

 **Matthew 10:29-31**

04/12/2020

Teachers Dig In**Dig In to the Bible**

- Read: Matthew 10:29-31
- In This Passage: As Jesus prepares to send out his disciples, he comforts them by saying that God takes care of sparrows and God loves us even more than sparrows. God knows how many hairs are on our heads! God cares about our details because he loves us.
- Bible Point: God cares about our details...
- Application: ...so we care about others.
- Summary Verse: "For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does" (Psalm 33:4).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God cares about our details.* Most kids know that God cares for them in general, but they may be surprised to hear that God cares about the details of their lives. Help kids take comfort in the fact that no worry or prayer is too small for God. He cares about the details!
- Think About: How do you feel when you think about the fact that God has counted the hairs on your head? What other details of your life does it help to know God cares about?

Dig In to Prayer

- Consider what details you know about kids' lives. Pray for them!

Quick Tip

- You can't possibly know all the details about kids' lives. You certainly can't count the hairs on their heads! But try to remember some of the key details of what kids share with you. If it helps, jot down some notes after class ends. When you can ask kids about personal details of their lives, you'll help demonstrate how God cares about their personal details.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids make birds' nests and discover their value to God.

Supplies

- Bible
- chenille wires
- pennies (several per child)
- "A Million Bucks" handouts (1 for every 5 kids) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the million-dollar bills on the handout.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray about each other's details.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids compete with opposite goals of arranging cups.

Supplies

- plastic or paper cups (6 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Spread out the cups on the floor throughout the room with roughly half right-side up and the other half turned upside down.



CRAFT

Kids make craft stick birdhouses.

Supplies

- "Birdhouse Instructions" handout (download [here](#))
- craft sticks (about 50 per child)
- Glue Dots (see Tip)
- string
- scissors
- permanent markers

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids try to remember details about each other.

Supplies

- upbeat music
- music player



OBJECT LESSON

Kids identify bird sounds.

Supplies

- smartphone or laptop with internet access
- paper
- pencils

Easy Prep

- Use a smartphone or laptop to search for common bird calls. Enter “bird sound identification” into your favorite search engine to select a video or website that offers a variety of species and their calls.



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids explore the details God knows and loves about them.

Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- pens
- “Person” handout (download [here](#))

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids give a foot-five (a high-five with a foot) to two friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids give the birthday child a fist bump with fireworks. (Don't know what this means? Ask your kids!)
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we're going to learn that God cares about our details. Let's see how well *you* can describe details.**

Share

- Using your hand as a telescope, look around the room and point out a detail you've never noticed before.
- Have kids use their hands as telescopes and find details around the room *they've* never noticed before, then tell a partner about those details.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Matthew 10, and say: **We don't always notice details. But God cares about our details, so we care about others! One way God cares for us is by giving us the Bible. The Bible is special because it's full of details about what God has done. God can talk to us as we read and experience his caring heart. Let's listen to God as we hear from the Bible today and as we pray to him.**

Pray, praising God for caring about our details.



Supplies

- Bible
- chenille wires
- pennies (several per child)
- “A Million Bucks” handouts (1 for every 5 kids) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the million-dollar bills on the handout.

Count Your Hairs

Say: **Today we’re learning that God cares about our details. Listen to how much detail he knows about you.**

Read Matthew 10:30.

Ask: • **How many hairs do you think you have?**

Say: **Let’s see if you’re right! Count your hairs.** Most kids will get bored, become frustrated, or realize it’s impossible in under a minute. After 20 to 30 seconds, stop any kids who are still counting, and say: **We don’t even know how many hairs we have. God knows us better than we know ourselves. That’s because God cares about the details about you. And he cares about those details about everyone else, too. Turn to someone next to you and look at his or her hair. Pause. It was hard enough trying to count your own hair. We’d never want to count someone else’s! But God loves every detail of the person you’re looking at—inside *and* outside!**

You don’t have to know how many hairs someone has to care about that person. Let’s explore how God cares about our details, so we care about others.

Make Birds’ Nests

Say: **Let’s see how else we know that God cares about our details.**

Read Matthew 10:29.

Say: **God cares about the details of his creation, even animals as small as birds. And we’re so much more important to God than birds! If he takes care of the details for sparrows, we can trust him to take care of the details in our lives, too.**

Let’s build birds’ nests to remember how much God cares about our details even more than birds!

Distribute chenille wires. Have kids weave wires together to make birds’ nests. Say: **In the Bible, sparrows weren’t worth very much. Our verse says that two sparrows were worth only one copper coin. Do you ever feel worthless, like a failure? Maybe you feel like a failure because you’re no good at sports, or you feel stupid. Maybe you feel worthless because you can’t do something that all your friends know how to do.**

Set out pennies. Say: **For each reason you feel worthless, put a penny in your birds’ nest.**

Allow time.

Say: **Jesus said that even though sparrows seemed worthless to everyone else, God cares about the details. He cares about the tiny sparrows. And here’s something else he said about sparrows.** Read Matthew 10:31.

