

The Fox and the Hen

Theme

Jesus sorrows over Jerusalem.

Object

Tell the story about "The Fox and the Little Red Hen" (see story and picture below sermon)

Scripture

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me." Luke 13:34 NLT

As you may know, the fox and the hen are natural enemies. I remember, as a child, reading a story called "The Fox and the Little Red Hen". In the story, Papa Fox sneaked up quietly behind the little red hen, grabbed her, and put her into his bag. Then he quickly ran off down the hill toward his home to eat some chicken dinner. Inside the fox's bag, the little red hen remembered that she had some scissors in her pocket. So, when the fox stopped to rest, she cut a hole in the bag, slipped out, put a large stone in the bag, and ran away. When the fox got home, all he had in his bag was a stone. The little red hen was too smart for the sly old fox!

In our Bible lesson today, a group of religious leaders went to Jesus and said to him, "Get away from here if you want to live! Herod Antipas wants to kill you!"

Jesus replied, "Go tell that fox that I will keep on casting out demons and healing people today and tomorrow; and the third day I will accomplish my purpose. Yes, today, tomorrow, and the next day I must go about my business. It just wouldn't do for a prophet of God to be killed anywhere but in Jerusalem."

Then Jesus went on to compare himself to a mother hen. "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me."

What a beautiful picture of Jesus. The fox couldn't defeat him, but like a mother hen gathers her chicks beneath her wings to protect them, Jesus willingly gave himself to save his children—even though they had rejected him time and time again. Jesus still loves his children today. He still wants to gather them in his arms and protect them and care for them. Sometimes, we stray away, but Jesus still loves us just the same. That's the kind of love he has for you and me.

Father, we thank you that Jesus loves and protects us like a mother hen protects her chicks. Keep us near to him and may we never stray from him. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

["The Fox and the Little Red Hen" Story](#)

["The Fox and the Little Red Hen" Picture](#)

Interactive Group Activities
by Carol Williams & Charles Kirkpatrick

Sermon Title: "The Fox and the Hen"

Scripture Reading: Luke 13:31-35

FOX AND THE HEN CHASE: This game is played like a game of Tag with the children divided equally into groups as Foxes and Hens. The chase begins in a designated area (a large area to begin with and as the group gets smaller, make the area smaller). The Fox team will chase the Hen team. Each team can be labeled with colored tags to indicate which team they are on. If a fox catches a hen, the hen will go to the sidelines. Continue to play until there is only one hen left. Then switch teams and the hens will become the foxes and play another round of tag until only one hen remains as the winner.

SNOW BALL CIRCLE: Have the children form a circle and provide some paper for the children wad up into paper "snow balls" to throw at children on the other side of the a circle. (Small Nerf balls or soft foam balls could also be used.) When a child is hit by a "snow ball" they are out of the game and must step to the side lines. The game is over when only one child remains. Story time can follow the game as teacher tells them that today's Bible lesson tells about Jesus protecting his children.

CHICKS AND FEATHER: Give each child a sheet of paper and crayons to draw pictures of chicks. Cut paper plates in half to form a WING and color it. Use a paper fastener to attach the paper plate wing over the picture of the chicks and write words from the second part of today's Bible verse on the wing. ("How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me.")

BIBLE VERSE HUNT: Today's Bible verse (or the second part only) will be written on pieces of paper and hidden around a designated area of the room. The children will hunt for the pieces of paper and when they find a slip of paper with Bible verse words on it, they will bring it to and attach it to a poster board with removable tape under a large mother hen that the teacher has drawn on the board. When all of the pieces of the memory verses are found, the children can move them around on the poster board until they are in the correct order.

SELF PORTRAIT WITH WING: Give the children can have paper and markers to draw a picture of themselves (or just their happy face with yarn for hair and craft eyes, etc). Place a cut out picture of a wing over the top of their self portrait, and add a paper brad/fastener to move the wing up and down to cover the picture of the child.

