



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors Dennis & Diane Gordon



THE SNOW BIRDS

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME:

**JESUS CAME, TO SAVE ME FOR ETERNITY
BECAUSE HE LOVES AND VALUES ME;
SO I SHALL NOT FEAR WHAT MAY BE TOMORROW,
BECAUSE JESUS LOVES ME
MORE THAN MANY SPARROWS.**

GROUP SCRIPTURE READING:

Matthew 10:29-31

“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

³⁰ But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

*³¹ Fear ye not therefore,
ye are of more value than many sparrows.”*

John 1:1-5

**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.”** ² *The same was in the beginning with God.*

*³ All things were made by him;
and without him was not anything made that was made*

⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

*⁵ And the light shineth in darkness;
and the darkness comprehended it not.”*

ORDER OF SERVICE:

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| 1. Light Candles & Pray | 4. Babies only go into the Nursery today. | |
| 2. Children's Songs & Story | 5. Adult Fellowship Break | 7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer |
| 3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring | 6. Worship Song Set | 8. Blessing Songs & Benediction |

2. THE SNOW BIRDS.

Today in our family church we have a true Christmas story about redemption, that will teach us all about God’s heart for becoming a man to save us, and also show us a way to tell others about Jesus:

Todd and Sarah had just moved with their family and loved looking out the window of their new mountain home. They saw lots of pretty trees, heard birds singing, and way up at the top of the hill, they saw a church, and watched as parents and children happily made their way up the hill when the church bell rang, and they could see their new school just down the hill. They had quite a lot of fun playing with their new friends, and everything was almost perfect.



Sometimes dad was grumpy, and mom would get very sad, and they often wondered about the church on the hill. Was there something that made the people happy there? ***“Can we go visit the little church?”*** They asked, but dad always said, ***“No, we’re doing just fine without God.”*** and that was that....just like people who had no king, he had no God.

Judges 17:6 *“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”*



But Todd and Sarah knew that something was missing at their house. One day when the church bells rang as usual, they asked again, ***“Can’t we go too?”*** This time Dad didn’t say a word, but Mom got her purse and coat, and up the hill she went with Todd and Sarah, to the church!

Todd and Sarah were so happy that they got to go to church with their mom, and there they learned about Jesus and received Him for their very own Savior. How they wished that their dad would come too! Oh, that he could feel the same joy they felt as they sang the songs, when they felt the presence of Jesus and all His love right there with them!

Psalms 16:11 *“You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures for evermore.”*

3. JESUS BRINGS JOY TO TROUBLED HEARTS.



Back at home, ever since that first day when they learned how much Jesus loved them all, Mom was so happy! It was like she was a new person, her sadness was gone and they could hear her singing when she was washing the dishes. Just knowing Jesus made their mom happy, and Todd and Sarah were happy too.

1 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

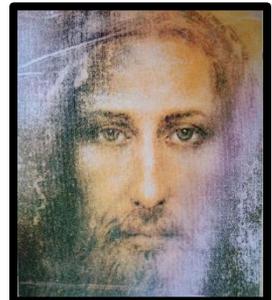
Philippians 4:7 “And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Todd and Sarah were happy, but every time they thought about their dad not knowing how much Jesus loved him, they would get a little sad, because they hid it from him. Now that the snow was deep, Mom didn’t use the car because the roads around their house were all mushy. So, every week Todd, Sarah and their mother would get dressed and walk up the long, slushy, muddy hill to the church. Every week they would ask their dad if he would go with them - and every week their dad would say, ***“Oh no, you kids go along with your mother, I’ll just sit here and read my paper until you get back.”***

Todd tried with all his might to get his dad to go to church with them! One Sunday, Todd even hid his dad’s paper so he couldn’t find it - but it didn’t do any good. Dad just got mad, and he walked down to the store to get another one!

Zechariah 4:6 “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord of hosts.”

There was nothing Todd could do to make his dad change his mind; he guessed that only God could, and he was right. Only the Holy Spirit of God can change a person’s heart.



