



The Bible Banner

August 2018

God's Book of Nature—A Field for Study

Once, when a stubborn disputer seemed unconvinced, Lincoln said, "Well, let's see how many legs has a cow?" "Four, of course," came the reply disgustedly. "That's right," agreed Lincoln. "Now suppose you call the cow's tail a leg; how many legs would the cow have?" "Why, five, of course," was the confident reply. "Now, that's where you're wrong," said Lincoln. "Calling a cow's tail a leg doesn't make it a leg." Calling wrong right doesn't make it so either. No wonder Isaiah 5:20,21 says, *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"*

Orange Sherbet -Creamsicle

1 cup orange juice concentrate
1 cup organic sugar
1 medium carrot, grated
3 cups soy milk
Pinch of salt

Blend until smooth. Pour into ice cream freezer and freeze.



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QUOTABLE QUOTES

"In the absence of any other proof, the thumb alone would convince me of God's existence." Isaac Newton

Profitable Traditions

Cultivate a love for nature and nature's God --Organize a nature scavenger hunt. Choose one of your senses to base the scavenger hunt on and collect various "snippets" of nature.

- If you are doing a "touch" scavenger hunt, distribute bags to everyone to find objects with different textures to touch.
 - If you are doing a "sight" scavenger hunt, have people take close up shots of different nature items.
 - If you are doing a "hearing" scavenger hunt, have people record different sounds in nature. (waves, birds, crickets, etc.)
- After everyone has finished collecting, call everyone together and have them guess what each collectible is before telling them. After having the group guess what each collectible is, talk about what each teaches about nature's God.



Zucchini Hate Crimes

"Still none", I sighed, puzzled. Days had gone by, and each day I diligently checked both my pumpkin and my zucchini plants.* But still, when I looked for female blossoms (the ones that have a baby pumpkin or zucchini at their base), there were absolutely none. I continued watering and hoping, but the next week when I checked again, although there were over 50 blossoms, there were no fruitful female blossoms. Inwardly, I groaned, knowing that if this kept up there would be absolutely no zucchini and no pumpkins either.



Even in the human world, all male and no female or vice versa, just doesn't bear fruit because it is "against nature." Paul writes *"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet."* (Romans 1:26, 27) Being *"without natural affection"* is a sign of the times (2 Timothy 3:1, 3), and a sin for which Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by God. (2 Peter 2:6, 7; Gen. 19:4-11)

Today this topic has become a very controversial issue and I recognize the repercussions that often fall on those who protest. For example, recently a church in Indiana was evicted from its building for placing a sign outside that read, *"LGBTQ is a hate crime against God. Repent."*¹ Since the Bible does state that *"If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination..."* and that *"abusers of themselves with mankind"* are among those who *"shall not inherit the kingdom of God"* (Lev. 20:13, 1 Cor. 6:9, 10), I don't think this statement is biblically incorrect, but at the same time, I am not sure this is the best way to "warn the wicked from his way." However, I actually thought the concept of sin being a hate crime against God was interesting. How does God feel as he looks down on the "field" of the world and sees all the "fruitless" lifestyles that people choose despite his best "gardening" efforts? What about things that defile our bodies, "the temple of God", and are "against nature?"

Smoking cigarettes, for example, is "against nature". Most people today know that it causes lung cancer, COPD, emphysema, cardiovascular problems, stillbirths, sudden infant death syndrome and preterm deliveries as well as multiple other kinds of cancers and health problems.² The question is, "Since God's law specifically states, *'Thou shalt not kill'* (Ex. 20:13) is it a "hate crime" against God to slowly murder oneself, effectively committing suicide by the use of a slow poison like tobacco?"

What about abortion? The connection between a child and its mother should be one of the tenderest bonds on earth, therefore a mother killing her own child is "against nature" and "without natural affection". Deut. 12:31 and Lev. 20:3-5 state that killing your own child or aiding those who do is an abomination, which God hates. *"Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods."*

Unfortunately, there are many "hate crimes" that mankind commits against God daily. For it is written, *"Now the [fruitless] works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."* Gal. 5:19-21

I'm sure that God looks down at the world field and weeps, wishing that after all the "planting and watering" He did—even sending his own Son to die, that his "plants" would have all the blossoms needed to bear fruit to His glory. He is waiting for the Divine power that He has provided to be combined with some blossoms of human effort. We are told to *"work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."* Phil. 2:12, 13 When both parts of the equation are there, we will "naturally" bear fruit to His glory. For *"the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."* Gal. 5:22, 23 And with such beautiful fruits as these, there will be no more fruitless "zucchini hate crimes" against God left in our lives.

