

The Gospel

According to a DANDELION

By Terry & Jean McComb Illustrated By Vera McMurdo

Cover design by the authors

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TEXTS

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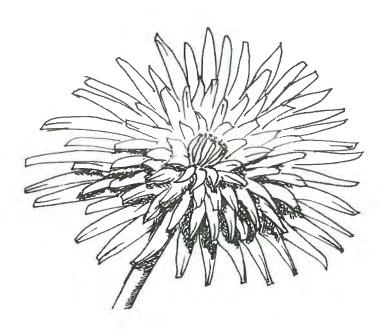
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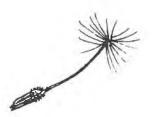
PREFACE

Parents and children are looking for ways to spend more time together. Nature's charm invites parents and children to ex-plore its mysteries together. We encourage parents to read the lessons of this book to their children in the great out-of-doors classroom by a real dandelion plant. If this is not possible, dig up a dandelion plant and put it in a pot and have it close for actual observation as you share the lesson indoors.

The focus of this book is on the character quality of endurance. As parents share these lessons they will be instilling this lasting quality into their child at the foundation level of development. "Here is the patience (endurance) of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and have the faith of Jesus" Revelation 12:17.

After the lesson is shared the child may wish to color the picture. May this yel-low wayside blossom charm your family with its quiet humble message, "God is still Love."







SAMPL BUTDOWKY LASSROOM eation.ca

In the fresh air with birds soaring high overhead, Jesus taught his famous "Sermon on the Mount." Looking into the anxious, care-worn faces of many in the crowd, he noted their burdens. He saw the eager countenances of the children and the care-lined faces of those with graying hair.

He proposed a simple cure. The precise prescription is recorded in Matthew 6:28; "Consider the lilies (wild flowers) of the field .." Jesus, as Creator, loves variety, having created over one million species of flowering plants. In the wonder-world of nature, flowers are fragrant reminders of the beauty that once graced planet earth.

Flowers have been called wanderers from

Eden, still retaining their purity and beauty from a world that has been lost. Most wild flowers grow without any human thought of care or wisdom. None of these perfumed blossoms ever went to school. A close look reveals beauty, design, perfection, wisdom and mystery.

Jesus said, "Consider..." look closely, ponder, commune with - the "wildflowers of the field." Which one did Jesus specifically mean? I would like to suggest he might have plucked a dandelion in its mature gray-haired stage, blew away the seeds into the face of a little child looking up. In the following pages we will discover its secrets.



PRACTICAL PROJECT:

Go out into the countryside and see how many different variety of wild flowers you can find. What do they all have in common: leaves, flowers, roots? We could actually write a book on any one of them and we would find they all teach lessons similar to the dandelion. Press the flowers and make notebooks, identifying each.

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The Dandelion is a common wayfaring flower that grows in yards, gardens or fields. You may find them on mountain tops or valleys or along the side of the road. They grow on every continent and every island of the world. North America had seven native species of dandelions growing here until European settlers introduced four more. One of these new species from Europe is the focus of this book.

Because the supply exceeds the demand, dandelions have been considered by many people to be one of the most hated, poisoned, chopped, cut, rooted out, of all plants. Yet, in spite of man's attempts to exterminate, this flower continues to propagate and grow all over the countryside.

Jesus said, "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be save" Matthew 10:22. Endurance is what Paul wrote about when he said love has no

limit to its endurance, no end to its trust. Love never fades in its hope; it can outlast anything. It is in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else is gone. See 1 Corinthians 13:7.

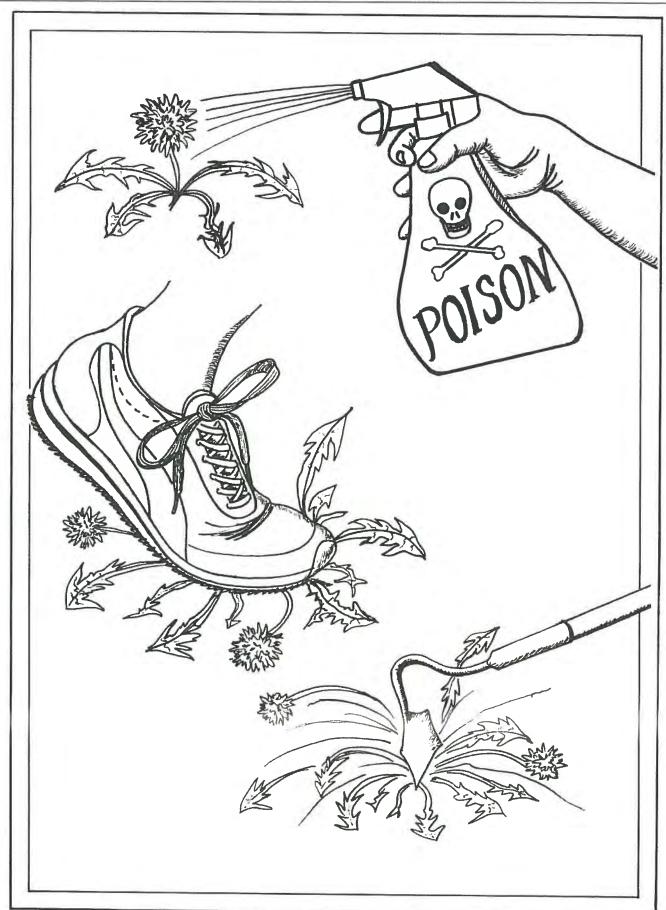
In this book we shall consider how dandelions reveal 10 secrets of endurance. This flower grows and endures what would kill most flowers. It is living proof of the principle of the eighth beatitude found in Matthew 5:10 - to return good for evil as a demonstration of mature love and self-control. This flower seems to say, "Go ahead, do your worst to me, while I do my best for you."

These yellow blossoms can be stepped on, dug up, chopped, yet it never attempts to slap or seek revenge, it just continues to grow and multiply. How does it endure such mistreatment and thrive? Consider how it grows?



PRACTICAL PROJECT:

Take a dandelion plant and take a pair of scissors and cut off its blossom. Continue to cut off its blossom every time it grows and see how many times you can do this before it actually dies.



SAMPHE LEAFWAY GARBELGOR ation.ca



The notched dark green leaves hold the first secret of the dandelion's endurance. The deep notched tooth-like appearance of the leaf gives it the French name dent de lion, which means tooth of lion. The scientific name for this plant is *Taraxacum officinale*. The green leaves growing just above the root, growing in a circle, shade out other plants, thus preserving nutrients and moisture for its own growth.

The dandelion's leaves exude an ethylene gas that discourages competition from other plants. In Luke 8:14 Jesus tells the parable of the sower, how thorns sucked up the moisture and thus there was not enough left to bring seeds to maturity. The dandelion's leaves resolve this problem by removing from its environment that which does not minister to its life.

