

Nature Story Homework

Name: Hanna

Teaching Day: Thursday

Nature Animal: Pelican

Character Quality: Generosity

Definition: Realizing that all I have belongs to God and using it for his purposes.

I will... Give my time and talents.

Animal Facts:

Spouses and Parents – Parent pelicans have a big job to do to take care of their family but they do it generously. When a male and female pelican first meet, they greet one another with a graceful bow.

The male pelican is the one who chooses a nesting site and gathers all the materials needed. After building the nest and making sure that everything is in place, he gives the nest to his mate.

Parent pelicans also give their babies shelter. In the blazing sun they spread their huge wings and arrange themselves to cast a shadow over the eggs to keep the eggs from being cooked by the sun or over the baby chicks to keep them from getting sunburned. On cold and rainy days, pelicans will stand over the eggs to keep them warm and dry.

When the pelican feed their young they swallow the fish and pre-digest it. Then the babies poke their heads down their parents' throat to force the food out of their stomach. The baby pelicans eat so much from their parents that by the time they leave the nest they weigh 20% more than their parents.

When pelicans fly they fly in a long, single-file line. But they fly just to the side and slightly behind one another. This makes it easier for the birds to fly through the air and makes it easier for the birds behind each one to fly.

Love through Body Language – The pelican can tell other pelicans a lot of things without opening its mouth. For example, the direction that the pelican dives in the water tells other birds which way the wind is blowing, the height that they start their dives tells how deep the fish are swimming, and the direction that they stand tells where the sun is in the sky because pelicans always face away from the sun, which actually tells what time it is because the sun helps us track time.

Suffering – In the past, fishermen used to capture a pelican and tie them to a stake along the beach. Then when his pelican friends would see him tied up there, they would catch and drop fish for that pelican to eat. But the fishermen would gather the fish for themselves. Even though the other pelicans saw the fishermen taking their fish, they continued to give fish to their captured friend as long as he was tied to the stake.

Time and Talents – When the parent pelicans are waiting for their eggs to hatch, both parents take turns standing on their eggs. If we stood on eggs, the eggs would break but God has designed the pelican’s feet just right so that it doesn’t break the eggs that they are standing on. Sometimes a parent will stand on their eggs for 3 days, without eating or drinking! They give their full time, talents, and attention to their eggs.

Good in place of wrong – Pelicans catch fish by diving into the water and opening their mouth. Their pouch fills not only with fish but also with 2.5 gallons of water. Before they can swallow their fish they have to wait for all that water to drain from their pouch so they leave their mouth open. But often a pesky sea gull comes and steals that fish right out of the pelican’s mouth. The pelican is very generous though and doesn’t attack or attempt to get even. It patiently catches more fish.

How the “I will...” relates to the animal and to the life of the child:

Provide practical examples of how the child/parent could apply the “I will...” in their lives.

Spouses and Parents – Parents are you being generous in your honor to your spouse; do you give them gifts through your words, actions, and touch to show them that you honor them? And do your kids see you generously honoring each other?

The pelican is generous in providing shelter, food, and rides for their family; they do it with a generous heart. I know that many of you, parents, sacrifice for your kids too so that they can have a good home, food, and take your kids and their friends places...but do you do it with a generous heart or a complaining heart?

Love through Body Language – What are you telling through your actions? Are you showing that you are generous? How could you show someone that you are generous even without saying something?

Smiling, a hug or high-five, helping someone pick something up, giving them a card, etc.

Suffering – Is there someone in need that you need to be generous to in your time and talents? Maybe there is an elderly person that you know in your family, church, or neighborhood.

How could you be generous in your time and talents toward that person? *Talking with them, making them a gift.*

Maybe there’s someone that you see that is lonely at work, church, or school. Go up and talk with them; invite them over to your home.

Time and Talents – We need to be generous with our time every day. If you are a parent, that might look like stopping what you are doing to listen to your child when they want to tell you about their day, ask you a question, or talk about a problem. For kids, that might look like helping a parent, sibling, friend, or neighbor without complaining. Instead of asking “when can I stop helping?”, being generous

with your time means spending whatever time is necessary to help someone else whether you are helping with household chores, homework, or something else someone has asked you to do.

Good in place of wrong – What do you do when someone takes something that belongs to you?

Interaction: Write any ideas that you have for what you can include in your lesson to engage the children. You do not have to use all the ideas that you write down.

(Props, interaction, pictures, skit, etc.)

Call up kids to draw each slip of paper out of the a bag about the generous pelican.

Everyone stand up and bow when I talk about the pelicans bowing to each other.

Call up a family to stand in a line when I talk about the pelicans flying in a line.

Check List:

- Have you included interaction in your nature story?
- Have you practiced your story out loud at least 3 times?
- Have you timed your story?
- Outline/Script
- Slips of Paper with the facts about the generous pelican
- Bag to put the slips of paper in
- Tape
- PPT of the Pelican

Nature Story Script/Outline

The animal that we are going to learn about today is the pelican. He shows generosity. Let's say the definition of generosity in the pelican voice: Realizing that all I have belongs to God and using it for his purposes.

I am going to call up a volunteer to come up and draw a slip of paper out of the bag and then we will talk about how the pelican shows and reminds us to show generosity. *(Slips might not be drawn in this order but these are the talking points for each slip. Tape up each slip as it is drawn. May not have time for all the slips but am prepared to talk about each one.)*

Spouses and Parents – Parent pelicans have a big job to do to take care of their family but they do it generously. When a male and female pelican first meet, they greet one another with a graceful bow.

(Everyone stand up and bow)

The male pelican is the one who chooses a nesting site and gathers all the materials needed. After building the nest and making sure that everything is in place, he gives the nest to his mate.

Parent pelicans also give their babies shelter. In the blazing sun they spread their huge wings and arrange themselves to cast a shadow over the eggs to keep the eggs from being cooked by the sun or over the baby chicks to keep them from getting sunburned. On cold and rainy days, pelicans will stand over the eggs to keep them warm and dry.

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When pelicans fly they fly in a long, single-file line. But they fly just to the side and slightly behind one another. *(Call up a family to demonstrate)* This makes it easier for the birds to fly through the air and makes it easier for the birds behind each one to fly.

The pelican is generous in providing shelter, food, and rides for their family; they do it with a generous heart. I know that many of you, parents, sacrifice for your kids too so that they can have a good home, food, and take your kids and their friends places...but do you do it with a generous heart or a complaining heart?

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Good in place of wrong – Pelicans catch fish by diving into the water and opening their mouth. Their pouch fills not only with fish but also with 2.5 gallons of water (show 2.5 gallons of water). Before they can swallow their fish they have to wait for all that water to drain from their pouch so they leave their mouth open. But often a pesky sea gull comes and steals that fish right out of the pelican's mouth.

What do you do when someone takes something that belongs to you? *(Let children respond)*

The pelican is very generous and doesn't attack or attempt to get even. It patiently catches more fish. When someone comes and takes something that belongs to you, how could you show generosity to them? *By not demanding that they give it back or offering to play together.*

The pelican teaches us to have a generous heart whether it is with your spouse, as parents, through our body language, to those in suffering, with your time and talents, or to those who do you wrong. When you go home tonight, think about how you can have a generous heart, just like the pelican.