Say: **God cares about our details because he cares about even the little sparrows...and we’re so much more valuable to God than that. Even when you feel worthless, God sees your value.**

Close your eyes. Take some time to talk silently with God about why you feel worthless.

As kids pray, put a million-dollar bill from the handout in each of their birds’ nests.

Close the prayer time by praying: **Dear God, thank you that you care about our details and you value us so much. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Invite kids to look in their nests. Say: **You may feel like you’re worth only a few pennies, but Jesus sees you as a million bucks!**

Find Details in Others

Say: **God cares about our details, so we care about others.** We can't possibly count the hairs on people's heads like God can, but we can care about the details that matter to them. We can remember that *they're* worth a million bucks to God, too. Let's practice doing that now.

Have kids mingle and compliment each other on things they've noticed about each other. It might be their outfits, their smiles, or kind things they've done.

Say: **We can notice how people are feeling, too. Sometimes we get distracted by other things and forget to notice other people! So let's practice noticing other people's feelings.**

Have kids each make a face that shows the primary emotion they felt that week. Then have kids each find a partner and ask each other why they felt that way.

Say: **Another way to care about other people's details is to ask follow-up questions. Maybe your partner just said he felt sad because he lost a baseball game this week. You could ask questions like these:**

- What do you like about playing baseball?
- What position do you play?
- What do you like about your team?
- Even though you lost, what was fun about that game?

Say: **Let's try that now. Ask your partner some questions based on what he or she shared. Allow time.**

Say: **God cares about our details, so we care about others.** This week, try to use some of the skills you just learned to notice other people and show how much you and God care about them.

Pray: **God, thank you that you care about our details. You made those details about us! You care about the little things in our lives. Help us care about others as we remember how much you care about them. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Detailed Prayers

Lean and Pray

Say: **God cares about our details, so we care about others. Let's pray for others to show we care about them.**

- Have kids return to the pairs they formed in the Core Bible Discovery.
- Kids shared details about themselves in Core Bible Discovery. Have kids take time to pray for their partners based on what they learned.

Wrap Up

Pray: **God, thank you that you care about the details in our lives. Help us care about others. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



Flip the Focus

Supplies

- plastic or paper cups (6 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Spread out the cups on the floor throughout the room with roughly half right-side up and the other half turned upside down.

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Flip the Cups

Say: **Our Bible story today gave us some great examples of how much God cares about the details and how that shows just how much he cares about each of us. Let's play a fun game about focusing on details.**

- Form two roughly equal teams.
- One team's goal is to flip all the cups so they're sitting upright.
- The other team's goal is to flip all the cups so they're sitting upside down.
- Kids will run around the room trying to accomplish their tasks while you watch to see if there's ever a point when one team manages to accomplish their goal, even for a split second.
- Don't allow any guarding of cups. Everyone must keep moving and flipping cups.
- It's unlikely the game will end, because everyone's going to be working against each other, so you'll simply need to call out when time's up, after about a minute or two.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was it like to have opposite goals in the game, or opposite details to care about?**

Say: **Like in the game, we can get focused on only what matters to us—our own goals. When we do that, it gets really hard to care for others because we might not even notice them. It's amazing how God can care about all the details about me and all the details about all of you at the same time.**

Ask: • **When has it felt like no one noticed you or cared about you?** Share an example of your own, such as feeling left out or lonely when you were overlooked for an invite to lunch with friends.

• **Tell about a time someone noticed you and showed they cared.** Share an example of your own, such as when a friend or family member noticed an effort you've made and celebrated with you.

Say: **We all know it's much better to be cared for than unnoticed. God cares about our details, so none of us are ever forgotten. We can follow God and care about the details in other people's lives.**



Supplies

- "Birdhouse Instructions" handout (download [here](#))
- craft sticks (about 50 per child)
- Glue Dots (see Tip)
- string
- scissors
- permanent markers

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Tip

- If you're concerned about the cost of Glue Dots, regular Elmer's glue will also work. It will just take longer to dry, and kids may have to take home wet birdhouses.

Make Birdhouses

Show kids the sample craft you made. Set out the supplies to share, and have kids follow the directions on the "Birdhouse Instructions" handout.

- Line up 11 craft sticks side by side. Then glue a craft stick across each end to hold the 11 together.
- Make three of those.
- Make one of your pieces be the floor of your birdhouse. Stack more craft sticks along each side to make walls about three craft sticks tall.
- Tie a piece of string about a foot long near each corner of your birdhouse base by threading it in between two sticks and then tying it.
- Arrange your other two pieces on top of your structure to make an A-frame roof. Use glue along the bottom to hold it in place, but it doesn't need to be strong enough to bear weight, since the string is attached to the bottom.
- Pull the four pieces of string up over the roof, and tie them together.
- You can also use permanent markers to decorate the birdhouse. Include the point: God cares about the details.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Describe your dream house.**

• **What is it about your birdhouse that could make it a bird's dream house?**

• **Your birdhouses can protect birds. What are some things God has given you that protect you?**

Say: God cares about the details. Jesus said that God cares about even the tiniest sparrow, and he loves you so much more. When you hang your birdhouse outside, you can be a part of caring for God's birds. And your birdhouse can remind you that God cares about the details in your life, too.

