

CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

Natural Fire Insurance



But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this? (Job 12:7-9)

The 1988 fires in Yellowstone National Park were the worst ever recorded there. But researchers who studied the fires and their effects now say that it is normal for such huge fires to occur every couple of centuries in Yellowstone. And while fires burned about 20 percent of the park, less than 1 percent was so devastated by fire that the soil was made lifeless. Further, periodic fires speed the release of nutrients to the soil that are trapped in dead wood. Many plants actually depend on fires to shock them out of an unproductive dormant period.

The Lodgepole pine makes up 77 percent of Yellowstone's forests and actually has its own fire insurance. The pine produces two kinds of seed-bearing cones. One cone releases its seeds normally. But the other cone is coated with a strong resin that keeps the cone sealed shut. These cones may remain sealed on the tree for decades until a fire burns off the resin and causes the cone to release its seeds. After a fire, there are up to 20 seeds for every square foot of forest lying on the ground, ready to sprout in the newly enriched soil!

The wisdom and love of the Creator is seen once again in providing for the Lodgepole pine tree with an amazing fire insurance system.

Ref: Richard Monastersky. "After the Flames." Science News, vol. 134, p. 330. Photo: 10 years after the 1988 Yellowstone fires, Lodgepole pine forests reestablish themselves amongst still standing dead trees.

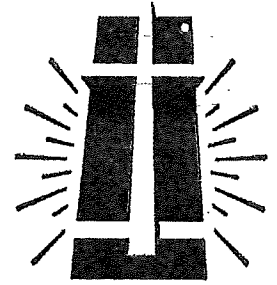
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Preparing for the Readings for Next Sunday
with S.O.A.P.



Old Testament: 1 Kings 19:9b–21
Epistle: Galatians 5:1, 13–25
Gospel: Luke 9:51–62

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?*