

Children and family talk for 13th March 2022

Good morning, everyone!

Looking out into my garden I can see daffodils and other spring flowers blooming, the sun is shining and it's a lovely Spring day. It won't be long before we will be able to see ducklings on the ponds and streams with their parents. Have you ever watched ducklings or chicks with their parents? The adult birds are very protective, looking after their offspring and making sure they don't come to any harm. In our bible reading today, Jesus mentions some animals, listen and see if you can hear which ones he talks about.

Let's read our bible verses together, from

Luke 13 verses 31-35.

³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said, "Go away from here! Herod wants to kill you!"

³² Jesus said to them, "Go tell that fox Herod, 'Today and tomorrow I am forcing demons out of people and finishing my work of healing. Then, on the third day, I will reach my goal.' ³³ Yet I must be on my way today and tomorrow and the next day. Surely it cannot be right for a prophet to be killed anywhere except in Jerusalem.

³⁴ "Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets. You kill with stones those men that God has sent you. Many times I wanted to help your people. I wanted to gather them together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you did not let me. ³⁵ Now your home will be left completely empty. I tell you, you will not see me again until that time when you will say, 'God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Did you spot the animals that Jesus spoke about?

Jesus mentioned a fox, a hen and her chicks!

In our reading the Pharisees were a group of people who tried to keep every part of the Jewish law very strictly. Most of them felt that Jesus was not strict enough. They warn Jesus that the ruler Herod is out to get him, and they try to get Jesus to run and hide. But Jesus hadn't come down to earth to run and hide from the bad people, he says that they should go and tell that fox, Herod, that Jesus will finish his work of healing people, until on the third day he will reach his goal. Jesus called Herod a fox because he did some very bad things, including having John the Baptist imprisoned and later killed. Foxes aren't really bad of course, but if you are a chicken then foxes can be dangerous!

But where do the hen and her chicks come in? Well, Jesus is talking about the people of Jerusalem as the chicks. Jesus wants to gather them together and protect and look after them, just like a mother hen would for her chicks. But sadly, the people of Jerusalem would not let that happen.

God wants to look after us too. God has plans for each one of us, if only we will accept God's help and let God reign in our lives. All we have to do is turn to God, stop doing things wrong and start to do the right things the way Jesus taught us. Be kind and loving to others, and learn to do right.

Let's talk to God now;

Heavenly Father,

thank you that you care about the big things and the small things in our lives.

Thank you that you are with us today, tomorrow and the next day.

Thank you that you will never leave us.

Amen.

Let's finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)

The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)

Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Here is a link for a song from Hillsong, Young and free <https://youtu.be/qEvEVALlNQ>

Here is the link for the activity sheet from Roots.

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/23584/activity-sheet-13-march-2022.pdf>

And the roots at home sheet: [roots-at-home-13-march-2022-colour.pdf](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/23584/roots-at-home-13-march-2022-colour.pdf)
([rootsontheweb.com](https://www.rootsontheweb.com))