Have kids take their birdhouses home and hang them outside as a reminder that God cares about the details.



Supplies

- upbeat music
- music player

Tips

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).
- Preteens might need a reminder that they should only point out kind details about others.

Memorize Details About Each Other

Say: **We found out from our Bible story today that God cares about all of us so much that he even knows how many hairs are on our heads. That's a lot of detail, but God can keep track of it all.**

Let's play a game to see how amazing it is that God cares to know all of us so well.

- Form groups of five, and have groups stand in circles.
- Allow a few minutes for everyone in a circle to study and try to take in as much detail about everyone else as possible. Play music in the background so this part doesn't feel awkward!
- Pick a random person in each circle, and lightly tap him or her on the shoulder. Have that person move out of the circle and sit down so it's difficult for anyone in the circle to see him or her.
- Then everyone else will start calling out details they can remember about the person who stepped out of the circle.
- Repeat this process until everyone has had a chance to step outside of the circle.
- If you have time and would like to increase the difficulty, have everyone form a large circle so there are more people to study.

Talk About It

Say: • **What things did you have the hardest time remembering about people?**

• **How did it feel hearing the details people noticed about you?**

• **If God were playing this game, what's a detail he might have said about you?**

Say: **It's fun to have people notice details about us. God cares about our details, so we care about others. When we pay attention to others and care about the details in others, we reflect God's heart.**



Supplies

- smartphone or laptop with internet access
- paper
- pencils

Easy Prep

- Use a smartphone or laptop to search for common bird calls. Enter “bird sound identification” into your favorite search engine to select a video or website that offers a variety of species and their calls.

Listen to Bird Calls

Say: **The word *ornithology* means “the study of birds.” People who study ornithology spend a lot of time learning details about birds. They can identify what each type of bird looks like and sounds like, too. Let’s pay attention to detail and listen to some bird calls. Listen carefully, then we’ll see how well you can identify them.**

- Give each child paper and a pencil.
- Play several bird calls for the kids. Be sure to say the name of the bird before playing its call. Play each call two times so kids can try to remember the details.
- Play the calls again in a different order. After each call, have kids write down the name of the bird they think they hear.
- Review the correct identifications, and celebrate when kids identify sounds correctly.
- Repeat as time allows, mixing in new species of birds and sounds for kids to identify.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What details did you listen for with each bird call?**

Say: **Some bird calls had long sounds, while others were short and shrill. Some sounded like songs, and others were quick tweets. God gave each species of bird a unique sound to communicate with other birds.**

Ask: • **What can we learn about God by noticing the details of his creation?**

Say: **God cares about our details. It’s amazing to think that God cares about even the smallest things, like chirping birds. And he cares about the details in our lives, too! He cares about what we say with our voices and the way we communicate his love and care to our friends and family members.**



Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- pens
- "Person" handout (download [here](#))

Answer Questions About a Person

Distribute paper and pens. Hold up the "Person" handout.

Say: **I'm going to ask you some questions about this person. You'll write down what you think the answers are.**

- Ask:
- **What is her name?**
 - **What is her favorite food?**
 - **Where does she live?**

After kids have written down their answers, have them compare answers and notice that most people have different answers.

Say: **Since we had a lot of different answers, it sounds like you *don't* know even the most basic details about this person. And you know what? Neither do I! That's because we can't possibly know everyone in the world! So how does God do it? If there are billions of people on the planet, how can God know each of *us*? Let's dig in to that.**

Dig Deeper

Say: **We can't know everyone...but God can. That's because he made everyone!**

Have a child read Psalm 139:14.

Say: **And God doesn't just know our names. He knows everything about us. Let's find out what he knows.**

Have a child read Psalm 69:5.

Ask: • **How do you feel knowing that God sees all the things you do wrong?**

Say: **God *does* see all your sins...but he also forgives and forgets them! And he knows a lot of other details about us, too.**

Have a child read Psalm 56:8.

Ask: • **What are some sorrows you've had? How do you feel knowing God cares about each tear you've cried?**

Say: **As I read the next set of verses, I'll list a *lot* of details God sees in our lives. Listen for one that is meaningful to you.**

Read Psalm 139:1-4.

Ask: • **What stood out to you from these verses?**

Say: **God knows the details of our hearts. He knows where we go, what we do, and what we say.**

And he loves us so much! Listen to this.

Have a child read Ephesians 2:10.

Ask: • **How does it feel to know that God knows the details of his purpose for you?**

Say: **God cares about our details. He cares about our tears, our hearts, where we go, and what we say. He cares about our purpose! And he cares about that not just in *your* life but in the lives of everyone you meet. God cares about our details, so we care for others. When we see others, let's look for the details about their hearts: their hurts, their purpose, and what matters to them. Let's see others through God's caring eyes.**

