i	f	t	n	l	r	u	i
f	h	n	g	r	a	c	e	s	c
e	t	g	u	i	l	t	e	t	e

Answer: God gives us life

Talk to God!

Tell God what you are thinking and feeling right now. Remember he loves you so much that he gave Jesus to die in your place. You may want to thank him.



Photo source: Holly Clark

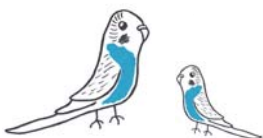
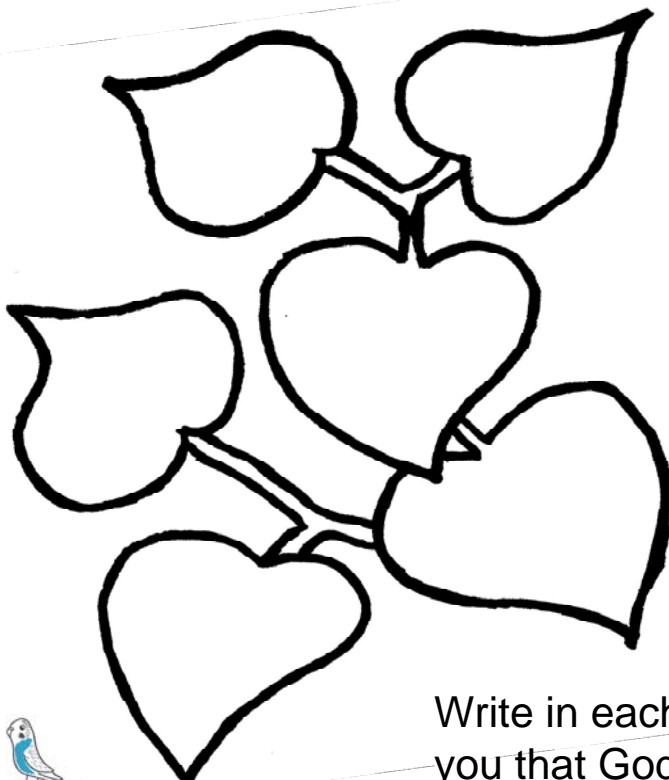
Doing it well

Whooton (what a cool pen name) wrote, "I start the day by waking with the birds outside. They sing so nicely. Then I throw on some jeans and a t-shirt and make my bed. Then I pass my parakeet cage and refill the food dishes. I have 2 male blue parakeets and 2 female green parakeets. Then I feed my parrots. They are blue headed pinious parrots. I watch them devour the banana and corn. Then I play with them and put them back."

Whooton's parakeets are native to Australia where they are known as budgerigars. They are popular pets in Ecuador and cope well in the climate. His blue headed parrots are native to the jungle there. They are gentle and easily tamed so also popular pets. Wooton obviously enjoys his birds and cares for them well.

Listen to God! Psalm 65:9-13

God cares for all of creation, and he does it really well . He provides the rain needed by all living things to grow and flourish. As we look around and see how well God cares for nature, we know he cares for us too.



Talk to God!

Heavenly Father, thank you that you not only made us, but you care for us too, every day, in all sorts of amazing ways - and you do it well.

Write in each leaf something that reminds you that God cares for you.



Sangay volcano

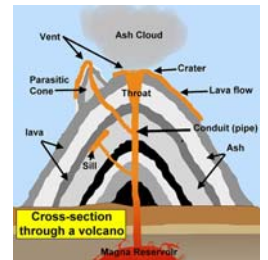
Mountain of fire

"We can see Sangay from our house. It's one of Ecuador's six active volcanoes and been active the longest of any volcano in the world," wrote Vume. "It just bubbles lava and smoke now. It's last big eruption was 65 years ago."

A volcano is a hole in the earth that molten (liquid) rock and gas spew out of. This is called an eruption and happens when the "plates" that make up the earth's crust move. The molten rock is called lava and its temperature can be up to 1,200° C (2,200° F).

Volcanos have killed many thousands of people. They can be immensely powerful and very frightening. Lava can cover the country side and towns; the ash, poisonous gases, land slides and changes to the weather they cause can also be a danger.