Our time of life has only so many hours per day. We may become so preoccupied with sports, watching television or playing computer games, that we are starved for want of the very best, which is Jesus. We can even be so busy with good things, like doing chores around the house and helping people, that we forget to

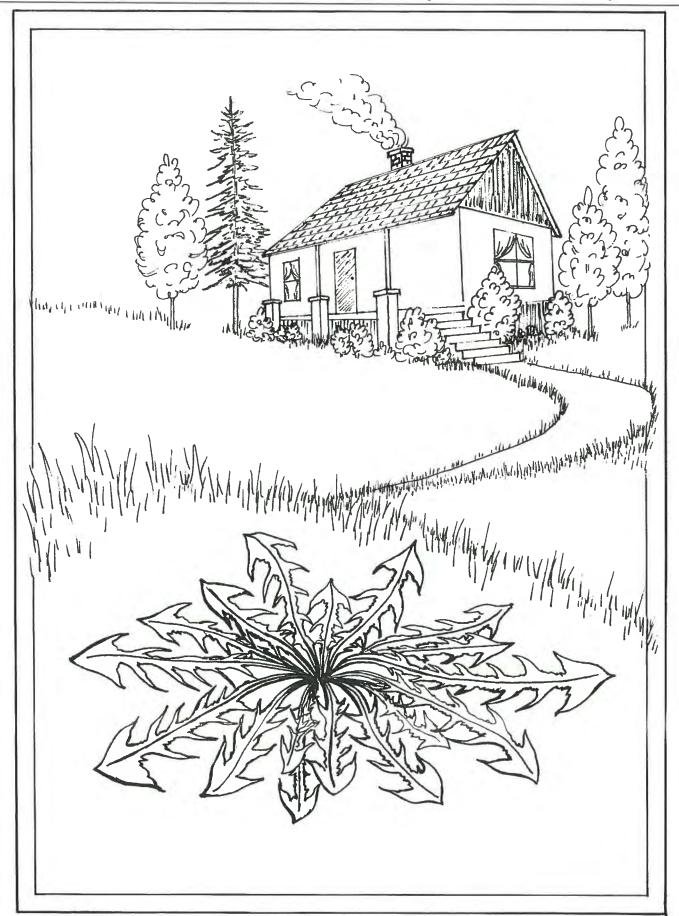
feed our own souls. Satan invents unnumbered ways to occupy our minds so we may not dwell upon the great truth of our Savior's sacrifice. He knows that if he can divert our minds from Jesus, he has us caught.

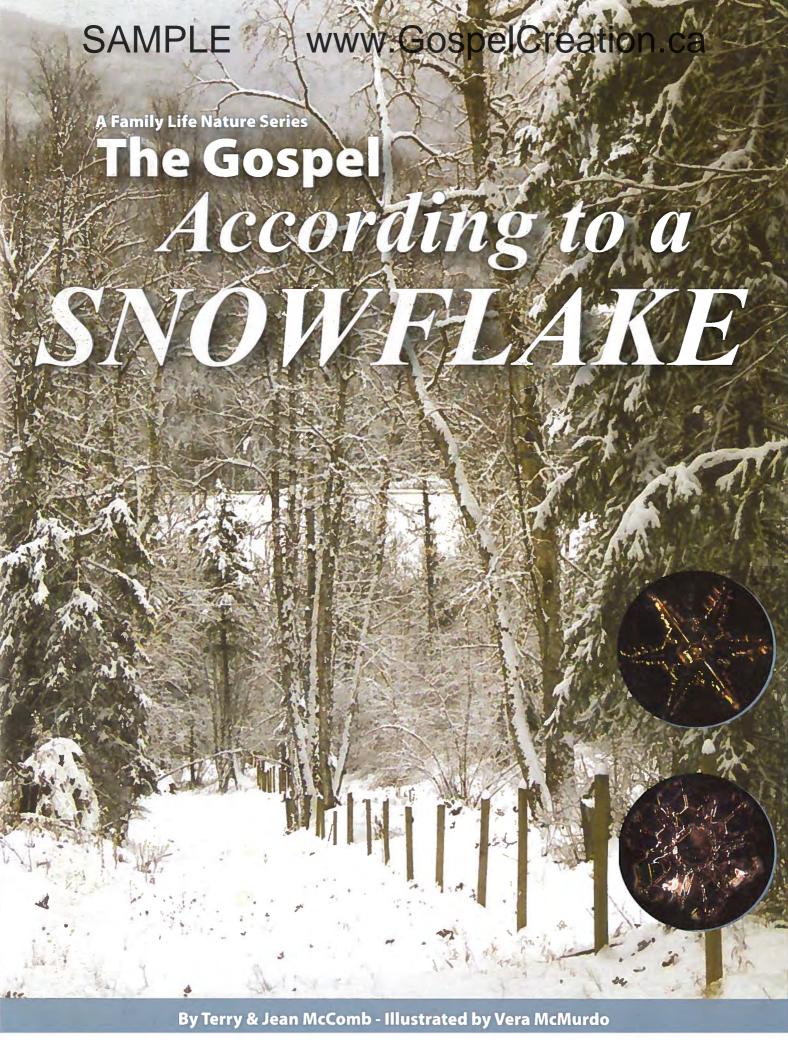
Like the dandelion, we need to protect our environment with the atmosphere of Jesus, like the ethylene gas that would discourage the competition of the devil's unnumbered schemes to side track us into work or pleasures so we have no time for prayer, bible study, and to learn of Jesus. "If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He will also deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself" 2 Timothy 2:12, 13. A godly "no," that is in harmony with the biblical "Thou shalt not," greatly simplifies the problems of life."



PRACTICAL PROJECT:

Carefully notice a few large dandelion plants and mark them. Under the leaves of one, carefully notice what grows there, if anything. Return each week to see if anything is growing or does it stay stunted? Try planting some radish seeds under the leaf of the dandelion, and see if any will sprout. Is there anything in our environment that will restrain our spiritual growth, such as too many hours of television, computer games, friends, telephone calls? Is there anything we need to remove from our environment so there will be sufficient time to grow in Jesus?





The Gospel According to a SNOWFLAKE

By Terry & Jean McComb Illustrated By Vera McMurdo

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PREFACE

The recurring seasons, as they march across the calendar, bring their own special delight. Winter, with its brisk cold, calls hardy nature lovers to sample its frozen wonders.

One of these frozen wonders is the simple snowflake. In this book we shall show that the snowflake is not really simple. In God's wonder-world of nature snow has many hidden treasures which may be found by the determined.

Snow is mentioned twenty-five times in the Bible. On the following pages you may discover some of the spiritual lessons from snow. Your child may wish to color the picture after each lesson. We recommend the study of snowflakes with the aid of a magnifying glass or microscope. Sometimes microscopes may be purchased as surplus from universities, colleges or High Schools.

May the gems of truth found during this frozen season enrich your character to be as beautiful as the divine design of a snow crystal. Its frosty charms silently proclaim, "God is Love".

DEDICATION

This nature series is dedicated to Tom and Martha Grove. Their faith, vision and funding made possible the first printing of this nature series in 1987.







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Twirling lazily while falling some 20,000 feet out of the lead-colored sky, the miniature snow crystal landed silently on my slide covered with black velvet. Easing the slide under my fifteen-power microscope, I began to turn the focus knob while my son held a flashlight to illuminate it.

The garage door was open at our home near Beiseker, Alberta, to better absorb the subfreezing weather. Adjusting to the darkness of the microscope, I saw a silver-coated crystal of six sides focus before my eyes. Straightening to let my two sons look, I pondered, "Is this how we can answer the question God posed to the ancient Job, 'Have you entered the treasury of snow?'" The gem I had just viewed looked like it came from the treasure chest of some hidden vault. Scientifically speaking, a snowflake may be composed of as many as a thousand or more snow crystals.

What fun it is to gather snowflakes into a snow-ball, a snowman or snow fort. Sleds, skis and snowmobiles bring endless delight while giving outdoor exercise. Yet the same snow crystals if piled deep enough can stop a train or even cover a village.

