

Devotions for Boys and Girls Ages 6 to 10

GOD'S AMAZING CREATURES

*&
me!*

written by

Helen Haidle

illustrations by

Paul Haidle

MB
Master
Books®

First printing: August 2000
Third printing: March 2009

Copyright © 2000 Text by Helen Haidle and
Illustrations by Paul Haidle. All rights reserved. No part
of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner
whatsoever without written permission of the publisher,
except in the case of brief quotations in articles and re-
views. For information write: Master Books®, P.O. Box
726, Green Forest, AR 72638.

ISBN 13: 978-0-89051-294-4
Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 00-102738

All Scripture is from the New King James Version
except where indicated. The New International Reader's
Version has also been used to provide simplicity for the
young readers.

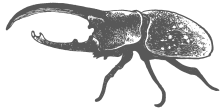
Editorial consultant — Joshua Ramey

Cover by Farewell Communications

Printed in the United States of America

Please visit our website for other great titles:
www.masterbooks.net

For information regarding publicity
for author interviews
contact the publicity department at (870) 438-5288.



DEDICATION



To Peggy Kucera's students:
Becky Dugan, Nick Dugan, Lisa
Ellett, John Ellingson, Amanda Farmer,
Nicole Jones, Victoria Jones, Matt Russell,
Ashley Smith, and Alycia Harwood.

Thanks for all your enthusiastic reports
on animals, birds, and fish!

To Jeannie Taylor, Alison Tenneson, and
John Shepherd for critiques!

Special thanks to Rebekah Jordan for her
writing and reports on
"The Perfect Home"
(page 16) and
"Rejoice Always"
(page 74).

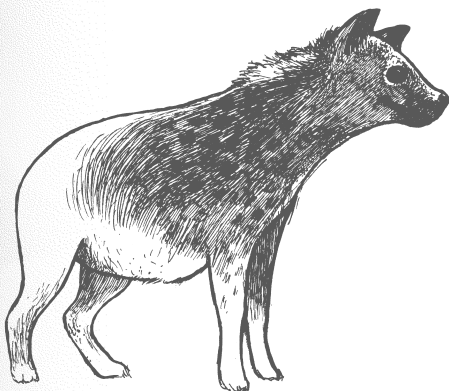
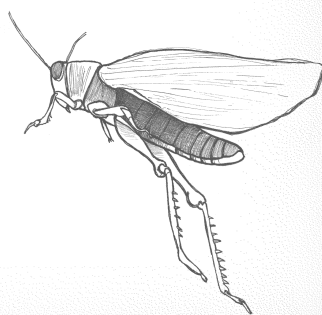




TABLE OF CONTENTS

6	Octopus	Follow a Good Example
8	Lionfish	Deadly Beauty
10	Zebra	No Two Stripes Alike
12	Penguin	Don't Be a Quitter
14	Cockroach	The Contented Cockroach
16	Reed Warbler	The Perfect Home
18	Dragonfly	Amazing Wings
20	Snake	Watch That Tongue
22	Grasshopper	Listen Carefully!
24	Bengal Tiger	The King of Cats
26	Brush Turkey	A Wise Builder
28	Spider	A Fearless Flier
30	Mountain Goats	Struggles That Strengthen
32	Stag Beetles	Fight . . . or Make Peace
34	Gazelle	Grace and Beauty
36	Bullfrog	A Deep Voice
38	Cocoon	Dead . . . or Alive?
40	Bat	The "Blind" See
42	Potter Wasp	The Potter Provides
44	Rabbit	Need for Speed
46	Man-of-War	One Body

48	Goshawk	A Powerful Bird of Prey
50	Stickleback	Tiny, but Spiny
52	Sheep	Listen for the Shepherd
54	Green Turtle	Slow Down!
56	Monarch	Where's the Map?
58	Parrot	Friends Forever
60	Bumblebee	"Bee" What You Can Be
62	Gibbon	Shout It Out!
64	Hummingbird	The Smallest Jewel
66	Pony	Time Changes Things
68	Ladybug	Warning! Watch Out!
70	Crocodile	Help Your Enemy
72	Leopard	Living on Little
74	Red-eyed Vireo	Rejoice Always!
76	Oxpecker	Be a Blessing!
78	Snail	Small, but Important
80	Seahorse	What a Dad!
82	Turtle	Armored Protection
84	Ants	Do Your Work Well
86	Parakeet	Love One Another
88	Crab	I See You!
90	Grouper Fish	Generous "Doctors"
92	Hermit Crab	No Vacancy!
94	Bean Seed	Deep Roots