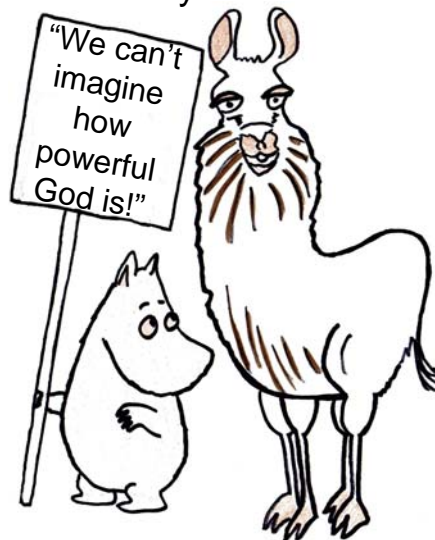
In 1999 a volcano close to Quito, the capital of Ecuador, erupted showering the city and peoples homes with ash that closed the airport and caused breathing problems for many.



Listen to God! Exodus 20:18-21



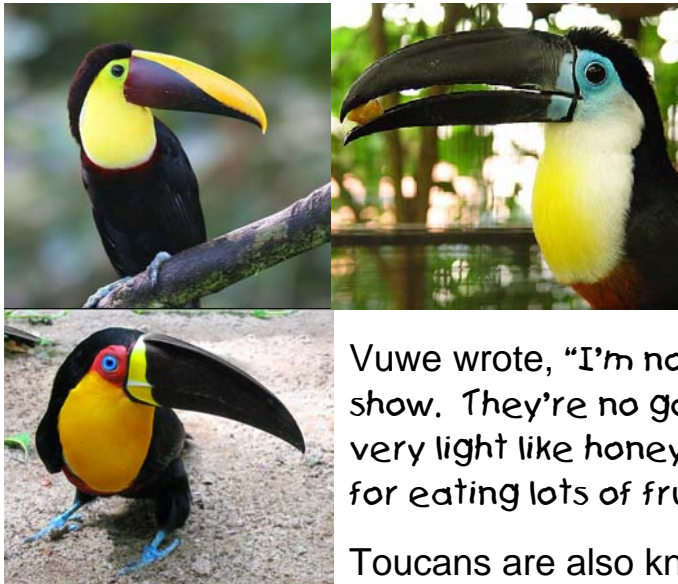
God had just given Moses the Ten Commandments. Now he showed the people his power in thunder, lightning and a smoking mountain. Perhaps it was a volcano. The people were terrified but it wasn't God's intention to frighten them. He was just showing them a glimpse of his holiness and power. He wanted them to realise the seriousness of his commands.



Write down some other words that mean "powerful", then if you can, write down or draw a Bible story that shows God's power.

Talk to God!

Lord God you have great power. Thank you that your power is not to make us afraid of you. Your power is to help us and give us power too.



Being a show-off

"Toucans are crazy looking birds," said Vicki when she wrote to say thankyou for the balsa birds their friends had sent. "Why do they have such large bills?"

Vuwe wrote, "I'm not really sure. They seem to be mostly for show. They're no good for digging or fighting with as they are very light like honeycomb with lots of holes. But they are good for eating lots of fruit in a hurry though!"

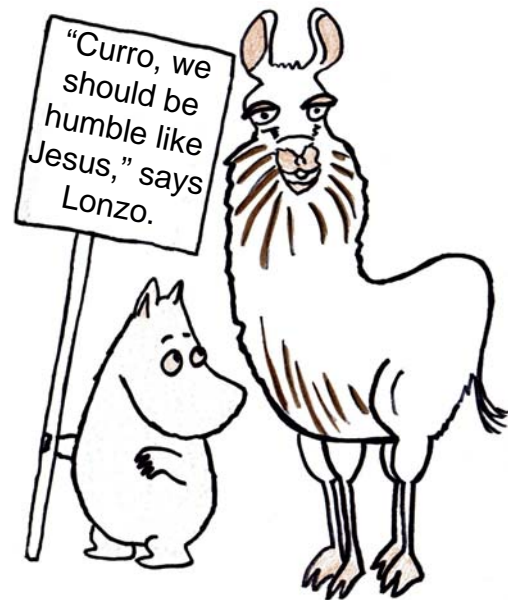
Toucans are also known for their bright flashy colours, their "show off" natures and their noise. They constantly squawk and call. Some sound like frogs croaking!

Listen to God! Luke 18:9-14

Jesus told a story about 2 men. One was like the toucan - a show-off wanting everyone to take notice of him. The other man was very different. Which does Jesus want us to be like?