Polar bear mothers have been seen waiting pa-

tiently at the bottom of a big cliff while watching their cubs run up to the top of the hill and slide down again. Ruth Kirk in her book, Snow, tells of watching a black bear slide down a hill and then lumber back up, and repeat the pleasure. Pleasure is one of the purposes of snow, but it does much more. Snow is part of the vital link of the great water system that keeps our earth green and growing.

"Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created. He has also established them forever and ever; He has made a decree which shall not pass away" Psalm 148:5, 6. Here we are told that God has other laws besides the ten commandments. I would like to suggest that the snow crystal thin and six-sided - is created by God in harmony with His laws of nature.

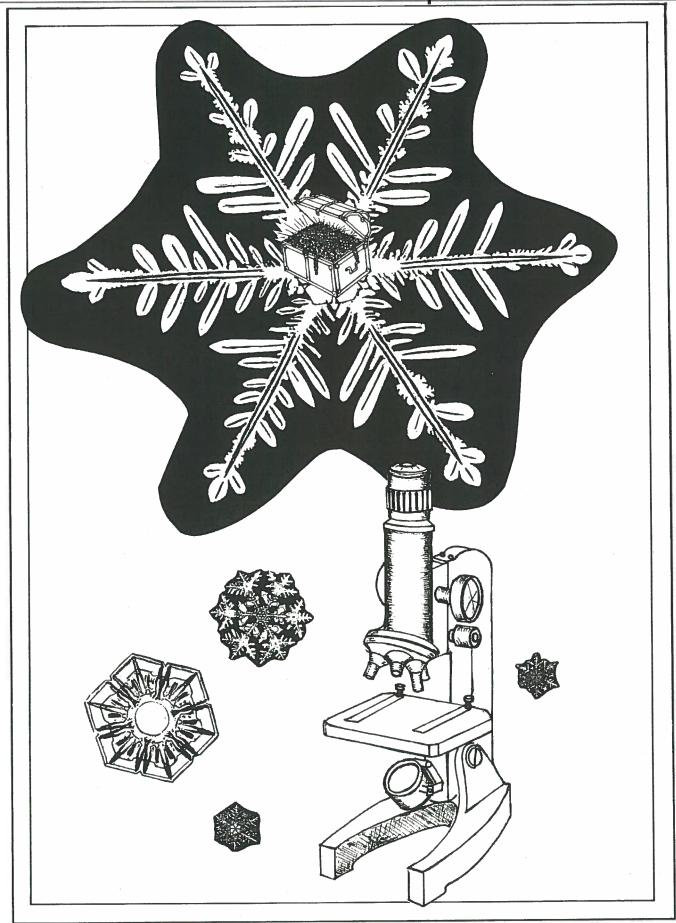
In Psalm 148:7,8 David continues: "Praise the Lord from the earth ... Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word."

Did you know that snow praises the Lord? God created the snow; everything He makes is made with care. You were created with care too. So you, along with the snow, can praise the Lord. You can praise the Lord for the lessons He has hidden in the snow.



PRACTICAL PROJECT:

Place two ice cubes on a bread plate at room temperature. Note the time on the clock. Find out how much time it takes for ice to turn into water at room temperature. Because of the delay of melt time, rivers flow all year long. How does this praise the Lord?



WANTER COSPECTED LICE



Where did our spinning little crystalline saucer come from as it twirled lazily out of the gray sky? Where did it begin its journey and why? God's word gives us this simple answer: "He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes; he casts out His hail like morsels;" Psalm 147:16, 17.

Our frosty flying saucer did not begin its journey as a crystal, but rather as mist rising out of the ocean. This vapor is absorbed into warm air above dancing waves through a process called evaporation. Wind blows this moisture-laden air over land. Rising air cools, and as it cools, the vapor condenses into clouds.

Clouds pass over mountain ranges. Nature uses a cold hand to squeeze this cloudy sponge, when she dumps this moisture in the form of sleet, hail, rain or snow.

Our atmosphere normally holds about ten-days' supply of fresh water suspended in air. If the clouds are high enough, the snow will compact into glaciers sleeping upon frozen peaks.

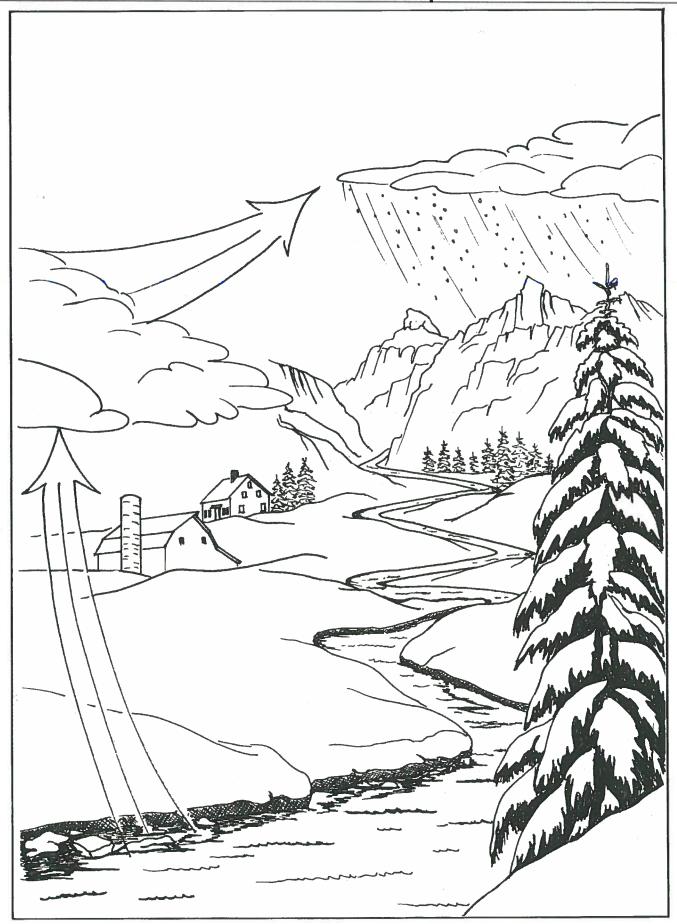
Glaciers, like giant ice cubes, slowly melt and become little rills which merge together creating streams. Streams merge together to become rivers. Rivers channel melted snow-water back to the salty sea. Thus, this bit of moisture will have made one giant round trip ending up back home again.

Solomon knew this. "All rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; to the place from which the rivers come, there they return again" Ecclesiastes 1:7. Snow is a frosty link in the great cycle of water. Its mission was created by God. Like water, we are each part of life's great cycle of love. God gives His pure love through Jesus. We share Jesus' gift of love with our parched neighbors. They in turn give thanks back to God and praise Him for His goodness. The love cycle is then complete.



PRACTICAL PROJECT:

Set up a rain gauge. (You can buy one from a hardware store). As a family, record how much rain falls during each storm. Ask: did this water come from the Pacific ocean or Atlantic ocean? The North pole or South pole? On the internet, get a satellite picture of the weather. From which direction are the clouds coming? This will help you follow the rain's journey before it fell where you live.



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Snow is as cold as ice cream. To remain frozen it must stay at temperatures less than 32°F (0°C). When snow passes through a warmer layer of air it will turn to rain. If the air layer at ground level is thin and below freezing, then the rain will freeze when it touches a freezing object on the ground. This is called freezing rain and produces an ice storm. "He casts out His hail like morsels; who can stand before His cold? He sends out His word and melts them; He causes His wind to blow, and the waters flow" Psalm 147:17, 18.

Who can stand before His cold? Only the one who is prepared. A mother prepares winter clothing while it is warm. When the cold arrives she is ready. "She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet" Proverbs 31:21.

