

22 Special Studies

1.	Naming the Animals	12.	Elijah's Ravens
2.	Noah's Dove	13.	Elisha's two Bears
3.	The Proud Ostrich	14.	Daniel's Lions
4.	The Behemoth on Land	15.	Jonah's Great Fish
5.	The Leviathan in the Sea	16.	The Temple Doves
6.	The Frogs in Egypt	17.	The 2,000 Swine
7.	The Deadly Quail	18.	The Fish with a Coin
8.	The Fiery Serpents	19.	The Donkey's Colt
9.	Balaam's Talking Donkey	20.	Paul's Viper
10.	The Scapegoat	21.	Tribulation Predators
11.	Samson's Foxes / Jackals	22.	The Kingdom Animals

The animals, birds, and fish in the Bible that were selected for this set were real and in most ways ordinary, but they were special in how they were used. Thus the great fish / whale which swallowed Jonah and the donkey which was enabled to speak to Balaam were probably not different in their basic nature from others of their kind even though the Creator chose to use them in special ways.

Seven Keys to the Special Animals in the Bible

1. The Creation Connection

For each study, the Bible passage is to be read **AND** some articles on the animal or bird therein are to read as well. Thus, these studies can easily be linked to Christian school / homeschool science projects.

For instance, for the study on Balaam's talking donkey (Numbers 22:22-35), one will learn through outside reading that donkeys are highly intelligent and protective. So though the donkey being able to speak was, of course, miraculous, the things that she said were in line with what a normal, intelligent, domestic donkey would have thought.



2. The Gospel Connection

Four of the studies are in the Gospels. Moreover, the gospel can be made clear through animal studies, such as one on the fiery serpents (Numbers 21:4-9). The lifting up of the bronze serpent was like the sacrificial lifting up of the Son of Man on the cross (John 3:14-15). Those who by faith looked up were saved.



Doing a study on the kinds of vipers that live in the Arabian desert may not be pleasant, but neither is a serious study on the deadly nature of sin. Yet, on the other hand, the gracious nature of the forgiveness of sin is clearly seen through the study on the scapegoat (#10).

3. Easy yet Meaningful Questions

Each study has a worksheet with 16 descriptive lines or questions. These are usually not difficult since the answers are also provided and participants merely agree or disagree with the given answers. Though in some cases those in the study may only partly agree with the answer, for the most part the questions are just true / false.

In the study on Elijah's ravens (1 Kings 17:2-7), most would quickly agree with the worksheet statement that the ravens were not bakers. Yet, this simple line reminds us that there must have been a human



baker or a number of such that made the bread which the ravens brought to Elijah twice a day. The birds got it from someone. Probably the helpful human bakers are deliberately not mentioned to better stress that the Lord provides.

4. Taking Time to Think

Those doing the study on Noah's dove (study #2) may quickly agree with the worksheet statement that the dove was an ideal bird to send out, but it is important to stop and think about why it was ideal. Why was it more helpful than the raven, even though ravens were a great help to Elijah later? (See study #12.) Why wouldn't an eagle or a duck have been good choices for Noah? More importantly, was it necessary to send out the dove at all? God later told Noah when to leave the ark. So was Noah's investigation just a big waste of time?



5. Taking Time to Compare

Many worksheet lines call for thoughtful comparison. For instance, in the study on the deadly quail, one line says that the quail in Numbers chapter 11 were "like and unlike the quail in Exodus 16:13." In one case,



they were deadly, and in the other they were not. Yet they were the same kind of bird. Another line on the same worksheet says that the deadly quail were somewhat like Bathsheba. Though very different in many ways, physical lust was involved in both cases!

6. The Happy Endings

Many studies deal with sin and Fall related brutality in the animal kingdom. Yet, the final study in the set is a happy one on the peaceful animals in the future millennial kingdom as predicted in Isaiah 11:6-9. The wolf and the lamb shall be together again.

Other happy endings are found earlier in the series with Daniel's miraculous emergence from the lions' den and Jonah's miraculous reappearance from the great fish both of which were resurrection like.



7. Descriptive D.I.Y.

The phrases on all 22 worksheets were selected from Descriptive-It-Yourself master lists. Using these lists, you can make your own descriptive studies. <https://www.toaministries.com/contact/descriptive-studies-home>