CHICKS OR PROTECTED ACROSTIC: On the chalkboard or a large poster board or long butcher paper, make an acrostic of CHICKS or PROTECTED. For older children, one team could take CHICKS and the other team could take PROTECTED and then share their answers with each other, to see words that would show how God cares for us as His children; Example for CHICKS could be - C - Careful, H- Heart, I - Interested, C - Caring, K - Keeping, S - Safe. And example for PROTECTED could be, P - Patient, R - Remembered, O - Over all, T - Teaching, E - Enough, C - Caring, T - Tender, E - Everywhere.

CHICKS IN A HEART: Have the children cut out two hearts and write JESUS LOVES ME and decorate their hearts. Tape or hole-punch and use yarn to lace the two hearts together leaving an opening at the top. Draw a picture of a chick or cut out a picture of a chick and slip it inside the opening at the top of the heart! Encourage children to share their heart and today's story with someone else.

SHARE A SNACK: Marshmallow Chicks in green grass

SING A SONG: UNDER HIS WINGS; JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

Song: "Under His Wings" by Ira D. Sankey

Words and Music (pdf)



MP3 Piano Accompaniment Track

Song: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Words and Music (pdf)



MP3 Piano Accompaniment Track

About Carol Williams

Carol and her husband have served churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, and Indiana. Carol loves to work with children so you will find her teaching in Junior Church and children's Sunday School. She also has clowning ministry in which she is known as Bubbles tc (the clown).

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Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Read the passage. Then answer each question.

THE FOX AND THE LITTLE RED HEN

Once upon a time there was a little red hen. She lived in a little white house, and she had a little green garden. Every day she worked in the house and garden.

Near her home lived a family of foxes. One day Mamma Fox said to Papa Fox, "I want a fat hen to eat." There was nothing in the pantry for the baby foxes, so Papa Fox started out to find something for them all.

He ran down the road until he came to the woods. "Surely I will find something here," he said, but he found nothing to eat in the woods. As he came near the little green garden he said, "Oh, I smell fresh cake. Oh, I smell a little red hen."

Sure enough, there was the Little Red Hen eating her cake.

Papa Fox snuck up quietly behind her and grabbed her and put her into the bag on his back; then he ran quickly off down the hill toward his home.

The Little Red Hen was so frightened that she could only whisper, "Oh, dear. Oh, dear. Oh, dear."

Just then she had to sneeze, and when she put her claw into her pocket for her handkerchief, she felt her little scissors. Quick as a flash she took them out and cut a little hole in the bag. Peeping out she saw a great hill just ahead, all covered with stones. As Papa Fox stopped to rest on his way up the hill, with his back turned toward her, she cut a big hole in the bag, jumped out and quickly put a big stone in the bag in her place.

As Papa Fox kept on up the hill, he thought the bag was pretty heavy, but he said, "Never mind, she is a fat little red hen."

Mamma Fox met him at the front door with all the baby foxes.

"The water is boiling," said she. "What have you in your bag?" asked the Baby Foxes.

"A fat, little, red hen," said Papa Fox.

As he held the bag over the pot, he said to Mamma Fox, "When I drop her in, you clap on the lid." So he opened the bag. Splash! went the boiling water. It spilled all over Papa Fox and Mamma Fox and the Baby Foxes. Never again did they try to catch the Little Red Hen.

