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Family Service

All God's Critters by Ben M.

1 Kings 4:29-34

We are going to talk about wisdom and all God's creatures, hoping we can, grow in wisdom and understand the world as God sees it better. To do this we need to open the Bible and follow while Izzy reads 1Kings 4:29-34.

Look at verse 33 where he talks about four different types of creatures that God has made: animals, birds, creepy crawlies (a better translation than reptiles), and fish. There are so many different creatures and they all make so many different noises. [congregation practice noises] "God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than anyone else, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Kalkol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered one thousand and five. He spoke about plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also spoke about animals [roaring, bleating, barking, oinking etc.] and birds, [tweeters, cooing, crowing, hooting etc.] reptiles [a-a-aw] and fish. [whales & dauphine sounds]."

When we learn about animals in school animals are broken down into different groups. We learn about mammals that have hair, always feed their babies on milk have live births, except for the duckbilled platypus, and are warm blooded. Another defining thing is there are three bones in the inner ear of every mammal. That's something I didn't know! We learn about amphibians (live on land and in water) and crustaceans (animals with shells), arachnids (spider) and one I've never heard of, the echinoderms (star fish), worms and molluscs. We also divide them into carnivores

(meat-eaters), herbivores (plant-eaters) and omnivores (eat everything). We learn that fish have bones but shark don't, they have cartilage. It's amazing how many different kinds of creatures there are, like the BLOB fish. But when Solomon was teaching he spoke of four different divisions or categories: animal, birds, creepy



crawlies, and fish. By reading Genesis 1:26, he learned to divide up the creatures into four different boxes. He got this wisdom from God. Each of these creatures has its own special place: birds have the sky, fish have the sea and creepy crawlies have the ground. Each has been given their own kingdom with their own ruler: whales rule the sea, the eagle and condor are kings of the sky and lions and elephants rule the animal kingdom and snakes rule the ground. But, we humans have been made rulers and kings over them all. This passage tells us that human beings have more power than all the kingdoms of creation put together. Everything has been put in our care. We may have power and freedom but with that comes responsibility to look after all God's creatures. Children you know how people live in groups and in our groups some people have a bit more responsibility than others, like our parents at home or teachers at school, bosses at work or governments. Solomon had been made king over a lot of different nations. He was king over many other kings. He was super-duper powerful. The more power you have the more responsibilities you have. The bigger the environment the more there is to remember and understand. Solomon needed to be so, so wise. We read 'God gave Solomon wisdom'. When we think how much responsibility we have remember God is willing to give us wisdom so we

can handle the power and do a really good job.

Here's another difference between what we learn at school and what we read in the Bible. You won't be told in school what Solomon knew because he read the Bible. It's one of the most important things and that is that God made all the animals, birds, fish and creepy crawlies. The all wise God was prepared to teach Solomon all about all of these things. If you want to know about creation read the Bible and he will show you about his world. You will understand that God has given all these creatures their places and he has given us a lot of responsibility. If this responsibility makes our heads spin he will guide us and show us how to live if we turn to him. It's so important to remember that although Solomon was a king, he also had a king over him. Even though we have so much power, we are not at the top of the chain. There is one who has so much more power over us. We will get wisdom when we turn to him and trust him.

Do you think it would be wise for a chicken to walk up to an eagle and say, 'get off your nest I'm going to lay my eggs here.'? Do you think a rabbit would say to a lion, 'move on, get out of the way, I want to sit there and eat my carrots.'? Or what about a minnow saying to a great white shark, 'this is my coral reef, buzz off.'? Bad idea! So, why do people tell God to 'clear off because this is my life and I'm going to live it my way.'? Is that clever? You want to be able to respect God, the King of kings and the Lord of everything. Solomon knew that being king over all these people and the environment was too much for him to handle but he had God above him who would give him wisdom and teach and train him if he would trust him. Take home this truth; 'Jesus is the king, ruler over everything'. He is a good lord who will help you and train you if you will let him.