Snow lasts only as long as it is cold; likewise life

lasts a very short time in this world because of sin. "As drought and heat consume the snow waters, so should the grave those who have sinned" Job 24:19.

Seasons come and go. In the hot season of summer our mountain community will send someone higher up the mountain for snow. With the cold snow we make ice cream. It is so refreshing. Solomon discovered this same refreshing truth when he wrote, "Like the cold of snow in time of harvest, is a faithful messenger to those who send him, for he refreshes the soul of his masters" Proverbs 25:13.

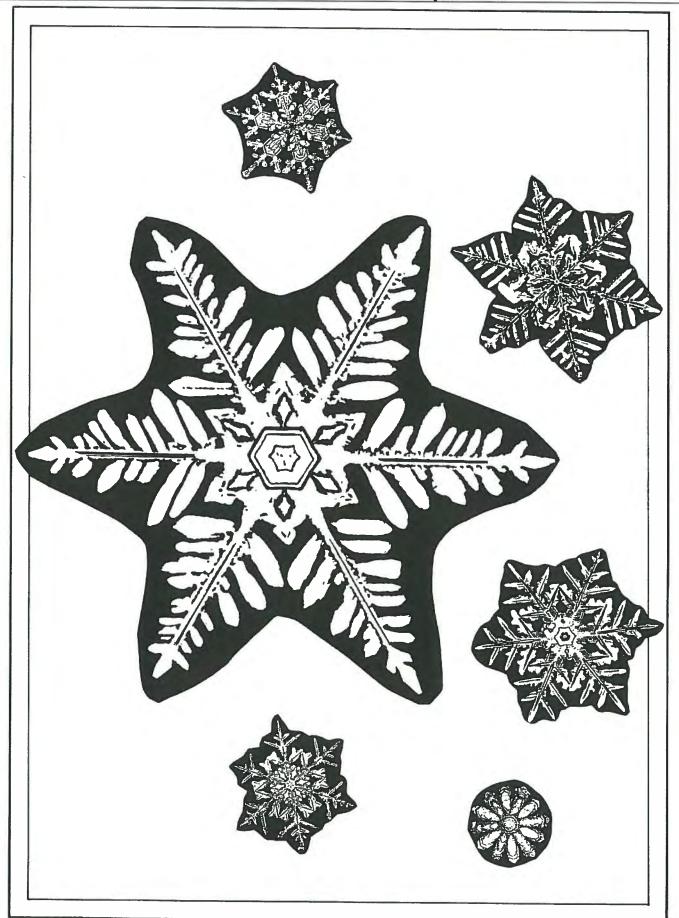
If God puts this much beauty into snow which may last only for moments, what can He do with your life and mine?

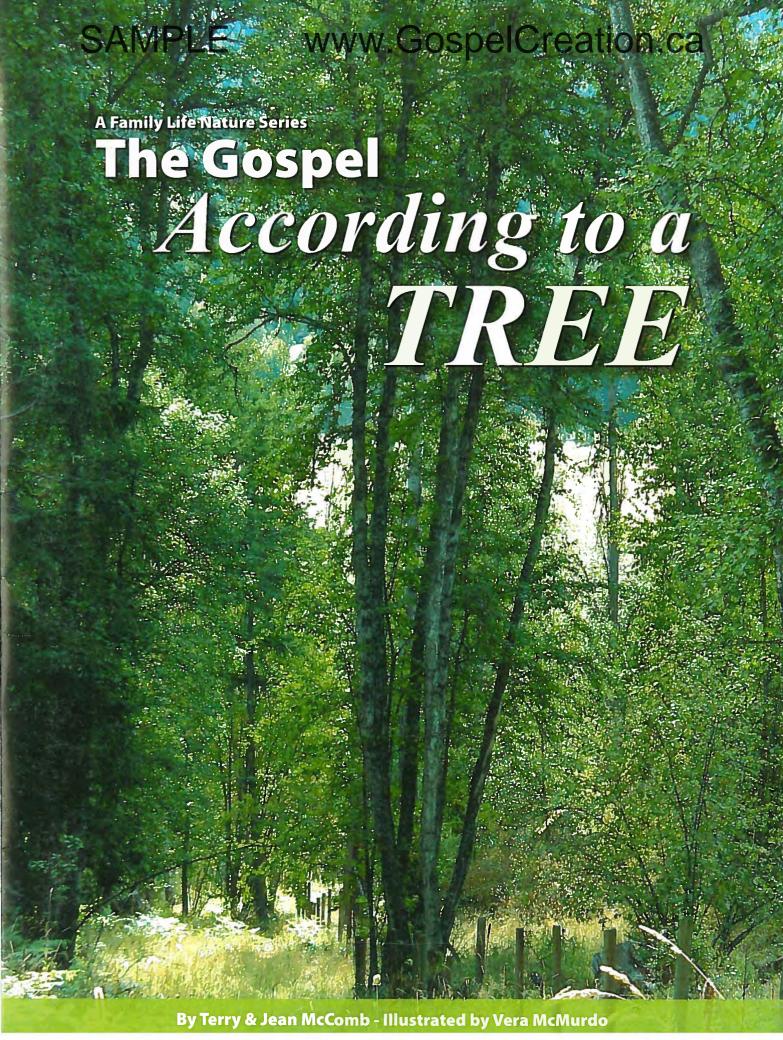


PRACTICAL PROJECT:

Make a real snow cone.

Scoop freshly fallen snow into a glass. Pour a few spoonfuls of frozen grape juice concentrate on top for a purple snow cone. If it is not the snow season you can make snow by slivering ice in a blender. Place two cups of small ice cubes in a pre-chilled blender and pulse. Blend till ice is fine as possible. Working fast put shaved ice into a glass and drizzle with 2-4 tablespoons of your favorite fruit juice concentrate. Enjoy!







According to a TREE

By Terry & Jean McComb Illustrated By Vera McMurdo

Cover design by the authors



Special thanks to the English class of Fountainview Academy of 1989-90. These classes did some of the original research in this book. Kathy Sparks, Carla Scarbrough, Twyla Weber, Jennifer Kenney, Pam Dunn, Robbie Dunn and Bryan Scarbrough

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PREFACE

A tree speaks to us of the beauty and wisdom of our Creator. Job 12:8 says: "Speak to the earth and it will teach you." As authors, we have prayerfully pondered the scientific facts regarding a tree, then compared them to the ways of God as found in His word. Because God is the Designer and Sustainer of the tree as well as the Author of the Scriptures, we find perfect harmony between the two, one illustrating the other.

Learning about the Creator through what He made was the school attended by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. To help them, Adam and Eve were clothed with a perfect light similar to God's (see Psalms 104:3), and this light enlightened not only their surroundings but also their mind. This light, although greatly veiled, God promises to His children today if we seek Him for it (see Revelation 3:13; Ephesians 5:13).

It is the authors' hope, that parents and teachers will take the lessons in this book and share it at their child's age-level of understanding, one lesson at a time, in the out-of-doors classroom. The drawings are scientifically accurate and are intended to be colored by the child after completing the lesson.

As you read and experience the living messages from the tree, we pray you will indeed find them to be as leaves from the TREE OF LIFE.

VERA MC MURDO, Artist

Vera and her husband Rex made their home in Whitefish, Montana. Vera was famous for her oil paintings of train steam engines. She was the mother of two boys, Reggie and Martin.

She had never created a line drawing till she began *The Gospel According to Nature* series. She told me she was not interested in money but in a ministry for boys and girls, so they could know Jesus Christ as Creator.