Insert the following words from the story into the correct boxes according to the shape of the letters.

humble parable heaven exalt
pray mercy temple sinner



1.

5.

2.

6.

3.

7.

4.

8.



Talk to God!

Lord Jesus, when I'm tempted to show off help me to remember that other people are not impressed -- and neither are you! Help me to be honest and humble when I pray to you.

Visiting the king

"I have to tell you about our Christmas parade!" wrote Wesly. "It was so much fun. We had real animals. Mary rode on a donkey. One of our friends, Jose (pronounced Hose A) was a wise man. They rode on Alpacas as we don't have any camels in Ecuador.

Listen to God! Matthew 2:1-12

The Bible doesn't tell us, but the wise men probably travelled on camels because they came a long way through dry and rugged country. We don't know much about them, but we know they gave a lot of time and made a lot of effort to visit Jesus. Even though he was still a young child, they knew he was special. They knew he was a king.



Photo source: flickr



Match up the answers to the questions by drawing lines from one to the other.

Talk to God!

Lord Jesus, you are the king of everything! You are the king of all the kings!



Who was born king?	The east
Where did the wise men find Jesus?	A star
Who was the king when Jesus was a baby?	Gold, myrrh, frankincense
Where did the wise men come from?	In a house with Mary
What were the wise men following?	Jesus
What gifts did they bring?	It doesn't say
How many wise men were there?	Herod



This is easy!

CQ wrote to Vicki, "have you heard of a peccary? Sometimes people get pigs and peccaries mixed up because they look like each other. Collared peccaries live in the jungle here."

Collared peccaries are black/grey in colour with a dark stripe down their back and a whitish "collar" of fur around their necks that looks like a yoke.



Photo source: Manuel Mejia



Listen to God!

Matthew 11:28-30

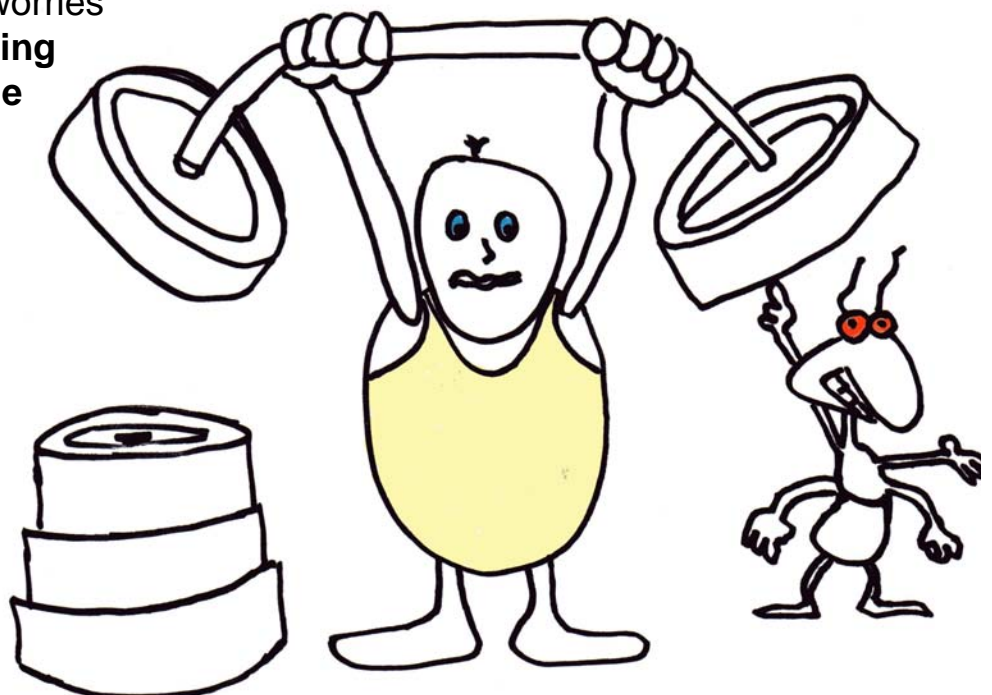


Traditional yokes are made of wood and join two animals together so they can pull a plough or a wagon. A young animal is yoked to an older one so it will do what the trained one does and learn what to do. If it fights against the yoke, it will feel pain, but if it co-operates, it will find the yoke easy to wear. When the two animals work together the job is easier to do too.

