

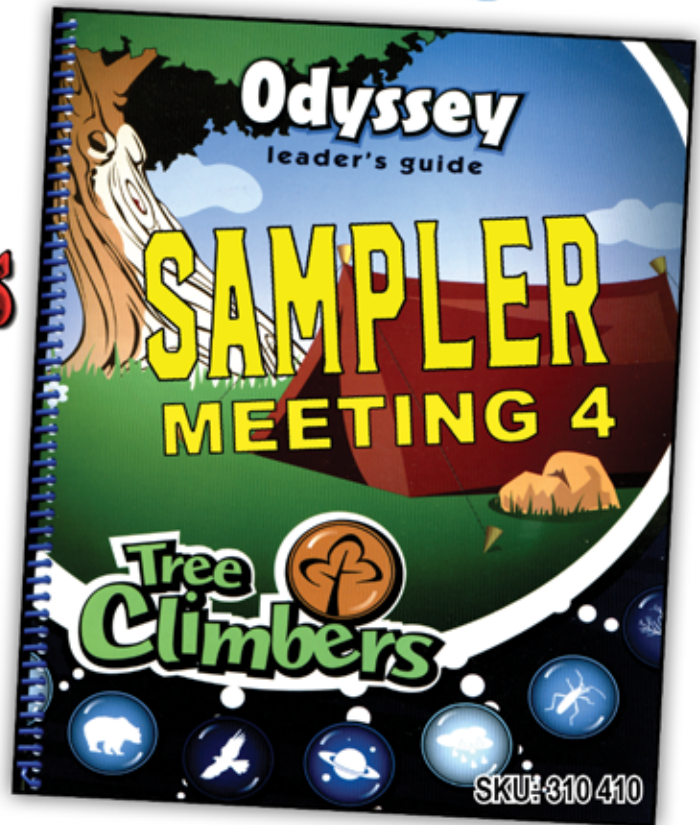
Odyssey Meeting 4



“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 2:1)

You can obtain *Tree Climbers Odyssey* from:
CSB US - store.csbministries.org
CSB Canada - store.christianservicebrigade.ca



There's no greater call we can answer than to be the instrument that God uses to unlock a young person's potential.

From the Tree Climber's Leader's Guide:

Welcome to the world of Tree Climbers, an exciting journey for dads and sons to grow in their relationships with Christ and with each other, while making new friends. At Tree Climbers, young boys spend quality time with their dads and other adult Christian men. Together, men and kids have fun, learn about God's creation and grow closer to God and each other. Games, projects and adventures are centered around a weekly theme and Bible verse. Young boys flourish with the one-on-one time with godly men. Dads gain leadership skills and confidence by taking turns leading games, explaining projects and sharing Bible stories.

God bless you on this journey and have a terrific year!

Contact CSB for information regarding the companion volume, *Tree Climbers Discovery*.

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We Thank God

Unit Aim: To recognize that God protects us and provides for us in all circumstances.



Woody's Welcome

A few birds can be found from coast to coast in North America, but most are found only in certain areas. For example, you'll probably never see whippoorwills in California because they make their homes only in the eastern U.S. and Canada.

Some birds travel long distances. Late in fall, you'll often see flocks of geese flying south. This means that the geese are going to a warmer place to live because winter is coming. When winter is over, you'll see the geese returning to their homes in the north. They know spring is coming. Many different kinds of birds migrate or move from one place to another when seasons change.



Woody's Games

Steal the String You'll need three sets of keys, string or yarn, a blindfold and two volleyballs or play balls

Everyone sits in a circle. Blindfold one child, who sits on the floor in the center. Put two volleyballs or play balls in his hands. Place three sets of keys about a foot away from him. Tie a piece of string or yarn to each set.

Another child is a bird building its nest. He tries to pick up the string and keys and take them back to his seat. When the blindfolded player hears the keys, he throws a ball to hit the other player. If he does, the "bird" replaces him in the center.

Missing Eggs Provide 6-10 different sizes of balls, a box or a cloth.

Put 6-10 balls on a table and cover them with a cloth or box. Tell players the balls are different birds' eggs as you let them look at them for 10-15 seconds. Then send them across the room with their backs to the table and remove one ball. Bring the players back. Let them guess which egg is gone.

Play several times. Move some of the balls after removing one to make it more challenging. Or, take two out.