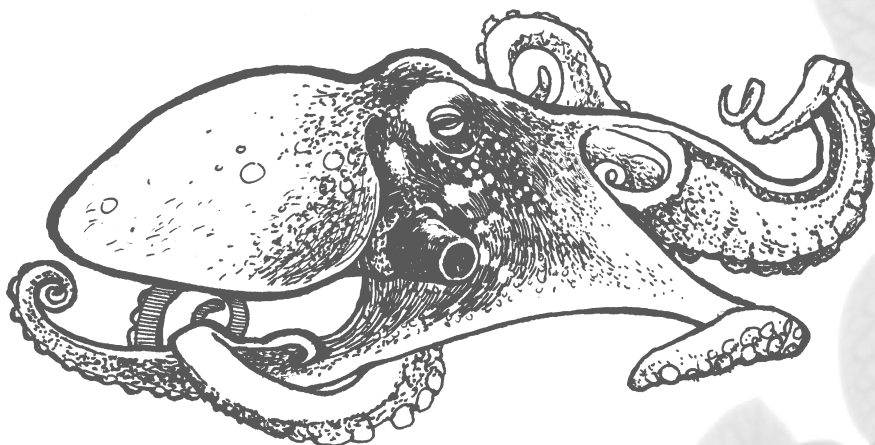
FOLLOW A GOOD EXAMPLE

For its size of body, the octopus has the largest brain of all animals without backbones. It is very intelligent and learns quickly. If trainers work with one octopus and teach it to do something, other octopuses will learn simply by watching. Some captive octopuses have even figured out how to escape from their tanks!

The octopus also has the best eyesight of all animals without backbones. When it searches for food, an octopus is a good judge of distance. If several crabs swim nearby, the octopus always makes the best choice and grabs the nearest crab with its muscular “arms,” or tentacles.

An octopus, which is actually very shy, moves around the rocks and in the sand by crawling with its eight arms. The suction disks on their “arms” hang onto rocks.

The octopus can also swim with jet propulsion by forcing water out of a special funnel called a siphon. (That is like blowing up a balloon and letting it loose under water!)



IN THE BIBLE . . .

Jesus' disciples learned by following Him. When Jesus first began his ministry, He told 12 men, "Come, follow me." And they did. They listened to Jesus teach. They watched Him heal many sick people. Then Jesus sent them out to do the same work of teaching and healing that He had done.

The night before Jesus was crucified, He washed His disciples' feet. He said, "I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you" (John 13:14–15; NIrV).

HOW ABOUT YOU?

How do you, like an octopus, learn by following? In what ways do you follow the good examples of your parents or teachers?

Are you willing to follow Jesus? Remember how Jesus treated other people? He took time for them. He helped them with their problems. He loved them. Think of one way you will follow Jesus' example today.

MEMORY VERSE:

Jesus said, "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."

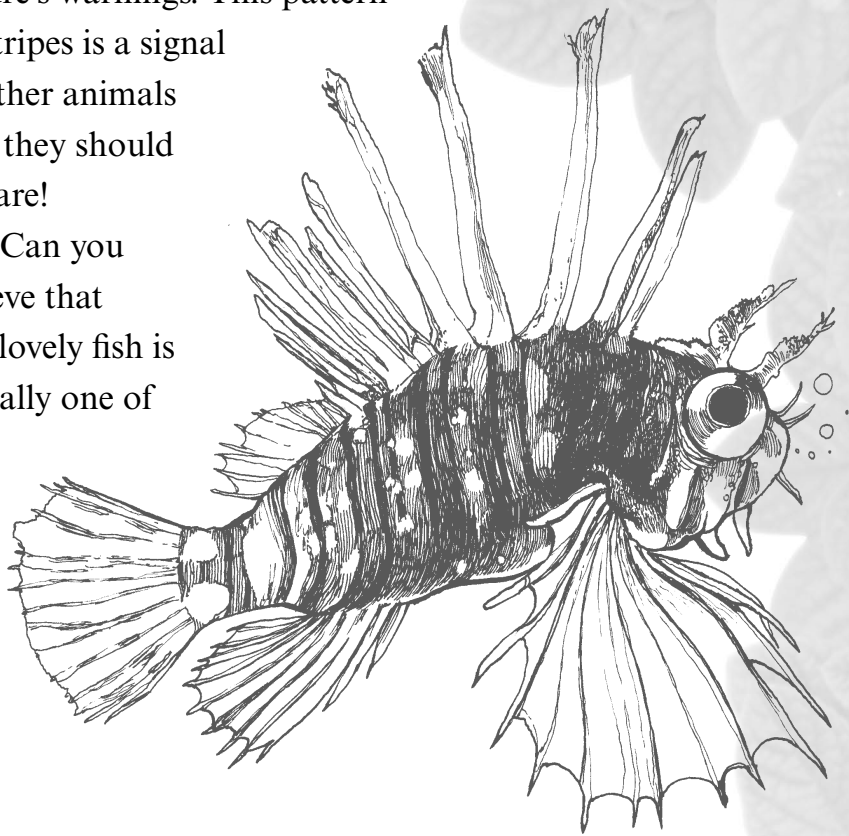
(John 13:15)