Do you ever have days when everything seems too hard? Taking on Jesus' yoke means allowing him to share our worries and burdens. **Write anything that is worrying you in the stack of weights.** Then tell Jesus about them and let him help you with them.

Talk to God!

Lord Jesus, sometimes life is hard. Thankyou that you are always there to help us.



Getting there



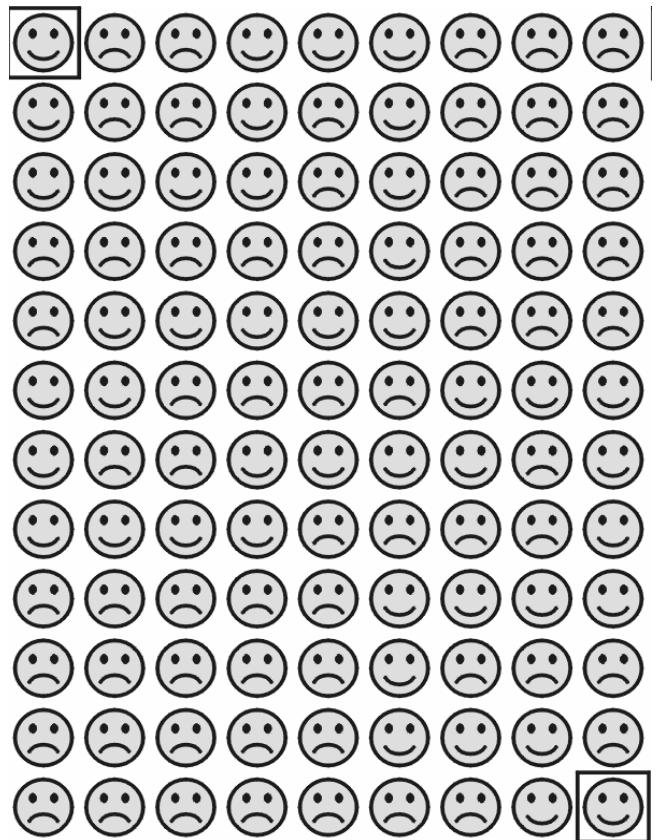
Photo source: Sia Saire

“When my dad visits villages in the jungle, he goes by MAF plane,” Vuwe told his Australian friends. “People get around in all sorts of ways here. It’s not easy. In some places there are no roads. If there is a road, it’s often narrow, rough and very windy.”

Listen to God! Acts 16:9-15

God called Paul to go to Macedonia. He and his friends had to go across the Aegean Sea by boat and then walk to the town of Philippi. But the long trip was well worth it. Lydia was the first person in Europe to follow Jesus, and Philippi was the first town in Europe to start a church - all because Paul listened to God and was willing to go where God called him.

Follow only the smiley faces to help Paul find his way to Lydia.



Talk to God!

Lord Jesus, thank you for people like Paul who were willing to go a long way to share about you. Help us to tell others

about you wherever we go too.



Those strong hands

Kaylee had seen a spider monkey at the zoo and asked Wesley did they live in Ecuador. "Yes", Wesley wrote, "spider monkeys are found in tropical rainforests from southern Mexico to Brazil. They live in the upper layer of the rainforest and eat fruit, seeds, flowers, nectar, small insects, birds eggs and sometimes leaves."



Picture by Wesley



A spider monkey's tail is often longer than its body. It's used like an extra hand for climbing and grasping. When swinging by the tail, the hands are free to gather food. These monkeys are acrobatic, agile and swift, as they leap and swing from branch to branch. It's like they have five hands!

Listen to God!

Isaiah 51:15-16



Many places in the Bible talk about God's hands. They made the world, they are strong and we are hidden and held safely in them. Can you think of any other verses about God's hands? *

Photo source: Cielo Azul Images



Talk to God!

Thank you God that your hands are strong enough to hold us no matter what might happen in our lives.

Colour the verse. Remember it.
Make a bookmark out of it if you like.

God says, "I will keep you safe in the palm of my hand."

* Look at Deuteronomy 5:15, Isaiah 48:13, John 10:29. Some versions may not actually say hand but most do.