4
WEEK

Adventure Verse



Acts 14:17

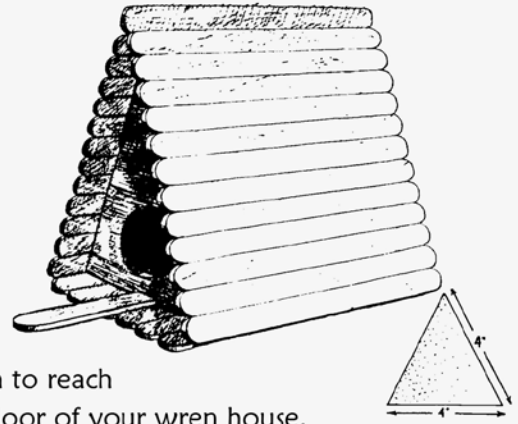
He provides you
with plenty of
food and fills your
hearts with joy.



Fun To Do

Popsicle Stick Wren House

Provide popsicle or craft sticks, 4"x4"x1/4" pieces of cork and wood glue; pencils, quarters, box cutters; varnish and paintbrushes (optional).



1. Lay several sticks flat with their sides touching. Use enough to reach from on corner of a cork triangle to the other. This is the floor of your wren house.
2. Lay a quarter about 1/4" from one side of one piece of cork. Draw a circle around the quarter. Cut out the circle to make a door. [Leaders may do this ahead of time.]
3. Spread glue on the end of the triangle beneath the door. Press it onto the sticks about 1/2" from one end. Do the same with the other triangle.
4. Put glue on one end of each triangle. Lay your sticks across, beginning at the bottom.
5. Add glue to the last end of the triangle and add your sticks.
6. Glue one stick beneath the door as a perch.
7. Varnish your wren house if there is time.



Woody's Checkup

Learn Acts 14:17. Then, talk about these questions:

1. If you were a bird, where would you like to fly?
2. God puts birds where he has provided food and shelter for them. What kinds of food and shelter has God provided for you?
3. Let's remember the verses we've learned so far (Luke 12:24, Nahum 1:7, 1 Peter 5:7, Acts 14:17). How does knowing how much God cares for you make you feel?



Woody's Stretch

Feed the Birds For each team, draw an outline of a bird with its beak open on posterboard. Cut out a space between the open beak to toss your choice of "bird food": bean bags, ping pong balls or acorns.

Each team stands a few feet away from its bird. One at a time, players try to toss bird food into their bird's mouth. Count a point for each item that the bird "eats." The best-fed bird's team wins.



Tree Climbers Circle

Tell the story, "Birds That Swim."

Birds That Swim

by William Coleman

“Birds that swim.” This is one way of describing the penguin. They seem to have wings but can’t fly. Their beaks and eyes look like they belong to a creature in the sky. Scientists insist it is a member of the bird family. So far, the penguin isn’t convinced. He merely waddles along on the ice and swims in the cold sea.

These aren’t the only things which make the penguin different. If it can’t be a bird, it has at least decided to be a helicopter. They might swim to the side of an ice bank and then shoot straight up out of the water. Their wings flap like propellers. They can do it with such force that they land feet-first on the ice.

A penguin looks funny when it walks. His heavy body and short legs give him a comical look.

Despite its clumsy appearance the penguin isn’t so easy to catch. Not that their enemies don’t try. A sea bird, the skua, enjoys penguin eggs and baby chicks. The skua can’t fight a healthy penguin. They steal eggs if the adults don’t watch carefully. If the nest is guarded well, the skua birds act as a team. One will distract the penguin while the other carries off an egg.

The adults are usually safe from the leopard seals. These enemies swim in the sea and wait for penguins. Most healthy, careful ones can avoid their tough hunters.

Penguins build their nests in areas called rookeries. Thousands of them get together but keep their homes a safe distance from each other. They love to be with a crowd. These neat-looking creatures chatter constantly.

They aren’t afraid to fight. The close distance between their nests invites plenty of arguments. An angry penguin will peck his

opponent and hit with his flippers.

Generally, penguins don’t grow tall. A foot and a half is probably average for the Adelle variety.

When they build their nests on the snowy ground, the mother and father play different parts. Dad is in charge of finding materials while Mom takes care of construction. One by one, pebbles are collected from the shoreline. Work isn’t their favorite sport, so if a nest is left unguarded a neighbor will probably steal a couple of pebbles.

God has sprinkled his earth with fascinating characters and sights. They are each a reminder of the imagination and wonder of our Creator. It is amazing what God can do.

“[God] stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations. Those living far away fear your wonders; where morning dawns and evening fades you call forth songs of joy” (Ps 65:7-8).

1. Why are penguins called birds?
2. When are they “helicopters”?
3. Can you see God’s work in nature? How?

With God’s imagination, he didn’t settle for a dull world.

“Birds That Swim” from *Listen to the Animals* by William Coleman. © Bethany House Publishers. Used with permission.

Talking it over

1. Do penguins fly? Do they make nests in trees or somewhere else?
2. If penguins aren’t like other birds, how does God take care of them? (fish to eat, pebbles to build nests, group safety)
3. Let’s thank God for taking care of us.