Vera worked on this project for five years part time, and it became her last labor of love. In 1997 she was diagnosed with cancer and struggled to complete this series of drawings. Her last picture was the picture depicting the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which she never quite finished.

Vera passed to her rest September 28,1998. How appropriate are the words of Revelation 14:13, "Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write; 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

She did not live to see the last two books she illustrated published. How pleased she will be resurrection morning to meet all the boys and girls who were blessed by her art ministry. This book is lovingly dedicated to her memory.

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Trees have been called living fountains of life gushing out of the earth, then falling into a billion droplets of green leaves. Some loggers say the cottonwood tree, when cut down, will squirt water up to a foot high right from its stump. This describes why a tree could be called a wooden pump with a pipe line deep down into the earth, pulling the hidden moisture up to add its vapor to the dry air. Its natural products are pure air and humidity, edible fruits and nuts, wood for man and other creatures. Besides all this, each part of the tree ministers to some other part of the tree. The opposite page illustrates the entire manufacturing process found in a tree, from root to leaf.

Each process reveals the principle of the cross – the law of self-denial. This principle is seen in everything God created except the selfish heart of man. You will find it demonstrated on nearly every page of this book. This principle was clearly made known to the universe when God's Son Jesus Christ died to save one little world that went astray.

The tree and the human family both testify they have the same author. Here we see evidence of a Divine Designer who put it all together. God's word was right when He said of trees: 'it was good' in Genesis 1:12, "And the earth brought forth ... the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good."Yet the human family is infinitely more complicated than a tree. Genesis 1:27 says, "So God created man in His own image: in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

The history of a family has been referred to as a family tree. The children are the branches, Mom and Dad the trunk of the tree. Then there are the roots, the grandpas and grandmas and great grandpas and great grandmas, and on, until we finally get back to Adam, who "was the son of God" Luke 3:38. The final root stock of the family tree ends up with God. Not some slime, black hole, explosion or evolution; but God. "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named" Ephesians 3:14,15.

PRACTICAL PROJECT:

Draw your family tree and compare it to a real tree.

What are the services Mom and Dad render to their children?

What do the limbs, the children, do for the family?

What do they do for society around them, by way of service?

Try to trace your family tree back three or four generations, perhaps even with photos.

www.GospelCreationdica Tree **Upper Epidermis** (waxy-clear) **Xylem Palisade** Cells Phloem Lower **Epidermis** Cambium **Stomata Phloem** Heartwood Bark, Sapwood **Root Tip Lateral Roots Root Cap Root Hairs**

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A large healthy tree has as much root underground as is seen above ground.

The giant sequoia has a root system that extends over two or three acres. Roots are the tree's foundation and anchor. It is not a beautiful part. Here, hidden out of sight, the tree receives moisture and nourishment and stores it. This part of the tree enables it to live through famine and drought which kills other plants with a smaller root system.

Likewise memorizing Scripture acts like an anchor holding one stable through difficult times. Edwin Markham, a famous nineteenth century poet, said, "When the great oak is straining in the wind, the boughs drink in new beauty, and the trunk sends down a deeper root on the windward side." Trees, too close together, have a shallow root system and can blow over easily. When spaced further apart, they put down a large root system. As the wind blows, they grow stronger.

On a mountaintop we see trees that grow stunted from harsh conditions. Children living with criticism may receive a message that behavior is more important than they are. Little roots of bitterness spring up. See Hebrews 12:15. If parents sink their roots deeper on the windward side into the Saviour's love (see Ephesians 3:17),

passing on to their children God's grace with loving limits, all can grow stronger when the winds blow.

The only place where roots grow and absorb nutrients and water are at the very tip. Here tiny root hairs act like little straws, absorbing whatever is around them. As they grow, they give off carbon dioxide gas which combines with water in the soil to form a weak acid, carbonic acid. This acid dissolves the minerals in the soil and enables the root tips to absorb them.

In a similar way, we absorb God's word and memorize or store it out of sight.

Caution! The same active faith that absorbs promises, can as easily absorb bitterness. Each day brings new absorption, new growth. Yesterday's experience will not do for today's growth. What we absorb depends where we are rooted: in the love of God or self.

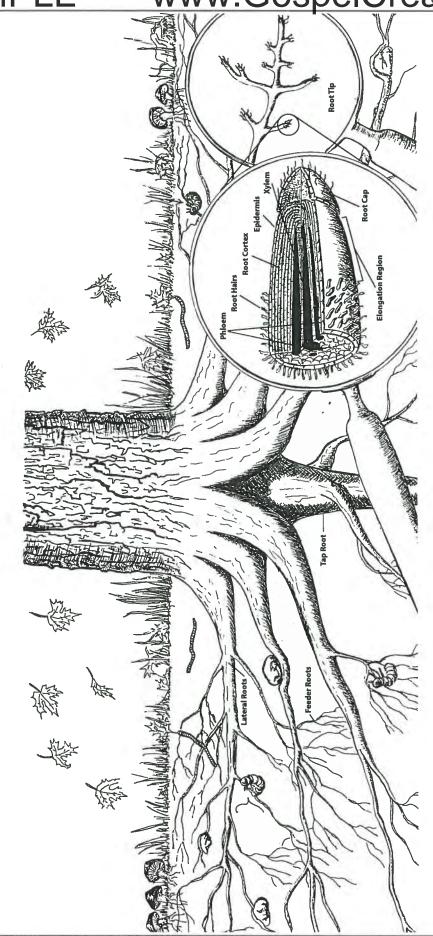
Underneath a tree lies great mysteries: How do the rootlets find water? What gives them wisdom to grow in that direction? We may never know. Here are divine mysteries. How God's love transforms our hearts is a similar mystery.

PRACTICAL PROJECT:

Take radish seeds and place them in a napkin soaked in warm water. In three days the seeds will sprout and become covered with tiny fuzzy hairs. Watch how much water they can absorb. How many promises can you absorb from God's word that will help root you in God's love and enable you to face the strong winds of life? To memorize a passage easier: First day read 25 times; Second day read 20 times; Third day read 15 times; Fourth day read 10 times; Fifth read 5 times; by the 6th day it should be memorized.

www.GospelCreationdea Tree

to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width, and length and depth and height – ווומו צטט, מטוווט ווים שוומ שומט ווו ומיע, ווומץ מט God" Ephesians 3:17-19.



These root hairs grow only on new growth. The past growth becomes tough, hard and waterproof. Thus new growth is essential to a tree's life.

unchangeable. Only today's growth flexes, changes, and absorbs. Tomorrow is future unknown. So with our life. Yesterday's growth is history; hard and We can only LIVE today.

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Tree bark functions similarly to human skin. This outside barrier protects the tree against invasion. Like human skin the bark breathes. The bark also functions similarly to clothing, insulating and beautifying.

As the phloem cells bring nutrients down from the leaves, these cells eventually harden and become part of the bark. Just as your finger-print can identify who you are, so can a tree be identified by looking closely at its bark. In like manner, divine truths stored in the mind become habituated thought patterns in your life, protecting and identifying you as the bark protects and identifies the tree. "Stand therefore having girded your waist with truth" Ephesians 6:14.

When young people love those best who love Christ most, it becomes a very deep protection. During the three years I was at a high school boarding academy, no one ever offered me a girlie magazine or invited me to a movie, or offered me a cigarette, drugs or alcohol, or told dirty stories around me. Why? I openly declared Jesus and His followers as my

best friends and to the best of my ability walked in harmony with His word. Psalms 119:63 says: "I am a companion of all who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts." I choose to love those best who love Christ most.