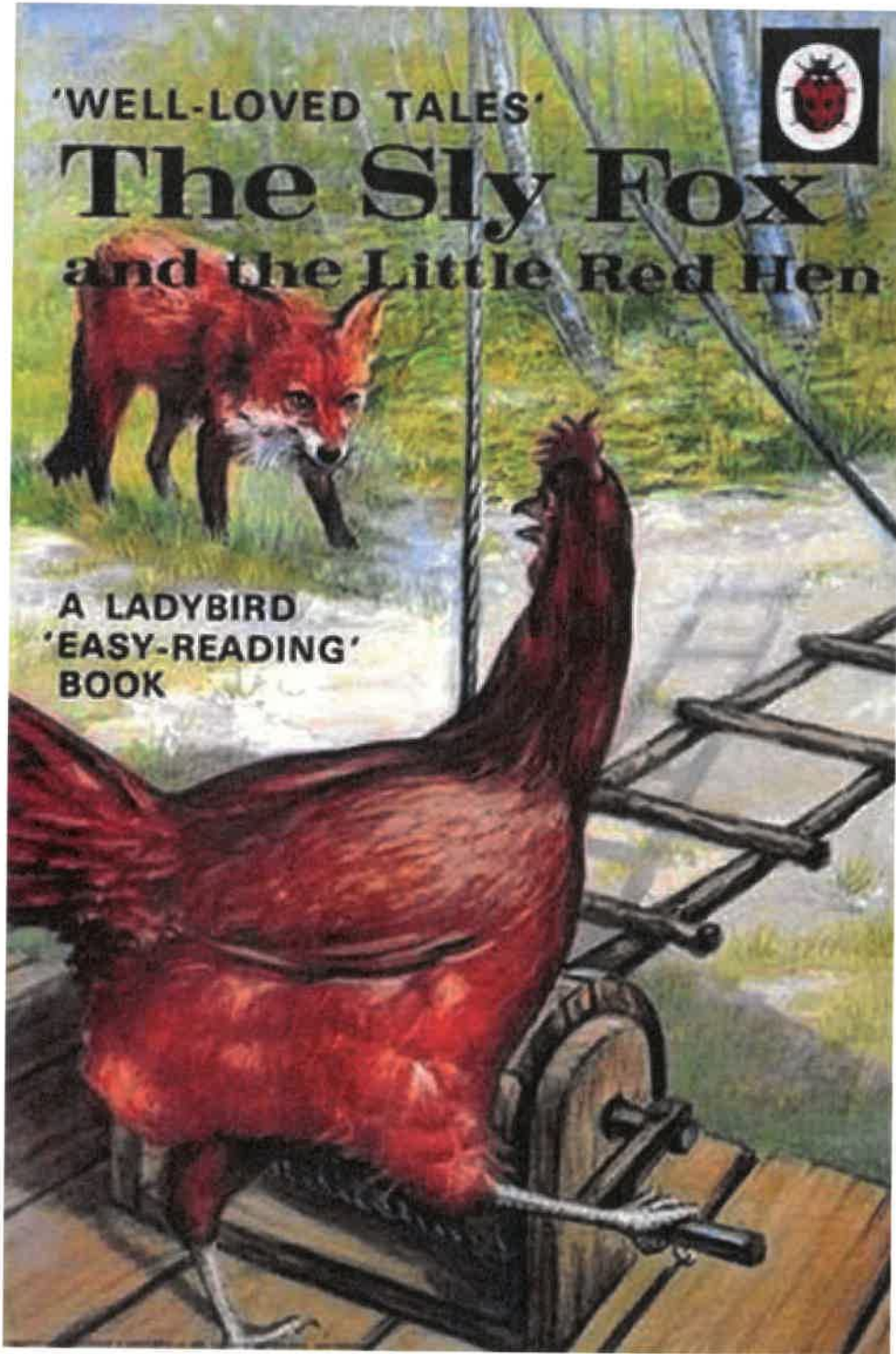
Questions:

1. What was the little red hen's house like?
2. Why didn't the fox know the hen escaped?
3. What do the hen's actions tell us about her as a character?
4. Why do you think the foxes left the Little Red Hen alone in the future?