4. ONLY JESUS CAN DRAW MEN TO LOVE HIM.

Sarah wanted her daddy to go to church with them too, and she tried everything she could think of. Sarah sat on her daddy's lap looking at him with her very best sad puppy eyes – but he only laughed at her. Sarah had even thrown a terrible tantrum, and refused to go to church unless he would go with them...but her dad just smiled and said that it was just fine if she wanted to stay home with him, because then he could read her the Sunday funnies! It seemed that nothing would make dad understand about Jesus.

Jeremiah 31:3 “...Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”

Mom said they should all just love Dad extra for Jesus and pray for him, because only Jesus could change his heart.

One day, Todd and Sarah ran nearly all the way home because they were so excited! They were going to be in a special Christmas program and Sarah just knew her daddy would come!



“Oh daddy, won’t you come to see Todd be a sheep, and see me be an angel? Oh, pl-l-e-e-ase daddy?” But without looking up from his paper Dad replied, ***“That’s great kids, have fun.”*** Todd and Sarah practiced for the



play every day, and every day they reminded their Dad of the special day. Two weeks later the big day arrived! ***“But Dad, it’s Christmas day!”*** Todd and Sarah begged, but Dad would not go. He said, ***“All that foolish church stuff isn’t for me, but you go on.”***

1 Corinthians 2:14 “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

So with sad hearts, Mom, Todd and Sarah started the long walk up the snowy hill to the church.

5. GOD USES CIRCUMSTANCES TO SHOW US TRUTH.

After Todd, Sarah and Mom were gone, Dad put more wood on the cozy fire in the fireplace, settled back in his comfy easy chair and started reading his paper.

Suddenly, a gust of snow and wind blew open the door. He got up to close the door and thought, "I'm sure glad Martha and the kids left early, it looks like another storm blowing in!" But as he turned to go back to his easy chair and sit down, he noticed some birds just outside the window.



Did you know that Jesus speaks to us even in the things around us?

Romans 1:20 "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse."



As the man watched the shivering birds he thought, "***Silly birds, why don't you go in the barn with the cows and chickens and get warm?***" He sat down once again, but he couldn't get those birds out of his mind! Dad got up from his chair, put on his hat and coat and went outside, thinking, "***If those birds aren't going to go inside the barn, guess I'll have to round 'em up and shoo them in!***" Well, he no sooner got outside his door than those birds flew away! He had only managed to scare them farther away from the warmth of the house! And he thought, "***Those crazy birds!! Don't they know I was trying to save them?***" Sometimes the harder we try to save someone for Jesus, we scare them farther away too, don't we, but **Jesus never stops loving us until we come to Him.**

Jeremiah 31:3 "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

6. GOD BECAME A MAN SO WE COULD KNOW HIM.

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Then the man got an idea. He decided he would leave the door open and surely those birds would have sense enough to come inside! That’s what he’d do. So he opened up the door, took off his hat and coat, and went back in to sit down to read his paper. He peeked around his paper, but those silly birds were outside the window again; this time pecking at the window trying to get in!



The man was becoming frantic by now, he was so concerned that the birds were going to die! How could he save them? Then he thought, ***“If I put bread crumbs out for them, then they will understand to eat them and follow the trail of crumbs inside to where they will be safe”***. So he put out crumbs for the birds, but they only ate and just sat there in the snow.

It was getting really cold now and the birds started flying into the window and crashing to the ground. The man ran outside in the cold and began flapping his arms like a bird, trying to show them how to fly inside to be saved. **If only he could get them to come in!** The birds only flew away and then flew back into the window again! People are like those birds when they do not know the Lord. They keep trying to live life their own way to be happy, only to keep getting hurt over and over again, but Jesus still loves them.