Jungle backpackers

Sean wanted to know if anyone in the jungle still used blowguns. "Some of my Waorani friends still hunt monkeys and birds using a blow gun," Vuwe told him. Waorani put poison from plants (curare) onto the tip of their dart, but some other tribes use venom from poison dart frogs. These frogs are extremely poisonous. One golden poison dart frog has enough venom to kill ten men. But these frogs have another interesting trait. Some carry their eggs and tadpoles on their backs. The males are especially good at caring for their young by "backpacking" them.



Alphabet backpack:

Each line has a hidden word in it. The blank space is a missing letter in the word. Fill in the missing letter and circle the word.

close care gently feeds carries search
find rescues leads tend



Listen to God!

Isaiah 40:10 -11

Did you know that God carries you? He doesn't back pack you, he carries you in his strong, loving arms.



Talk to God!

Heavenly Father, it's great to know we are carried safely in your loving arms.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Hospital Vozandes del Oriente, the HCJB hospital in Shell, is always busy. Wesley's dad is an ophthalmologist (eye doctor) at the Shell hospital. "Guess what we got the other day?" emailed Wesley. "A few months ago my dad treated a lady called Ramona who had hurt her eye." The other day she brought dad a thankyou present of 2 baby parrots. We haven't decided what to call them yet. Ramona still can't see properly but soon the doctors will do an operation on her eye, then she will be better."

Listen to God!

Luke 17:11-16
& 18:35-43

The Bible tells us many stories about people Jesus healed.



Circle true or false.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Jesus met eight lepers | T | F |
| They called out to him | T | F |
| Jesus put his arms around them | T | F |
| Jesus told them to go to the priest | T | F |
| On the way, they were healed | T | F |
| They all came back to thank Jesus | T | F |
| The blind man was begging | T | F |
| People told the man to be quiet | T | F |
| He stopped calling to Jesus | T | F |
| Jesus healed the man. He could see | T | F |
| The man didn't say thankyou | T | F |

Talk to God!

Thank you God for those who look after us when we are sick and help make us better. Help us to show how thankful we are.

If you had leprosy in those days, you had to stay away from other people, even your family, so they wouldn't catch it. There was no treatment or cure then. There were no pensions and few jobs blind people could do so they often had to beg for food and money. Imagine if you were one of these people and Jesus healed you. How would you feel? Would you remember to thank him?

Catching a ride

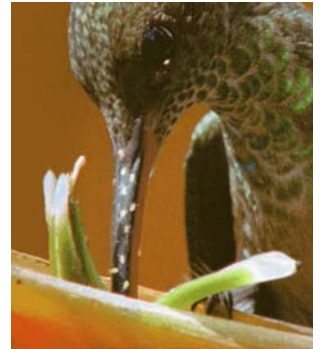


Wesley loves the humming birds that come to the bushes outside her bedroom window. While they are feeding at the flowers, they hover in the air flapping their wings 70 times a second – so fast you can't see them moving.



Photo source: kookr

Flower mites use humming birds as a private airline to get between flowers where they feed on pollen and nectar. When a humming bird visits the flower they are on, they run up the bird's bill to the safety of their nostril before it takes off.



Can you see the mites on the humming bird's beak?

Each variety of mite only inhabits one type of flower. The 0.5 millimetre long mites haven't any eyes so they can't see when they have arrived at their flower (and there isn't a flight attendant to tell them) so they "smell" chemicals released by each flower through tiny hairs on their legs. Amazingly neither humans nor hummingbirds can smell these flowers. When the humming bird arrives at the right flower, the mites quickly disembark.

Listen to God! Job 12:7-13



Isn't God amazing and clever to create flower mites and their transport system like this? The flowers they feed off are only open for one day and there is no other way for them to get from one to another.

Talk to God!

Thank you Lord God, that when we learn about these tiny flower mites, we learn about you and how clever you are. Give us a desire to learn more about your amazing creation.



Fly between the dots to find the humming bird. Colour it bright colours



Photo source: John Norton

Purge it out!

Whooton wrote, "At school, we've been learning about Golden mantled Tamarin monkeys. They live in the jungle here. Scientists found out that they often eat really, really big seeds. They think the nuts purge (clean out) parasites which grow in their gut, and can make them sick or even kill them."

The sin in us is a bit like the parasites in the Tamarin monkeys. Unless it is dealt with, we will die separated from God and his love. But God has provided a way for our sin to be forgiven and us to be made clean.

Listen to God!

