

The 12 Days of Christmas
#3: Two Turtledoves

Overall objective: to learn about God while singing a silly, fun Christmas song

Objective: To share the relationship of the Old Testament to the New Testament

Step 1: Introduction

We're enjoying a song called "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Some people say that it was written to teach about the Christian faith. Other people say, no, it was just a child's memory-game song. We are using it to remember some basic Bible truths.

Step 2: Review and Sing

First, what are the 12 days of Christmas? (between Jesus' birth and when the wise men arrived to worship. It is church tradition. The Bible does not say when the wise men arrived.)

So **let's sing** our song. (sing the whole thing through the 6th day)

Who is the "true love"? (God)

What are two important things to remember about God? (use your fists as a hint) He is loving (fist 1) and He is just (fist 2). He loves the people He made, (fist 1) but He must punish sin. (fist 2)

Who is the "partridge"? (Jesus)

Why is Jesus the partridge? (The partridge will die for her babies. Jesus died for us)

How does God's love (fist 1) and His justice (fist 2) come together? (He gave Jesus to die for us. Anyone who believes is included in Jesus' death, so they will not be punished for the wrong things they have done.)

Step 3: The Two Turtledoves

What is the gift on the second day? (give time.) Two turtledoves. Birds.
What could this mean? Any ideas?

OK, let's take our Bibles. The Bible has two basic parts. The first part of the Bible is the Old Testament. The second part of the Bible is the New Testament. The two turtledoves are going to remind us of these two parts.

Why are there two parts to the Bible? Any ideas?

The main theme of the Bible is Jesus. The Old Testament was written before Jesus came to earth. The New Testament was written after Jesus went back to heaven. So, the Old Testament is before Jesus. The New Testament is after Jesus. The Old Testament tells that Jesus is going to come. The New Testament tells about Jesus' life and teaching.

Now, between the Old Testament and the New Testament there were 400 years when God did not say anything new to His people. So, the entire Old Testament was finished 400 years before Jesus.

The Old Testament does not only say that Jesus is coming. There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament about Jesus. What is a prophecy? (Write on board. Practice pronouncing. Telling what will happen in the future.)

So, all the prophecies about Jesus were written in the Bible at least 400 years before Jesus was born.

Step 4: Bible

Let's look at a prophecy. Let's read Micah 5:2. Micah was a prophet. His book is in the Old Testament, of course. It is near the end of the Old Testament. Micah is a little book.

Where will the ruler in Israel come from? (Read. Let them answer: Bethlehem)

Look at the amazing things this verse says about the ruler. He will come from - ? Bethlehem! And yet, "His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity." The ruler will be eternal? Who is eternal besides God? Remember, even though Jesus was a man, the Bible teaches that He was the eternal God who became man.

Now, let's see if this prophecy came true. Let's read Matthew 2:1. Matthew is in the New Testament, of course. Matthew is the first book in the New Testament.

Where was Jesus born? (Read. Let them answer: Bethlehem!)

Wow! This 400 year old prophecy came true. How did Micah know the future? Let's see what the Bible says. Let's read II Peter 1:21.

How was the Bible written? (read. Let them answer: men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God)

Men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. The Bible was written by men, but behind those men was God. Micah did not use special powers to see the future. God used Micah to tell what would happen in the future. God told Micah what to write, and since God knows the future, of course, Micah's prophecy, and all the prophecies in the Bible, came true.

Step 5: Any questions or comments?