Matthew 9:36 “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”



The man was beside himself with grief as he sat down once again in his chair. It was so cold outside, the birds would surely die. The man wept, and he cried out, ***“If only I could become a bird, then they would listen to me and understand!”***

7. WITH A THANKFUL HEART, TODD AND SARAH'S DAD UNDERSTANDS WHY JESUS CAME.

Suddenly the man's tears became tears for himself, because he did understand! Tod and Sarah's dad understood, as the words of the scriptures his wife read to him came to his heart:

*Isaiah 44:24 " Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, **I am the LORD that maketh all things;** that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that **spreadeth abroad the earth by myself.**"*



*Psalms 33:6 "**By the word of the LORD** were the heavens made; and all the host of them **by the breath of his mouth.**"*

*John 1:1,14 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us..."*



Suddenly the man understood, that the God of Heaven and Earth was working very hard to save him, like he was trying to save those birds!. God, his Creator, loved him so much that he had become flesh in Jesus Christ, so He could give his only begotten Son to save him! God had become like him, so that he would understand and come to Him! Jesus came to us as a helpless little baby, in every way just like you and me!

Hebrews 2:16-17 "For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."

And Jesus grew up to show us who He is. Then He died on the **cross** to pay the price for our sins, so that we would not have to die. Then Jesus was buried in a tomb and rose again on the third day and went to heaven to prepare a place for you and me to live forever with Him!

8. DAD RECEIVES JESUS AND ARRIVES AT CHURCH IN TIME TO SEE TODD AND SARAH IN THE PLAY.



The man suddenly understood that he was as lost and in as much danger as those poor little birds outside with a snowstorm coming! He knelt to ask the Lord Jesus to forgive him for all of his sins, and for being so stubborn, and he asked Jesus to come in to his heart and be Lord of his life.

Now with Jesus in his heart, everything was happy and new for Dad too! Suddenly he understood the things of God and he wanted more than anything to go to the church and be with his family.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Dad quickly pulled on his boots and coat and hat, and walked up the hill and into the church, just in time to see his Todd and Sarah in their program. And Todd and Sarah saw him too. As he sat down next to his wife Martha, the little church on the hill was filled with their singing,



“Yea Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus to Thee be all glory given, word of the Father, now in flesh appearing, oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”

And now when Jesus comes, Todd and Sarah are happy because they know they will all be with Him in heaven together. There certainly was something in that little church that made people happy – and His name is Jesus!

9. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

1. Whenever you feel lost, keep moving in your walk with Jesus and you will find your way home!
2. Without Jesus, we have an emptiness inside our heart and we are lost just like the lost sheep, the shivering birds, and the lost man.
3. Jesus fills the emptiness and brings joy to troubled hearts.
4. Only Jesus can draw men to Himself for salvation.
5. God uses our circumstances to show us the truth.
6. God became a man so we can know Him and be saved.
7. When we receive Jesus for our Savior He waits for us to meet with Him to give us joy in His presence.
8. It is not by anything we can do ourselves but only by the Holy Spirit and loving kindness of God that anyone can be saved.
9. Even those who have never heard about Jesus have no excuse, because God shows everyone about Himself in nature around them, like He showed salvation to Sarah and Todd's dad with the birds.
10. Jesus is coming back for us to be with Him forever in Heaven, so let's come to find joy in His presence now and forevermore!

Pray closing prayer together:

*Our Father, Thank you for becoming a man in our LORD Jesus Christ to bring us salvation and so we might know and love you like you love us. Thank you Jesus, for coming into my heart to fill the emptiness inside with your love. Help me to spend quiet time with you every day, so I will have fullness of joy in my life each and every day, and be ready when you come again, **In Jesus name, Amen.***



10. LILLY’S PRAYER FOR A BIRD (From A True Story)

Lilly was afraid that when she prayed to God, that maybe He wasn’t listening. Lilly’s dad had built a special bird aviary outside her window so that she could watch her birds fly. The cats also liked to watch the birds fly, and one day, Lilly found one of the birds lying on the ground with its leg bleeding and torn.