**(Since I had started planting heirloom varieties I had learned that in order to keep them from cross-pollinating if they are planted close together you have to tape the female blossoms shut with masking tape before they open. Then when the flowers are at the stage that they would be opened, you untape them and pollinate them with the male blossoms using a Q-tip and then retape them shut. One year I didn't do this and I ended up with a pumpkin-zuch that looked like a zucchini on the outside, but was orange, like a pumpkin on the inside.)*

1-- <https://www.christianpost.com/news/church-kicked-out-building-sign-message-lgbtq-is-a-hate-crime-against-god-repent-225826/>

2-- https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/effects_cig_smoking/index.htm

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SOWING IN TEARS

Based on a sermon by missionary Del Tarr who served 14 years in West Africa

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psalm 126:5, 6

I was always perplexed by Psalm 126 until I went to the Sahel, that vast stretch of savanna more than four thousand miles long just under the Sahara Desert. In the Sahel, all the moisture comes in a four month period: May, June, July, and August. After that, not a drop of rain falls for eight months. The ground cracks from dryness, and so do your hands and feet. The winds of the Sahara pick up the dust and throw it thousands of feet into the air. It then comes slowly drifting across West Africa as a fine grit. It gets inside your mouth. It gets inside your watch and stops it. The year's food, of course, must all be grown in those four months. People grow sorghum or milo in small fields.

October and November...these are beautiful months. The granaries are full -- the harvest has come. People sing and dance. They eat two meals a day. The sorghum is ground between two stones to make flour and then a mush with the consistency of yesterday's Cream of Wheat. The sticky mush is eaten hot; they roll it into little balls between their fingers, drop it into a bit of sauce and then pop it into their mouths. The meal lies heavy on their stomachs so they can sleep.

December comes, and the granaries start to recede. Many families omit the morning meal. Certainly by January not one family in fifty is still eating two meals a day. By February, the evening meal diminishes. The meal shrinks even more during March and children succumb to sickness. You don't stay well on half a meal a day. April is the month that haunts my memory. In it you hear the babies crying in the twilight.

Most of the days are passed with only an evening cup of gruel.

Then, inevitably, it happens. A six- or seven-year-old boy comes running to his father one day with sudden excitement. "Daddy! Daddy! We've got grain!" he shouts.

"Son, you know we haven't had grain for weeks."

"Yes, we have!" the boy insists. "Out in the hut where we keep the goats -- there's a leather sack hanging up on the wall -- I reached up and put my hand down in there -- Daddy, there's grain in there! Give it to Mommy so she can make flour, and tonight our tummies can sleep!"



The father stands motionless. "Son, we can't do that," he softly explains. "That's next year's seed grain. It's the only thing between us and starvation. We're waiting for the rains, and then we must use it."

The rains finally arrive in May, and when they do the young boy watches as his father takes the sack from the wall and does the most unreasonable thing imaginable. Instead of feeding his desperately weakened family, he goes to the field and with tears streaming down his face, he takes the precious seed and throws it away. He scatters it in the dirt! Why? Because he believes in the harvest.

The seed is his; he owns it. He can do anything with it he wants. The act of sowing it hurts so much that he cries. But as the African pastors say when they preach on Psalm 126, "Brother and sisters, this is God's law of the harvest. Don't expect to rejoice later on unless you have been willing to sow in tears."

And I want to ask you: How much would it cost you to sow in tears? I don't mean just giving God something from your abundance, but finding a way to say, "I believe in the harvest, and therefore I will give what makes no sense. The world would call me unreasonable to do this -- but I must sow regardless, in order that I may someday celebrate with songs of joy."

{Leadership, 1983}



Garden Remedies—Row C

Almost as soon as sin came into the world and death with it, God commanded, *"Thou shalt eat the herb of the field;"* Gen. 3:18. And in Row C of the Garden Remedies we find 3 Amazing Veggies --Cabbage, Carrots, and Corn silk.