Hebrews 9:13-15

Verses 13 and 14 in The New Living Translation says, "Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and ashes of a young calf could cleanse people's bodies from ritual defilement. Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our hearts from deeds that lead to death so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins."

Other versions of the Bible say "purge" instead of "purify". These words describe getting rid of something that's impure or unclean. That's what the death of Jesus Christ has done for us.



Talk to God!

Thank you God that we don't have to sacrifice animals anymore.

Thank you Jesus for allowing your blood to be shed to provide the way for us to be made clean.

Some questions to answer:

What did people have to sacrifice under the old system?

From Hebrews 10:11 How often did the priests have to make sacrifices?

From Hebrews 10:10 How often does Jesus have to be sacrificed?

How can we be made clean by God?
(see I John 1:9)

Waorani Indians are expert at making and using blowpipes and spears

Don't throw it away

but didn't know a lot about motors until Vuwe's dad and others ran a course in small engine mechanics. Now they can fix chainsaws, generators and outboards instead of throwing them away when they break down. One man said, *"Some motors are bad so we give up on them and throw them out. God doesn't do that. He wants to heal us, keep us, save us."* "I think that is really cool," Vuwe told his friends in Australia.

Listen to God! Luke 15:11-24

This well known story reminds us that God never gives up on anyone and never refuses anyone who comes to him no matter what they have done. Out of love the father gave his son freedom to make his own choices and mistakes. Out of love he waited and watched, longing for his son to return. Out of love he accepted his son back without criticism or punishment, only forgiveness and celebration.



Photo source: Chet Williams



Help the father find and welcome his son by joining the dots.



Talk to God!

Thank you Heavenly Father that you never turn away anyone who comes to you.



Is it worth all that work?



Wesly wrote to Vicki, “when we play in the school yard we have to keep out of the way of the leaf cutter ants. They have got a trail across the yard.” All day long these ants cut and carry leaves along the trail to their nest. Here they chew the leaves into a pulp. The pulp is then spread on their underground “garden”. Fungus grows on the leaf pulp carefully tended by more ants. The fungus, not the leaves is their food. It’s hard work but provides a nourishing diet.



Photo source: Felipe del Bosque

Listen to God! Nehemiah 8:1-3, 13-18

At this time, the people of Israel realised they had been not been reading or paying attention to God’s Law*. So they asked Ezra to read it to them and teach them what it meant.

Complete the following sentences to find out what the Israelites did.

Everyone came including children old enough to _____



Photo source: Hartmut Ulrich

They listened carefully from early morning until _____

Everyone came again on the next _____

The people did what God’s law said and built _____

Ezra read God’s Book to them every day for _____



It was important for the Israelites to know God’s words, and it’s just as important for us. Today we have the whole Bible. From it we discover who God is and how he wants us to live. But we have to give time and effort to it too. Sometimes it’s hard, but there are people who can help us as Ezra helped the Israelites.

Talk to God!

Thank God for the people who help you read and understand the Bible. (Remember God will help you if you ask him.)

It’s a good idea to read some Bible verses every day, perhaps at bed time. God will help you do that too if you ask him.

* God’s Law is the first five books of the Bible, also known as the Book of the Law.

The radio antennas that used to broadcast messages from HCJB.



Show and tell



Sean wanted to know, “what does HCJB stand for and what does it do in Ecuador?” CQ wrote back, “Eighty years ago, God led some people to start a shortwave radio station in Ecuador that could send messages about Jesus to far away places. The station’s call sign was HCJB. It stands for ‘Heralding Christ Jesus’ Blessings’.

The missionaries soon found they needed a doctor and a nurse who could treat them and also the local people who couldn’t get medical care. So HCJB built a hospital in the capital city of Quito. Later they built the hospital in Shell so that people from jungle villages could get medical care too.”

HCJB doesn’t broadcast by short wave from Ecuador anymore, (they do that from Kununurra in Australia) but they still run the hospitals and other medical clinics. And they still help broadcast the good news about Jesus through AM and FM radio, satellite, internet and things like pod casting. HCJB is still telling and showing God’s love.

Listen to God!

Psalm 96:3 & 1 John 3:16-18



Answer these questions.

Which Bible verse says we show love by helping others?

Which Bible verse says we can tell others about God?

If you were a missionary, who would you like to help?

If you were a missionary, what job would you like to do?

Talk to God!

You are so wonderful God. We want everyone to know how much you love them. Help us to show and tell the good news about you.