DEADLY BEAUTY

This is a beautiful fish with its shades of gold and reddish-brown colors. It is called by many names: the lionfish, devilfish, firefish, or zebrafish.

Although this lionfish looks almost angelic, its outward beauty is deceptive. The red and dark brown stripes on its lacy fins are one of nature's warnings. This pattern of stripes is a signal to other animals that they should beware!

Can you believe that this lovely fish is actually one of



the most poisonous creatures in the sea? Each of the 18 spines that stick out of its body contains a poison gland in its long groove. The spines can cause painful wounds, which disable any fish that attack it. The lionfish's poison can also be fatal to humans.

IN THE BIBLE . . .

Read the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis 2 and 3. God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed in the Garden of Eden. But God warned them, “You can eat the fruit of any tree that is in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you can be sure that you will die” (Genesis 2:16-17;NIrV).

Why did Eve want to eat the fruit of “deadly beauty?” Why did she believe the serpent instead of God? What difference did her deadly choice make?

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Have you ever thought that something “looked” good, but you knew God didn’t want you to do it? When has the devil tempted you to disobey God’s laws? Don’t fall into his deadly trap! Don’t be deceived. Don’t believe that you will enjoy something you shoplift or steal. More money will *not* make you happy. You don’t have to smoke, do drugs, or join a gang in order to find friends.

Whenever you disobey God’s laws, you are falling into the devil’s trap of lies that lead to death.

MEMORY VERSE:

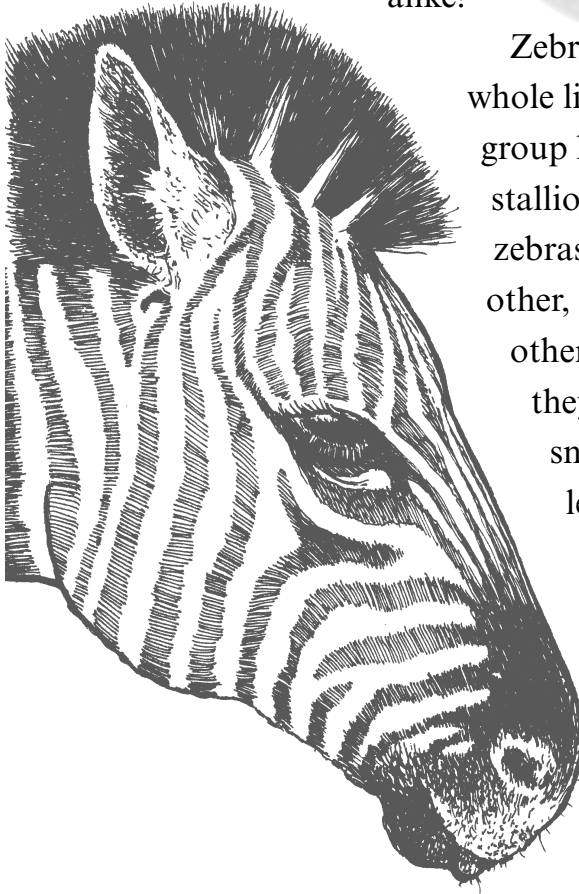
Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.

(1 Peter 5:8–9)

No Two STRIPES ALIKE

A herd of zebras can play tricks on your eyes. Their stripes make it hard to tell where one animal begins and the other ends! These stripes also help confuse attackers who chase the herd.

Zebras roam in herds across the plains of Africa. It might seem like these horse-like creatures all look the same. The truth is — no two zebra's stripes are exactly alike!



Zebras spend their whole lives in a family group headed by a stallion zebra. When zebras greet each other, they sniff each other's bellies. Then they rub chests, sniff noses, and leap away.

If a family group gets separated during an attack by a lion or another predator, they easily find each other again.