Cabbage is an amazing remedy. In fact, the juice of this Anti-Ulcer Veggie is sometimes called Vitamin U Therapy. It appears to be even more effective as an anti-ulcer remedy than many pharmaceutical drugs. Consider this study.

"Thirteen patients with peptic ulcer were treated with fresh cabbage juice, which, experiments have indicated, contains an antipeptic ulcer factor. This factor (vitamin U) prevents the development of histamine-induced peptic ulcers in guinea pigs.

"The average crater healing time for seven of these patients who had duodenal ulcer was only 10.4 days, while the average time as reported in the literature, in 62 patients treated by standard therapy, was 37 days. The average crater healing time for six patients with gastric ulcer treated with cabbage juice was only 7.3 days, compared with 42 days, as reported in the literature, for six patients treated by standard therapy."¹

One happily home-cured patient writes, *"I cured my ulcer by drinking cabbage juice 4 times a day for 9 days. I cut one cabbage into 4 pieces and juiced one piece at a time every 2 or 3 hours."*

Our next remedy is found in the **carrot** section. *"Carrots contain ... carotenoids ... These are substances with powerful antioxidant activity, and have been linked to improved immune function and reduced risk of many diseases. This includes cardiovascular disease, various degenerative diseases, and certain types of cancer ...Beta-carotene, the main carotene in carrots, can be converted to vitamin A in the body...Diets rich in carotenes may have a protective effect against several types of cancer. This includes prostate cancer, colon cancer and stomach cancer. Women with high circulating levels of carotenoids may also be at reduced risk of breast cancer."*²



Vitamin A from carrots can also be very beneficial to the eyes. I find the following story of carrot juicing while changing to an almost plant-based diet to be most amazing. *"A young man came to us seeking help because he wanted to become an Air Force Pilot with the government but was turned down because of bad eyesight...When he asked the medical doctor if he could try again later, he was laughed at and told this condition could not be changed. He persisted and so was given a three-months return date. We had him cleanse his bowels, go on the mucusless diet* after the three-day cleanse, and then drink one quart or more of freshly-made carrot juice each day, six days each week. He was to use nothing but distilled water on the seventh day. **In three months he returned for another eye examination at the Air Force Agency, and this time was given the approval with a clean bill of health and good eyesight."***³



And last, but not least, **corn silk**. Corn silk is the long and shiny fibers found at the top of ear of a corn. During corn season, I just remove the silk and dry it for later use. As natural remedies go, this is not a bad tasting one and it is easily available almost world-wide. In fact, *"Korean corn silk tea (oksusu-suyeom-cha) is a popular hot drink during the winter months. It's only made from corn, so it's naturally caffeine free."*⁴

The Natural Remedies Encyclopedia states that *"Corn-silk tea is the best single herb for increasing urine flow and restoring the kidneys."*

I have seen corn silk do its work multiple times. In one case, the patient could not seem to urinate for a urine test. I gave him lots of water, and still there was nothing an hour or so later. I gave him corn silk tea and we left the house for an appointment. We had to stop at every bathroom we passed all the way to our destination.

On another occasion, we used it on our dog. He had all the symptoms of kidney failure and it was sad to watch him uncomfortably try to urinate with no success. **I made some corn silk tea for him and we saw results!** Herbalist Jethro Kloss reiterates, *"Corn silk tea is one of the best remedies for kidney,*

*bladder, and prostate troubles. Especially useful for pain or burning during urination and for difficulty in starting urination."*⁵

Why not visit Row C of your garden for a powerful remedy created by the Master Physician, today?

1--- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1643665/> 2-- <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/foods/carrots#section4> 3-- Herbal Home Health Care, pg. 59 * No eggs, no dairy products, no red meat, no non-organic white meat (only a little allowed once a week), no refined sugar (honey and molasses allowed), low salt, no flour or flour products

4-- <https://www.superfoodly.com/corn-silk-tea-benefits-uses/> 5-- Back to Eden, 2nd Edition, Pg. 123



