

APPLICATION

1. The Bible, in numerous places, encourages us to learn from nature. This week as you go about your days, look at the birds. It is not just for old folks! Learn from them. Luke 12:6-7 says: "Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows." Like the eagle, do not fear when storms come your way, God even knows all the hairs on your head.
2. The turn around of the bald eagle from the brink of extinction speaks to me about the deliverance and redemption of God. This is part of the reason I love seeing the bald eagle so much as I go about my day! I do not believe in coincidence. I believe the Lord opens my eyes to see these majestic birds for a reason. Have you had a similar experience where the Lord just opened your eyes to keep seeing the same thing or same type of thing over and over again to try to get a message to you? If so, please share this experience with the group.
3. One of the promises of waiting on the Lord in Isaiah 40:31 is that "... they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength ..." Do you need your strength renewed in a specific area or a specific way this week? Ask someone you trust this week to pray for you to be renewed in this area!

Prayer: Father, thank You for Your deliverance, redemption and renewed strength. Thank You for the promise of Your Word which cannot return to You void. Thank You that we do not have to live in fear but we can live in peace knowing that You know every hair on our head and every hurt in our heart. Thank You that we are in Your hands. Amen.

Freedom Groups were created with the belief that we are all on a journey through life and that our heart's desire is to be free to be all that we can be. We all want to find effective ways of living and be successful. Trying to find these effective ways to overcome the challenges we face by ourselves just does not work well. We are all the same, no one is different. We need others to help us successfully walk our journey to effective living. Everyone is invited to freedom groups so we can journey together. Join in!



Eagles

NOTES

WARM-UP

Can you name someone who handled challenges in their life with grace and dignity?

What did you learn from their example?

What do you know about eagles?

As I get older I find birds fascinating; although I am not a full-fledged bird watcher. It's just when I was younger I didn't pay a whole lot of attention to birds but now I find them amazing.

What really started this interest in birds for me was about two years ago I started to have this unique ability to spot hawks and eagles. I see a lot of large hawk and bald eagles as I am driving or out working. I will be driving along and just happen to look up and see a huge hawk in a tree or on a pole. I will just happen to look over at the river or into a field and there will be one or even two bald eagles. A few weeks ago I saw two bald eagles flying across the river together. Now that is an amazing sight!

When this first started happening to me I would mention it to others and no one seemed to notice all the hawks or especially the bald eagles. After telling others a few times of how often I see these birds and others saying they never see them, I actually stopped to take pictures so people would know that I was not just imagining them. I also began to point them out to others as I saw them and people were amazed at just how many I saw.

The bald eagles are especially fascinating. When I was growing up they were on the endangered species list. None were ever sighted where I grew up. Now, approximately 30 years later, I see them all the time. What an amazing come back and recovery of such a magnificent bird.

Eagles have some very specific characteristics that we can glean for our own lives.

- Eagles fly with eagles and not with sparrows or other smaller birds.
- Eagles can fly at very high altitude. No other bird can go to the height of the eagle.
- Eagles have strong vision. They have the ability to focus on something over 3 miles away. When an eagle sites his prey, he narrows his focus on it and sets out to get it. No matter the obstacles, the eagle will not move his focus from his prey.
- Eagles eat fresh prey. They do not feed on dead animals like vultures.
- When an eagles faces a storm, he uses the storm's winds to lift it higher where he can glide on the wind currents and rest its wings. In the meantime, other birds hide in the leaves and branches of trees during a storm.

Characteristics of Eagles.

We can learn a lot from the nature of eagles. Like the eagle, we should seek to fly high. We should set our focus on what we know we need to do and not lose focus no matter what obstacles get in our way. Like the eagle we should only seek to deal with what God is up to now and not chew on dead issue of the past. And when we face a storm, we should seek to go above it and not crouch in fear.

Eagles wait on and hope in the Lord.

We also need the patience of the eagle. In Isaiah 40:31 it says, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Are you eagerly waiting on the Lord in an area of your life?

What do people do differently when they eagerly wait on the Lord? (Think about behavior, speech, priorities, thanksgiving ...)

Does your life reflect that you are eagerly waiting on the Lord? Why or why not?

How can this group pray for you to wait with more hope?

Waiting comes with a promise!

When we wait on the Lord, He makes us a promise. Lamentations 3:25 says, "The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him." Psalm 37:34 says, "Wait for the Lord and keep His way, and He will exalt you to inherit the land ..." What awesome promises!

Do these promises of God's goodness and inheritance compel you to want to wait on the Lord? Why or why not?