With Jesus as my best friend, His presence by the Holy Spirit said "No" to a thousand temptations. I did not need to say "No," for the divine Holy Spirit "bark" protection, already said "no" for me.

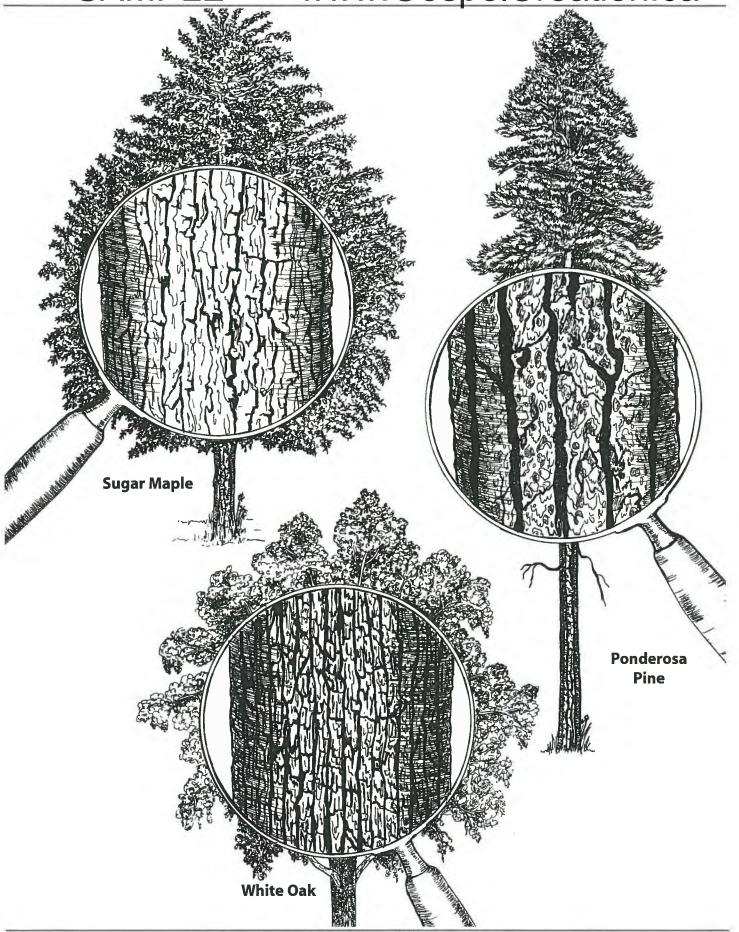
We gain many products from the tree bark: rubber is tapped from the bark of a rubber tree; cork from the cork tree bark; cinnamon from the bark of certain trees of the laurel family; quinine from the bark of a South American tree. The active agent in aspirin is from the willow tree bark.

Bark grows from the inside out as all true Christians grow: "My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways" Proverbs 23:26. Tree bark with its unique beauty, protection and healing, is a fit illustration of what Jesus wants to do for us from the inside out.

PRACTICAL PROJECT:

Go for a walk in the woods. Practice identifying trees by their bark. Try this blindfolded. You can do this, in spring; summer, fall, or winter for bark of a tree is the same in any season. An individual's external dress, fashion, hairstyle, and make-up are similar to the bark of a tree. As a family go to a mall and watch people go to and frow. By their external dress or undress, can you identify the friends of the world and the friends of Jesus? Study James 4:4-10. Who are we seeking to become best friends with, the world or Jesus? Love those best that love Christ most. Did Jesus become "the friend of publican's and sinners" by dressing, looking, and acting like sinners, or did He offer them something better?

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SAMPL Eylem WHY WHITE SAPELITY eation.ca

How does sap go up a tree? To answer this question needs more than the wisest science of man. Proverbs 3:19 tells us, "The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens."

The opposite page shows us electron micrographs of the xylem cells of lodgepole pine (pinus contorta Dougl). The secret of how sap goes up a tree still eludes modern science. Why are there little concave disc-like holes in the xylem cell? What function do they play as sap goes up the tree to the leaf?

These xylem cells eventually will become clogged with sap and will become part of the sapwood and eventually heartwood of the tree. These xylem cells are all manufactured by the one cell thick cambium layer, and they cover the tree from the twig to the root. This cambium layer is where the tree makes a decision. On the inside of the cambium layer xvlem cells with perfect little holes such as you see in the picture are produced. On the outside of the cambium layer it will produce phloem cells which take the sugars and saps manufactured in the leaf back down to the root. (see picture on page 5) How does this one cell thick cambium layer know which to make - cells taking fluid up or cells taking fluid down?

How does this cell have engineering technology to produce perfect little circles? Every perfect little circle says, "Made by God." Try drawing one circle without the aid of a compass and make it perfect, and then draw three more the same size, without a compass. Circles are only one of the awesome creative skills revealed in the production of these transportation cells. We are looking at the mechanics and structure of a pump. As far as we can see, there are no visible moving parts. We know this pump can lift fluids 300 feet high. How does the cell lift fluids? There are many theories, but nothing has been proven to the full satisfaction of the scientific community.

The phloem cells are made quite differently. These are hollow tubes containing screen-like sieves. How do they work? These carry the sap down, the opposite direction of xylem cells, which carry the sap up. How does the tree make decisions? Does it use some kind of electrical energy?

All these mysteries cause us to simply bow our heads in gratitude and say:

"...Worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water" Revelation 14:7. (See Apendix A on sap movement).

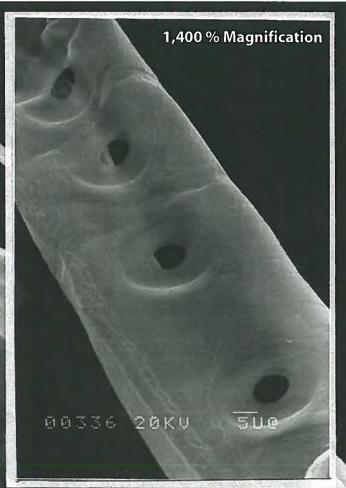
PRACTICAL PROJECT:

Take 3 different kinds of wood: Oak, Maple, and Pine and compare them.

Notice their differences. They are all xylem cells. Even when these cells die, they have many uses for us as wood. So with you and me. We too were designed for many different uses, but we can all bring glory to our Creator.

