

Preparing for the Readings for Next Sunday
with S.O.A.P.

Old Testament: Jonah 3:1–5, 10

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 7:29–31 (32–35)

Gospel: Mark 1:14–20



This brief Bible Study is designed to help you dig into the Word of God and prepare for the coming Sunday's readings. It is our fervent hope that this will be a blessing to you and your family!

- S** Scripture: *Keeping the larger context of Scripture in mind (for example: verse, chapter, book, etc.), what words and/or verses stand out to me?*
- O** Observation: *What is happening or what is the teaching that is being shared? What is God saying about Himself? Is this Law or Gospel? Who is doing the action?*
- A** Application: *What does this mean as I live out my life as a disciple of Christ? How does the Law apply to me? How does the Gospel apply to me? How is God asking us to respond within our family or community? How is God asking me to personally respond? What change(s) needs to happen in my life?*
- P** Prayer: *What prayer is God placing on my heart today? Who is in need of prayer? If me, what do I need from God to help me live out what He has given me in His Word?*

CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

The Bowerbirds of New Guinea



He hath made every [thing] beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

The bowerbirds of New Guinea and Australia are among the most unusual birds in the world. The group of species known collectively as bowerbirds are named from the bowers, or small huts, that the males build in the hope of wooing a mate.

These bowers are constructed of sticks, stood umbrella fashion around a center support pole. They are usually built on green moss right on the ground. Most bowers are around two and one-half feet tall and six feet in diameter. They are so well built by the birds that they are waterproof.

Once construction is complete, the bowerbird sets out to collect colorful decorations. He uses these to decorate the inside of his home and his front yard. Decorations include fruits, leaves, flowers, butterfly wings, and even dead beetles. The more colorful the bauble, the better. In decorating his home, same-colored items are always stacked together, and decorations are moved and replaced daily. This is done in the hope that some nice lady bowerbird will come by and be attracted by his sense of interior and exterior design.

It's interesting that, contrary to what we often hear, there is a common sense among creatures of what is beautiful. The bowerbird's colorful arrangements are attractive to bowerbirds as well as to humans. This suggests that we share a common sense of beauty with other creatures because our Creator has an appreciation of beauty.

Ref: Diamond, Jared. 1984. "The bower builders." Discover, June. p. 52. Photo: Satin bowerbird. (Pixabay)

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