Adult zebras bray to those far away. When they are close enough again, zebras recognize each other by smell and also by sight. The young zebras always recognize their mother's stripes and know her smell.

IN THE BIBLE . . .

Just like each zebra has its own set of stripes, you are unique in God's eyes. God made each person to be a unique individual. God knew you in your mother's womb before you were even born. You are so important to God that He knew everything about you before anyone else had even seen you.

“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret” (Psalms 139:13–15).

Thank God that every person is different, yet equally important!

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Did you know that God has a unique plan for your life? God wants to use you to bless other people. What are some of the good things that *you* can do? Think of something special that you could do for your family today.

Ask yourself: How am I different from my friends or my brothers and sisters? How can God use *me* to bless others today?

MEMORY VERSE:

*O Lord, You have searched me and known me.
You . . . are acquainted with all my ways
(Psalm 139:1–3).*

DON'T BE A QUITTER!

Emperor Penguins show us great examples of patient endurance. They live in the coldest place in the world — the Antarctic. They don't have any twigs or grass to build a nest, only miles and miles of ice and snow.

Penguins mate for life. The mother always lays her egg at the beginning of winter. Then she heads off to feed in the ocean.

The father penguin is a great dad. He holds his egg-baby on top of his toes. He keeps it off the ice so it won't freeze. A thick fold of skin on his belly hangs down like a blanket to cover the egg. All the egg-sitting fathers huddle together against winds as high as 100 miles per hour and temperatures as low as -70 degrees Fahrenheit. The father's body heat and warm flap of skin act like an insulated blanket for the egg.

This patient daddy holds his egg — day after day, week after week — for two months (60 days)! All this time he eats nothing. His body fat keeps him alive. He loses about one-third of his body weight!

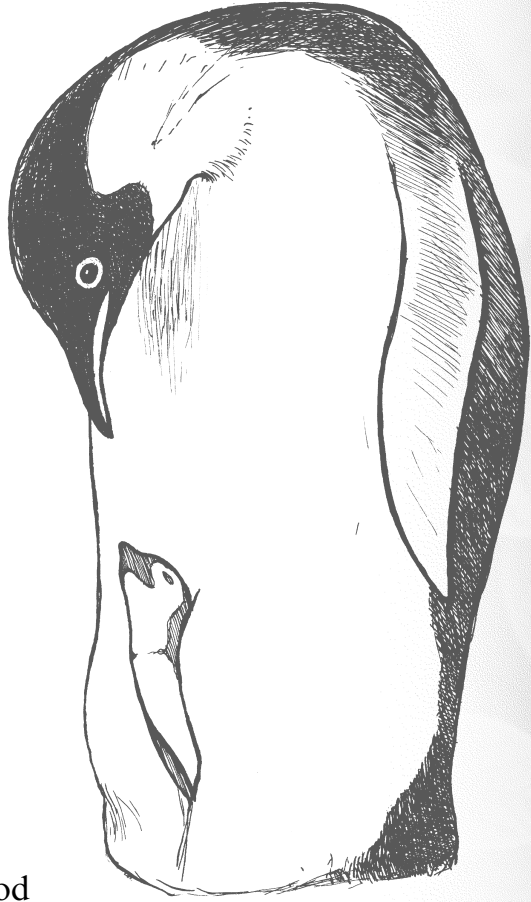
When the baby pecks open its shell, the mother penguin returns. She will feed her newborn baby with fish that she regurgitates. Now the father heads to the ocean. He is hungry! After he eats his fill, he will bring back more fish for their baby.

What if this father quit caring for his egg on the 59th day because nothing *seemed to be* happening? The egg would freeze on the ice because its daddy gave up too soon.

IN THE BIBLE . . .

Elijah the prophet also teaches us not to quit! One, two, three, four, five, six times Elijah prayed for rain. He would not quit praying, not even when his servant kept telling him that there were no clouds in the sky.

Finally, after Elijah's *seventh* prayer, his servant saw one small cloud in the distance. When Elijah heard that news, he jumped up and ran down the mountain. He knew that God would be answering his prayers for rain. And did it ever rain! (1 Kings 18:42–46).



HOW ABOUT YOU?

The more you love God and know God, the more you will talk to Him. If you are God's child, you can be sure God will keep His promise to answer your prayers . . . in God's own time. And it will be at the right time.

Don't give up or feel impatient when you don't receive an answer right away when you pray. Have you ever felt upset or stopped praying because it *seemed like* nothing was happening? Trust God. Wait patiently. And keep on praying.

MEMORY VERSE:

Keep on praying.
(1 Thessalonians 5:17;NLT)