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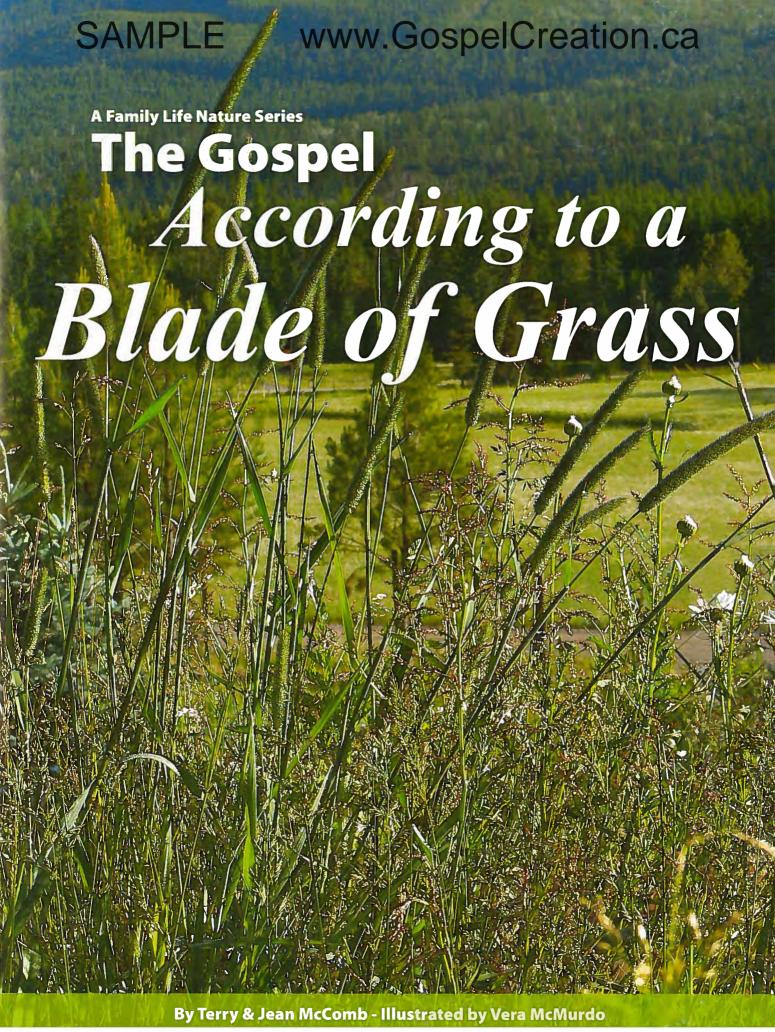




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The Gospel

According to a BLADE OF GRASS



By Terry & Jean McComb Illustrated By Vera McMurdo

Cover design by the authors

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TEXTS

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PREFACE

In God's wonder world of nature some miracles go unnoticed because they are so common. A blade of grass is such a wonder. A student of nature often learns only the name, identity, and anatomy of an object.

An area or nature study often missed is the ways of an object. The ways have to do with its lifestyle and how it functions. It also includes how it interacts with the rest of God's wonder world of nature.

In this book we shall look at some of the ways of grass and discover that they reveal some of the ways of its Maker. "You visit the earth and water it; You greatly enrich it; The river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so You have prepared it. You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth. You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance. They drop on the pastures of the wilderness, and the little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed

with flocks; the valleys also are covered with grain; they shout for joy, they also sing" Psalm 65:9-13.

According to Holy Scriptures, grass was the first life He created in His new world. It appears to be the foundation for all that lives and breathes on planet earth. This green living machine quietly feeds and ministers to all; from the cows chewing their cud, all the way to the richest tycoon of wall street. All depend upon the humble grass for its contribution.

The authors encourage parents, teachers and grandparents to enjoy this book with the child. Go with them into the out-of-doors classroom. Share these lessons with the child at the child's age level. Together enjoy the character, science, Bible and art lessons as each page unfolds. May this multi-learning experience cultivate seeing eyes and listening ears. May we hear the grasses "shout for joy", and in its rustling hear the message, "God is love."

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Many have left the rolling hills and the valleys of green to dwell in man-made cities of concrete and steel. The sweet aroma of fresh mown clover has been exchanged for the stench of burning exhaust. The warble of a meadowlark has been drowned out by the pulsating scream of a siren. From the freedom of the fields our homes today are often on a cramped corner of lawn. Our original home made by God was a garden. It was very good. Even though we have departed from God's countryside to dwell in man-made cities, His love and wisdom can still be found right in a front lawn or a vacant lot.

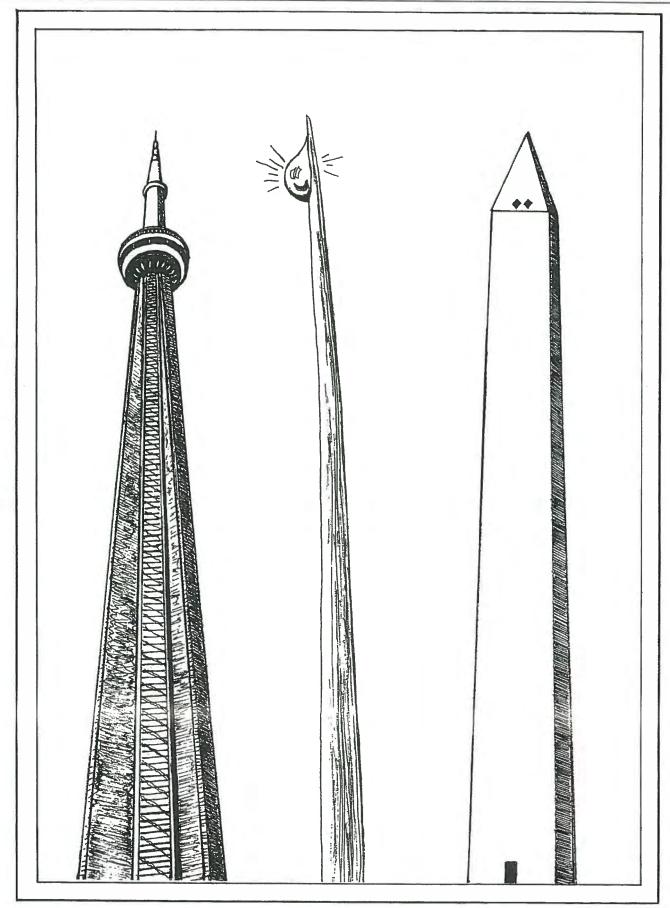
A blade of grass is a marvelous example of architectural wonder. The height is often 500 times its diameter. If the Washington Monument were built in like proportions, its base would cover an area smaller

than this book. Yet grass, a slip of green, towering into the heavens, uses not one guy wire for support. Blown down, stepped on, sat upon, yet it springs back. "He has made the earth by His power; He has established the world by His wisdom, and stretched out the heavens by His understanding" Jeremiah 51:15.

Packed within this upright ribbon of green can be found some of nature's most elegant machinery. Powered by the sun, it purifies the air and helps feed our hungry world. If God can design, build and maintain this miniature tower by His wisdom, would we not be wise to follow His plans and His word in every area of our lives? We would be wise to let God have His way, not just with our lawns, but with our hearts.



Go into the outdoor classroom and see if you can find grass that is 500 to 1(500 times higher than its width). Look at its design carefully. This is something created by God! Observe and marvel.



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When our world was just three days old, God made grass, "Then God said,'Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed,'... And the earth brought forth grass and herb that yields seed... So the evening and the morning were the third day" Genesis 1:11-13.

A truth often lost, is that God created all things through His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus was the One who spoke grass into existence. "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible" Colossians 1:16.



When the sun arose the third time, Jesus designed and created a blade of grass, along with the trees and other vegetation. With what cautious respect and awe should we consider the grass that Jesus thought was worth making. Its design, its purpose, its ways, should reveal some of the work and ways of Divinity.