Study to Shew Thyself Approved—Lessons from Nature about the Creator

1. According to Psalm 19:1-3, why is nature such an important method of teaching the gospel? _____
"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard." Psalm 19:1-3
2. What object created on the 1st day is used to represent Christ? (Gen. 1:3-5) _____
Psalm 27:1 "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"
John 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."
3. What object created on the 2nd day is used to represent Christ's words? (Gen. 1:6-8) _____ *John 4:10 "Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water."* *Amos 8:11 "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:"*
4. Name 2 objects that appeared on the 3rd day that are used to represent Christ? (Gen. 1:9-13) _____
John 15:5 "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."
2 Samuel 22:47 "The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation."
1Cor. 10:4 "... for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."
Isaiah 32:2 "And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; ... as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."
5. What object created on the 4th day is used to represent Christ? (Gen. 1:14-19) _____ *Mal. 4:2 "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall."*
6. What 2 animals created on the 5th day are used to represent Christ? (Gen. 1:20-23) _____
Deut. 32:11,12 "As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the LORD alone did lead ..."
Matt. 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"
7. What object created on the 6th day is used to represent Christ? (Gen. 1:24-31) _____ *Isaiah 53:7 "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."* *John 1:29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."*
8. Despite all the truth about God that nature declares, of what does Peter say people are willingly ignorant? _____
2 Pet. 3:5 "For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:"
9. How does the Bible suggest God might answer these skeptics? _____ *Job 38:1-4 "Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? ... for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding."*
10. What message about the Creator is to go to the ends of the world? _____ *Rev 14:6,7 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel* to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."*



1. It speaks in every language 2. Light 3. Water 4. Vine and rock 5. Sun 6. Eagle & hen 7. Sheep or lamb 8. The creation story 9. Where were you when I created the world? 10. (*The Creator gave Himself to save us) Worship the Creator

GOD'S AMAZING CREATURES

The mandarin duck is found in East Asia. It is closely related to the North American wood duck.



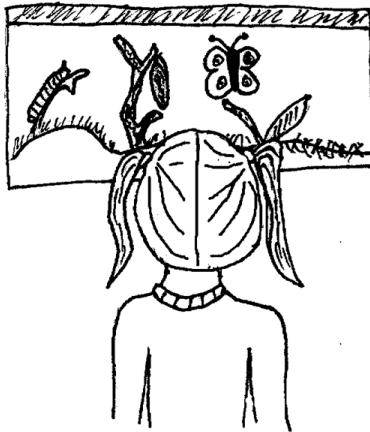
Mandarin ducklings are almost identical (exactly the same) in appearance (the way they look) to wood ducklings, and very similar to mallard ducklings.

Mandarin ducks feed by dabbling in the water or walking on land. The diet of mandarin ducks changes seasonally; in the fall and winter, they mostly eat acorns and grains. In the spring, they mostly eat insects, snails, and fish. In the summer, they eat small fish, frogs, and small snakes.

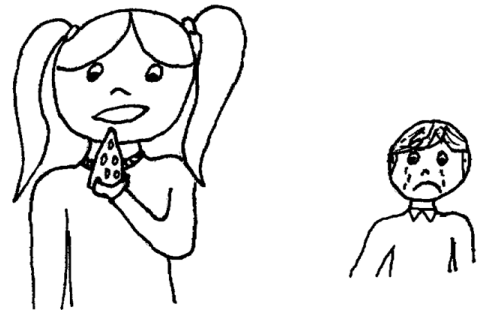
This picture is of the male mandarin duck. He is very pretty and colorful because Jesus made him that way. Aren't you glad that Jesus made the mandarin ducks?

Memory Verse

2 Cor. 5:17
Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

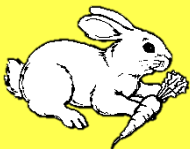


The teacher in Patience's class let them watch a caterpillar turn into a chrysalis and then into a butterfly. She told Patience that just like Jesus changes the caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly, when we ask Jesus to come into our naughty hearts he will make them into new, beautiful, kind hearts that love Jesus. Patience wanted a kind heart so she prayed and asked Jesus to come into her heart. She made Jesus happy.



The teacher in Passion's class put up a hummingbird feeder. Sometimes the hummingbirds didn't share very well. They fought over the food. Passion thought that was silly. There was plenty for all of them to share. But at supper that night Passion didn't share very well either. She took all the leftover pizza for herself, even though her little brother wanted some. She made Jesus very sad, and Passion got a tummy-ache from eating too much pizza. She wished she had shared.

Little Runner's Health Tip



Benny the Bunny likes to eat cabbage and carrots. Cabbage and carrots are good for boys and girls too. They help them to be healthy.