

READ★PRAY★WONDER★PLAY

A GUIDE TO SHARING STORIES WITH CHILDREN

What the Crow Saw Below

By Robert Tregoning & Greg Stobbs

As parents and caregivers, we have seen and experienced more than our children and know of potential dangers in the world. When helping children grow and thrive, care needs to be taken to provide safe boundaries while also allowing children to develop their independence and trust in themselves. They may even be able to teach us something along the way.

What the Crow Saw Below celebrates a young crow's curiosity to question and explore, thus leading the older crows in the community to new horizons. It is also a *caw cautionary* tale for adults to be aware of those fears and worries that hold us captive so that we don't limit our children's, or our own, potential to soar.

As you read, have fun telling the story in playful rhyme, keeping the tone light.



★ ★ WONDER TOGETHER ★ ★

- How do the colors in the book relate to the story? Consider the color of the crows and the colors of the pages as the story progresses.
- Why do you think the elder crows look for the dangers below? How is that helpful? How is it not helpful to only look for danger?
- What did the young crow find when she looked on her own? What do you think this taught her?
- Why do you think the young crow was brave? When are you brave? How does being brave feel?
- This story isn't a Bible story and doesn't mention God, but God can be found in all our stories. Where do you see or feel God in this story? Why?

★ ★ EXPLORE THE STORY ★ ★

- Part of the job of the elder crows was to keep the young crow safe from dangers. Talk together about ways that adults keep children safe and ways children can explore the world around them.
- Draw a picture of a fear or worry you have. Then transform that picture into one showing how you can be brave in the face of that fear.
- Act out the story. After acting it out, talk about the feelings you felt throughout the story. Wonder together how they changed and why.
- Tie scarves or ribbons to your wrists, fingers, and ankles and pretend you are birds tumbling and twirling and seeing the wonder of the world. What makes you feel the wonder of the world?

PRAY

Loving God, thank you for being with us when we are afraid or worried and when we see and feel the wonders of the world. Help us be *caw cautious* when we need to be and help us to feel free to soar when we can. Amen.



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Use the following ideas to dig deeper into the story with your children.

- Learn about crows. Do an internet search for “fun facts about crows.” What did you learn about crows that can also be seen in this story? What might you add to this story from what you learned?
- Read the story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17) in a children’s story Bible. Engage in conversation using the following questions:
 - What are some of the similarities in this story and the story of the crows?
 - What is fearsome and frightening in the Bible story?
 - Why does David volunteer to help? What does he know about himself?
 - What does the king do to try and help David? (Some children’s story Bibles may not mention that the king gave David his tunic, armor, helmet, and sword that were much too big and heavy for David to use.)
 - What does David do?
 - How can you trust in God and the skills God has given you when you face big and scary things in your life?
- Do an internet image search for “crow craft for children.” Make a crow together using black, yellow, and white construction paper. With a white paint or gel pen on the black paper, have your child write the Bible verse below. Assist with writing as needed.

“Be brave and strong. Don’t be alarmed or terrified because the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” –Joshua 1:9”

Display the crow in a place your child will see it on a daily basis, perhaps on a bathroom mirror, bedroom door, or refrigerator.

MORE TO READ & DO

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO LEARN MORE

ADDITIONAL DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCE FOR *WHAT THE CROW SAW BELOW*

- Download the [Discussion and Activity Guide](#)

ADDITIONAL BOOKS ABOUT FEAR, ANGER, & ANXIETY

- [Max and the Purple Worry](#), by Kitty Black and Jess Rose
- [For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World](#), by Michael W. Waters and Keisha Morris
- [Simon and the Big, Bad, Angry Beasts: A Book about Anger](#), by Ian De Haes
- [One Thursday Afternoon](#), by Barbara DiLorenzo
- [Where Is Home, Daddy Bear?](#), by Nicola O’Byrne
- [The Worst Christmas Ever](#), by Kathleen Long Bostrom and Guy Porfirio

ALSO BY ROBERT TREGONING

- [The Dress in the Window](#), by Robert Tregoning and Pippa Curnick

Guide written by Meg Elliot Rift and created in partnership with PC(USA)’s initiative “[Around the Table](#)” (pcusa.org/aroundthetable).



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