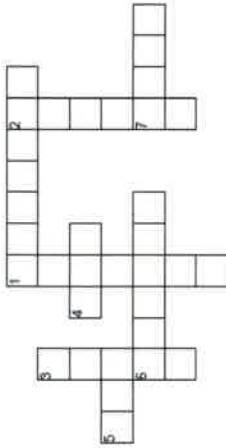
'WELL-LOVED TALES'

The Sly Fox and the Little Red Hen

A LADYBIRD
'EASY-READING'
BOOK



Crossword Puzzle



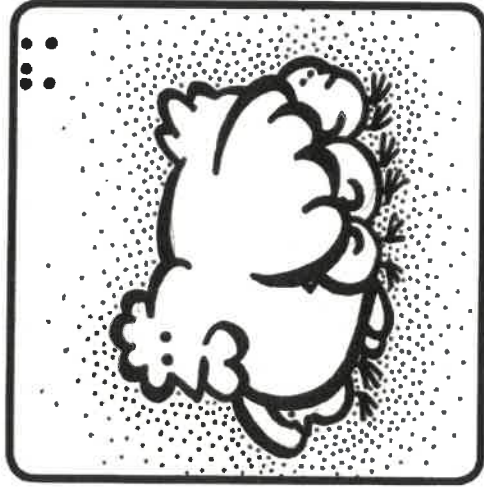
ACROSS

- To keep safe from harm
- An animal similar to a wolf or dog that has a long bushy tail
- A female chicken
- To bring together in one place.
- To put to death

DOWN

- A person who teaches the will of God. Isaiah, for example.
- Baby chickens
- Feather-covered limbs a bird uses for flying.

FOX	PROPHET	HEN	CHICKS
GATHER	PROTECT	WINGS	KILL



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Children's Worship Bulletin

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Luke 13:31-35

Word Search

F K S H J X Q A H P K R Z V A
 S T O N E M Z S D I S E A I T
 Q P B R I J U G P M P H C N B
 K W B S V S M F U F A N H S B
 E Y C O E T E C Z R U W I Y R
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CITY	CHICKS	GATHER	STONE	JESUS
WINGS	CHILDREN	PROTECT	GATHER	KILL
HEN	KILL	FOX	HEROD	CITY

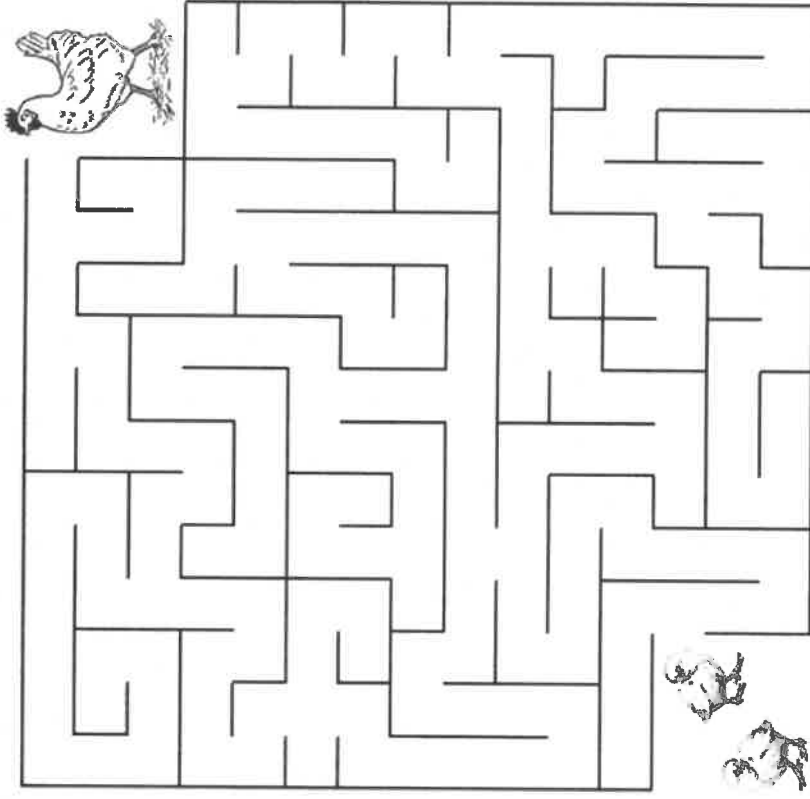
Your Church Name Here
Anytown, USA

Color Me!