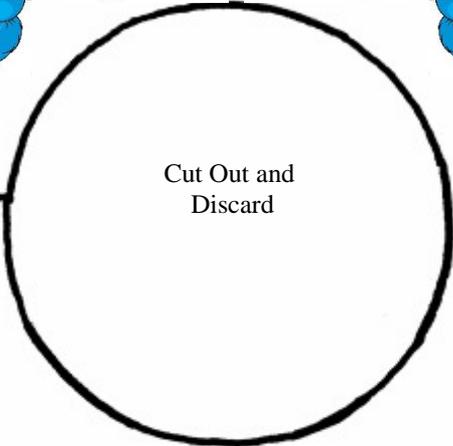
“Poor thing must have gotten too close to the edge and the cat got it.” thought Lilly. When she tried to open the aviary to help the bird, it was so frightened that it only made the leg worse, so Lilly closed the door, and her dad put boards around the bottom of the cage so the cats could not harm the birds any more. He wanted to take out the injured bird to put out of its misery, because he said it was going to die, but Lilly pleaded, ***“No, Daddy, let me pray and ask Jesus to heal my bird.”*** Lilly’s dad was sad for the bird because it was suffering and there was nothing he could do, but because Lilly believed with all her heart that Jesus would heal her bird, he let Lilly keep the bird in the aviary for one week to see if it would live.

Lilly watched over the birds and she prayed, ***“Dear Jesus, you said that you care about the little sparrows and that you care about me, please heal my little bird. Thank you, Jesus, Amen.”*** Every day Lilly prayed for the poor little bird as he hobbled around on the ground of the bird cage, and even though he didn’t seem to be getting better she thanked Jesus for answering her prayer.

On the last morning of the week, Lilly’s dad came to take the poor suffering bird away. But first Lilly ran to the cage to see, and the bird was sitting up with both feet on his swing singing! ***“The little bird is singing praises to Jesus, Daddy!”*** she said, ***“Jesus cares about the sparrows and He cares about me! Jesus answered my prayers!”*** Lilly’s dad smiled, and he said, ***“Amen!”***

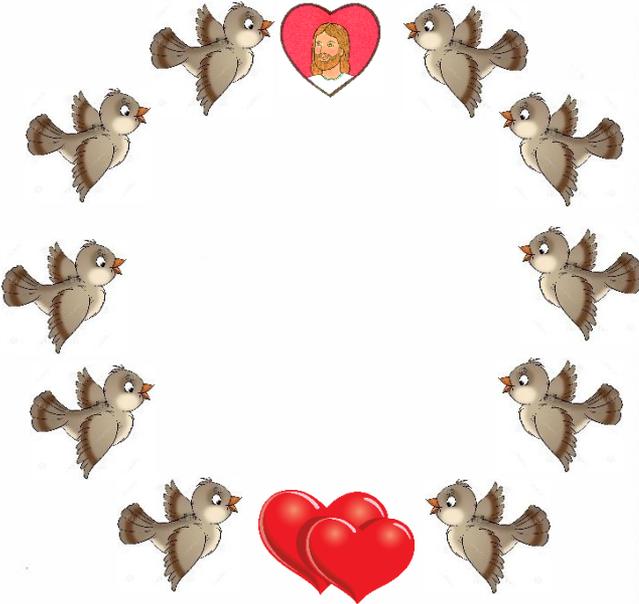
(The bird in this story lived in an aviary outside our window – Diane Gordon)

11. GOSPEL CRAFT - The Snow Birds



Cut Out and Discard

Matthew 10:31 "Fear ye not therefore, you are of more value than many sparrows."



**JESUS SAVED ME FOR ETERNITY
BECAUSE HE LOVES AND VALUES ME
I SHALL NOT FEAR WHAT BE TOMORROW,
BECAUSE JESUS LOVES ME
MORE THAN MANY SPARROWS.**

Directions:

1. Copy to Card Stock
2. Color Girl or Boy
3. Cut out child.
4. Glue in bird circle
5. Cut out door hang
6. Cut out open space
7. Cut on dotted line
8. Add sparkle jewels
9. Hang on door or tree



**JESUS CARES ABOUT THE SPARROWS
AND JESUS CARES ABOUT ME.**



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

Matthew 6:26