



AN INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS WILD CHURCH?

wild church is an informal gathering of church in nature. Many denominations, churches and congregations are finding opportunities to meet with creator God in His creation and find that these often an attractive and accessible gathering for those who do not engage with more traditional models of church, including those who are beginning to explore faith. These gatherings are usually intergenerational, giving all ages the opportunity to meet with God together.

Wild Church can take many forms, and these resources are designed to offer some ideas to help kickstart your thinking.

SUGGESTED FORMAT

We have tried this resource in this format, but feel free to adapt to your context

- Gathering time
- Introduction
- Introductory activity or several activities
- Story
- Prayer
- Songs
- Refreshments





CONSIDER THE BIRDS

INTRO

This wild church is designed to explore the way in which Jesus pointed to our feathered friends to help us to discover that we should not be anxious but to trust in him.

This session can be done at any time of year, but the activities will be different as a result. (We did this linked to the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch in January.)

NEED TO KNOW

Bible Passage: Matthew 6:25-34

Season: Any, but your activities will change as a result.

Location: Anywhere that you can find birds to watch, a country park or bird reserve would be a special treat!

Weather: This would be better suited to dry days.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose the most appropriate activities from the list below, depending on your setting:

- **Bird watching**

This could be as simple as spotting all the different birds in your church garden or setting up a watch in a hide with binoculars and guidebooks. Which bird do you see the most? Which is the most unusual? Which are you most happy to spot?

- **Feed the birds**

Create some bird feeders together. There are lots of ways to do this, our favourites include rolling a pinecone in lard and covering in nuts and cutting into a used plastic milk carton to create a container for bird seed, using a wooden dowel for birds to sit on.

- **Feather collecting**

Go for a walk and see how many different clean bird feathers you can find.

STORY

Begin by asking participants if they can think of any stories in the Bible which feature birds; creation? Noah's ark? the Psalms? Elijah? What else?

Explain that today's story comes directly from the words that Jesus spoke, when he was, effectively, telling a story.

Ask the group what their favourite bird is? A great big eagle, perhaps? Or a beautifully colourful parrot? What about a teeny tiny sparrow? Have you ever thought about the sparrows? (If you won't have had the chance to see the sparrows today, you may like to show a picture).

One day, Jesus was teaching people not to worry about the future; 'think about the birds, do they worry about where their next meal will come from? No! But Father God provides for them! Sparrows are sold for a tiny coin, but Father God cares for them! How much more will he care for you? So do not worry about tomorrow.'

I wonder how God shows he cares for you?

SONGS

- Do not worry (Doug Horley)
- His eye is on the sparrow (Martin & Gabriel)
- Do not worry (Ellie Holcomb)

PRAYER

Invite everyone to find a space where they think they can connect to God and take some time in the quiet to tell God the things that may be worrying them. Some people may find it helpful to have some bubbles to blow as they pray and others may appreciate the chance to share with someone else.

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?
Matthew 6:26