Maze Puzzle

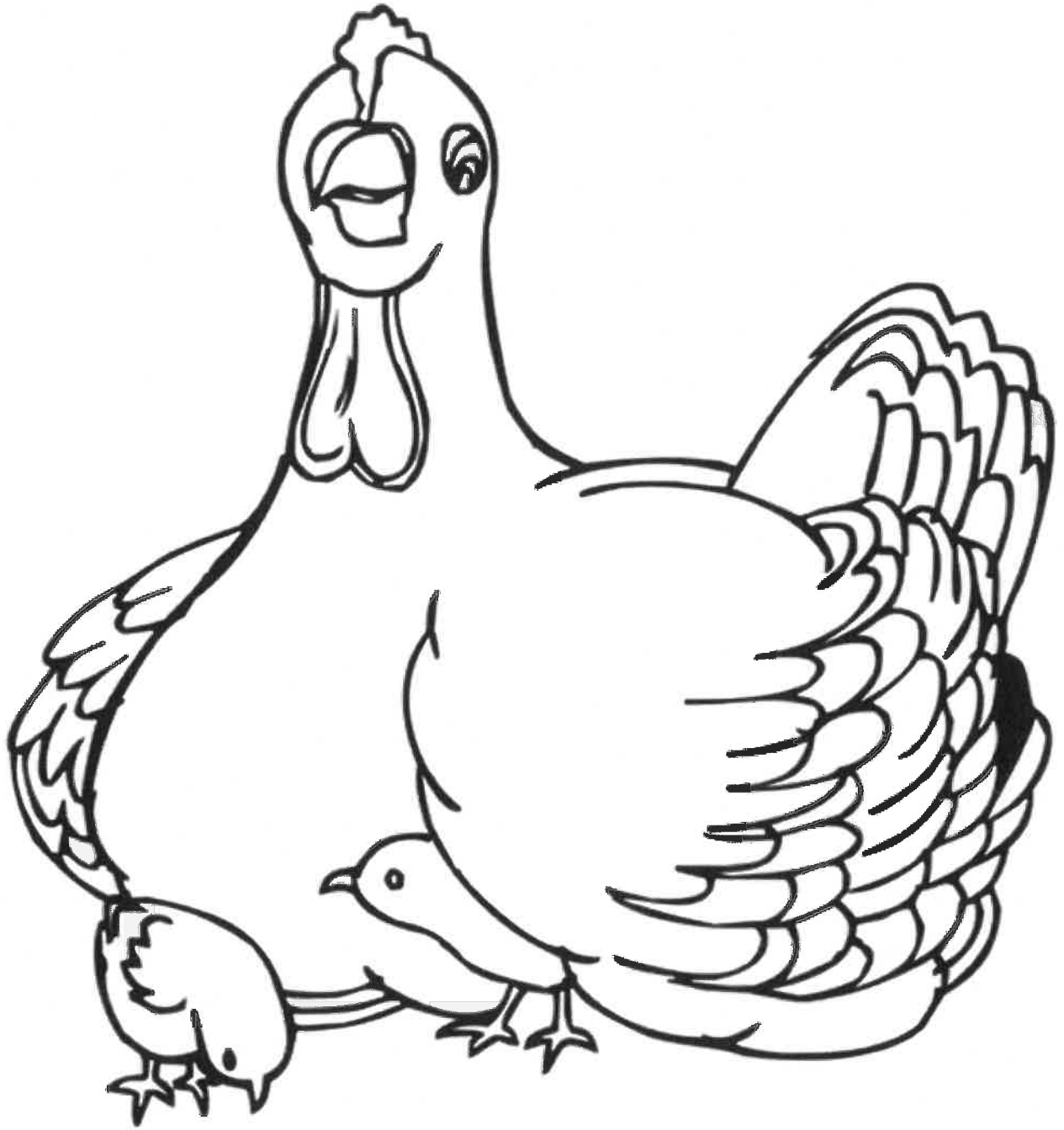
Help the chicks find their way back to the mother hen.



"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"

Luke 13:34 (NIV)

Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem



"How often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"

Luke 13:34b (NIV)