

Birds Aren't Real?

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 1****Focus:**

Jesus is the answer to our doubts.

Lesson 1**Bible Basis:**

Luke 7:18-23

Lesson 1**Memory Verse:**

Believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.
—John 10:38b

Students will learn that having a reliable source can help us overcome doubts.

Materials:

- Internet access

Be careful birds aren't watching you too closely—they might report back their findings to the government.

“How is it possible for birds to spy on you and share their findings?” you might ask.

Come on . . . isn't it obvious? It's because birds aren't real!

Okay, just about everybody knows that birds are real animals created by God. But a growing number of people in the world think birds are instruments used for government surveillance. In fact, they've recently used marketing devices such as billboards to spread their message.

In the last few years, the message has grown so much that the founder of the movement even released a book titled *Birds Aren't Real*. Let's take a look at what people who support this theory believe.

Show your students the following video clip:

Birds Aren't Real: The Shocking Book

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/J5a8UUFY1NU>

Obviously, the views expressed in this video are not true, and birds are not government drones to spy on people. However, movements like this can cause people to doubt the truth and start to wonder if wild claims like this are true.

➤ **Suppose you met someone who believed birds aren't real. What evidence could you present to convince them that birds are real? (Accept all reasonable answers, but try to keep the discussion from getting too silly.)**

Let's pretend for a minute that *you're* the one who believes birds aren't real. One of the best ways to overcome your doubt would be to do some research. What evidence is there for the belief you're questioning? For example, can you find information about a bird's anatomy in a science textbook? Yes—and this offers strong proof that birds are real creatures. Has anyone ever eaten chicken, a kind of bird? Yes, that happens all the time.

If time permits and your students are interested, let them check out the following website:
Digestive Anatomy and Physiology of Birds
<https://vivo.colostate.edu/hbooks/pathphys/digestion/otherspp/birds.html>

People doubt many things—in fact, having doubts is part of being human. Some people question everything from whether men really landed on the moon to whether God is real.

➤ **What are some doubts that you have? They can be about anything.** (Allow your students to voice doubts about various subjects—including God and faith—without comment. This is a good time to evaluate where your students stand spiritually. You may want to voice a doubt of your own just to get things rolling. Saying something like “Sometimes I doubt God is listening when I pray” can help students understand that your classroom is a safe place to share.)

Today, we're going to talk about some questions that a great man of faith had about Jesus. Let's see what Jesus did to help him overcome those doubts.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Birds Aren't Real?

for use as
STEP 4 ▶

Lesson 1

Focus:

Jesus is the answer to our doubts.

Lesson 1

Bible Basis:

Luke 7:18-23

Lesson 1

Memory Verse:

Believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.
—John 10:38b

Materials:

- Internet access
- Whiteboard and marker (or screenshared document)
- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

The best way to address our doubts is to bring them to Jesus. That's what helped John the Baptist reinforce his faith. He heard what Jesus was doing in the world, then realized that Jesus Himself was the answer to his doubts.

Jesus is still the answer to our doubts today! Sometimes, we may feel guilty admitting to the Lord that we have questions. But it's okay: He's God, so He can take it! As we wrap up today's lesson, let's take a few minutes to bring our doubts to Jesus. Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Give your students an opportunity to write down some of the doubts that come to mind.

➤ **Would anyone be willing to share a doubt they have about faith?** (Allow your students to share freely without judgment. This is not a time to “solve” their doubts, but to acknowledge them and bring them to Jesus. If your students hesitate to share, begin by mentioning a faith question that's bothered you, either now or in the past.)

Take notes as your students share. If time permits, take a moment to pray for each student individually. If time is short, say one prayer for all of the students, but remember to mention each of their individual questions. Turn over all of your students' questions to Jesus. Ask Him to give each student the faith they need to keep believing.

Doubt is a normal part of faith. All of us have questions sometimes, even great believers like John the Baptist! The good news is that Jesus never condemned people who brought Him honest questions. Instead, He helped them rebuild their faith.

Prayer is the starting point. Remember, when John brought his doubts to Jesus, Jesus pointed him to *evidence* that helped restore John's faith.

Today, there are lots of ways to find evidence that addresses your doubts. A great place to turn first is...you guessed it, the Bible, God's Word. But the Bible is HUGE! How do you find the answer to a specific question? You can start with a Bible concordance or dictionary, or you can simply go to your favorite internet browser. Try typing in, "What does the Bible say about..." and finish with your question.

Of course, as with anything on the internet, like questioning whether or not birds exists, you have to be careful to double-check your sources and find supporting evidence. Information you find on the internet may help to point you in the right direction, but always be careful to check what you discover against what God teaches us. The more time you spend in God's Word, the deeper your understanding of Him will grow. The more you learn about God's will, the stronger your faith will grow.

And don't be afraid to ask! If you are struggling with a question, you can always ask a Bible teacher or a minister. We may not know all the answers, but we will work with you to search for them.

Challenge your students to take at least one of the doubts they listed on their index card and research the answer. Encourage them not to be afraid to ask questions of you, their parents, or other trusted Christian mentors if they are having trouble finding the answer or if it sparks more questions. Urge them to return with their index cards next week to share about their research experience.

Close in prayer.

(We are not affiliated with and do not endorse any website or any other media listed on these pages. At the time of writing, we carefully review the referenced material and non-referenced web page content. However, due to the nature of the Internet, non-cited content on the website [including pop-ups, links, and ads] changes frequently and is beyond our control. Please review carefully before showing links in the classroom.)