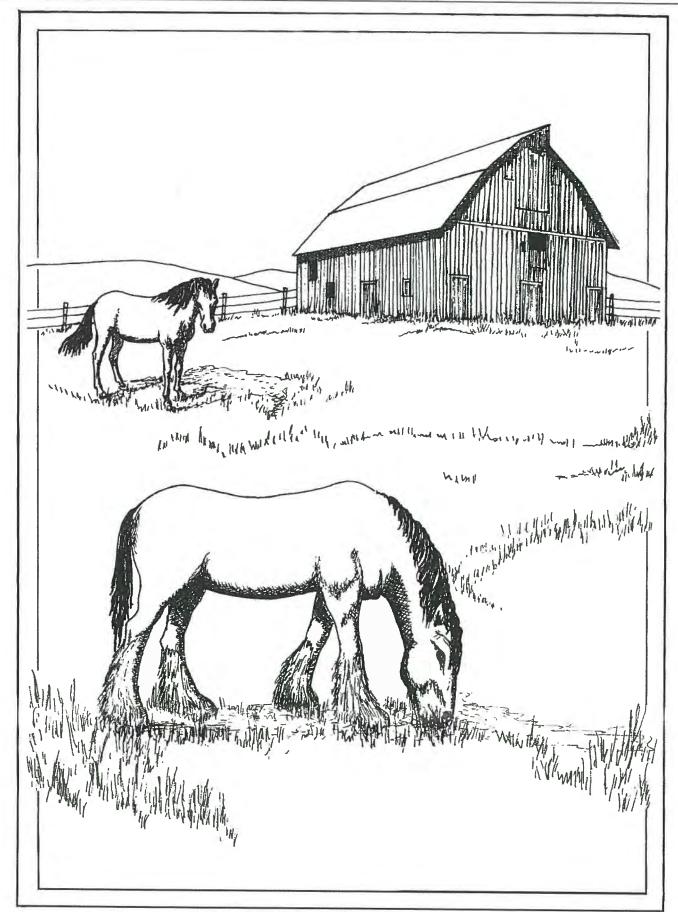
The grass family's scientific name is Gramineae and consists of some 7,500 species. It is one of the largest families in the plant world.

What was the purpose for which God created grass and vegetation? It was to be food for man and animal. "And God said, 'See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed: to you it shall be for food. 'Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food'; and it was so" Genesis 1:29, 30.

At creation the world was perfect. In a perfect world of no sin or death, all food for man and animal came from the plant kingdom. This was the original plan fresh from the divine mind of Jesus.

FAMILY PROJECT:

Go outside and pick a blade of grass to study. It was created by Jesus. Why its shape? Why its color? Note its texture. How well does it bend? What would our world look like without grass?



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All life on earth depends upon the living green. Grass grows without the aid of man, but Man cannot live without grass. Plants get their food from the soil, sun and air. Grasses and other plants absorb approximately ten percent of the sun's energy. When animals, insects, rodents or man eat the plant, they receive only a fraction of the sun's energy that was stored there.

Some creatures such as cows, sheep and some people get their food directly from the plants. Other creatures get their food by eating animals which have eaten plants. Cats and owls that eat mice would be in this group. Humans who eat meat would be in this second group also.

A third group are creatures of prey such as wild cats, wolves and eagles. They eat the animals of the second group. God made garbage collectors for nature to take care of the dead. The hyena, vulture, pig and raven are four of these scavengers.

Grass is the original food source. A rabbit eats grass. A weasel eats rabbits. A wild cat eats weasels. This process of one eating another is called a food chain.

About a dozen different grasses stock our supermarkets with cereal products, sugar and snacks. They are made from the seeds of cereal

grasses: rice, corn, oats, rye, wheat and barley. Sugar and molasses come from cane, which is also a grass. The big three grasses that feed the world are wheat, rice and corn. Other foods also come indirectly from grasses by animals, such as meat or meat by-products, milk, cheese and eggs. Non-edible products come from grasses by animals, such as leather goods, furs and wool.

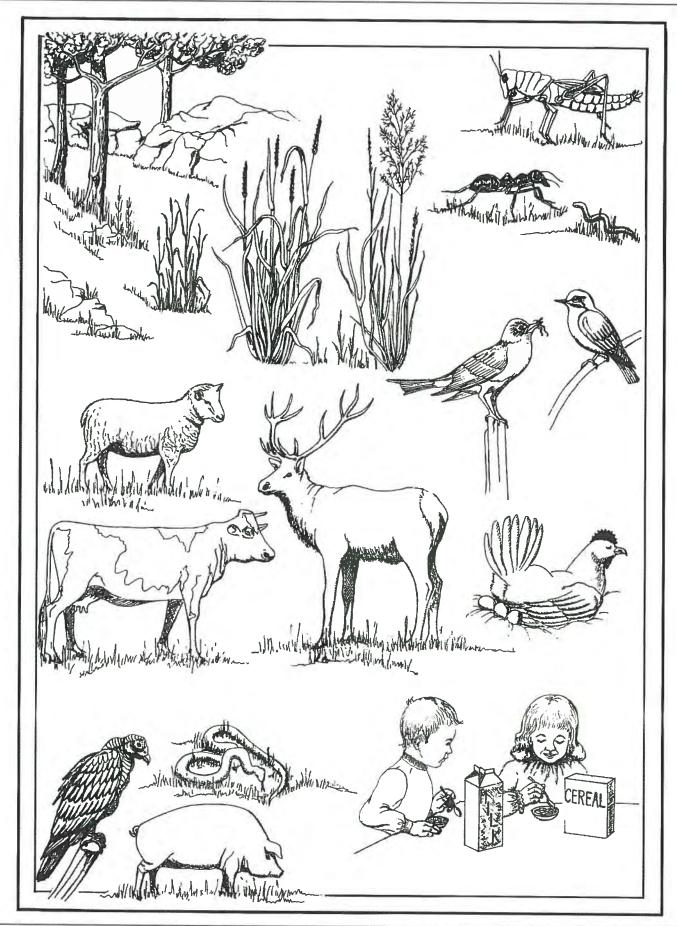
John James Ingalls, U.S. Senator from Kansas, put the urgency of grass this way. "Grass is the forgiveness of nature, her constant benediction. . . Should its harvest fail for a single year, famine would depopulate the world." We must have farmers who grow food from plants. One vital profession in our world is farming. We have twisted values. Farmers sell some of their products at World War II Prices, yet at the same time we pay Hollywood stars millions to entertain us. We regularly raise the salaries of most professionals except farmers.

The Bible asks the question, "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread?" Isaiah 55:2. Farmers work with the original source of all foods, the plants. "He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man, that he may bring forth food from the earth," Psalms 104:14.

FAMILY PROJECT:

Keep a record of what your family eats for one day. How many different grasses did you eat? The food we eat does not grow in a grocery store. How much money does your family spend per week to buy grass products some one else grew?

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Astonished, David Pramer of Rutgers University, Looking through a powerful microscope, viewed a true drama. He focused in on a tiny, one-celled fungus plant and watched it lasso and strangle a ferocious Nema worm. The fungus plant had grown a thread 1/200 millimeter in thickness and strong as steel. The Nema came charging in. The plant formed a loop at the end of its thread and seized the dragon around the waist. The loop then inflated like a rubber innertube and strangled its victim. The fungus then dined leisurely on the carcass.

Invisible hordes of microscopic forms of life are waging constant war in the top soil of lawns and farmers' fields. Soil has the highest concentration of life on earth. An acre of typical farm soil six inches deep has: a ton of fungi, several tons of bacteria, 200 pounds of protozoa (one-celled animals), 100 pounds of algae and 100 pounds of yeast. The total mass of microbial life on earth is estimated to be 20 times greater that the total mass of animal life.

On a grain of lawn soil these fantastic creatures live, battle, reproduce and die. Each one is incredibly designed, having its special ministry to another form of life.

By eating dead plants and animals, they produce decay, which in turn releases locked up elements. These elements are used by plants. Therefore a blade of grass lives and grown because of these unseen helpers. Plants then turn elements into vitamins and enzymes which are eaten by man and animals.

God uses these lowly unseen creatures as being vital to all known life. It is humbling for proud man to owe his very existence to the service of the God-made microscopic organisms.

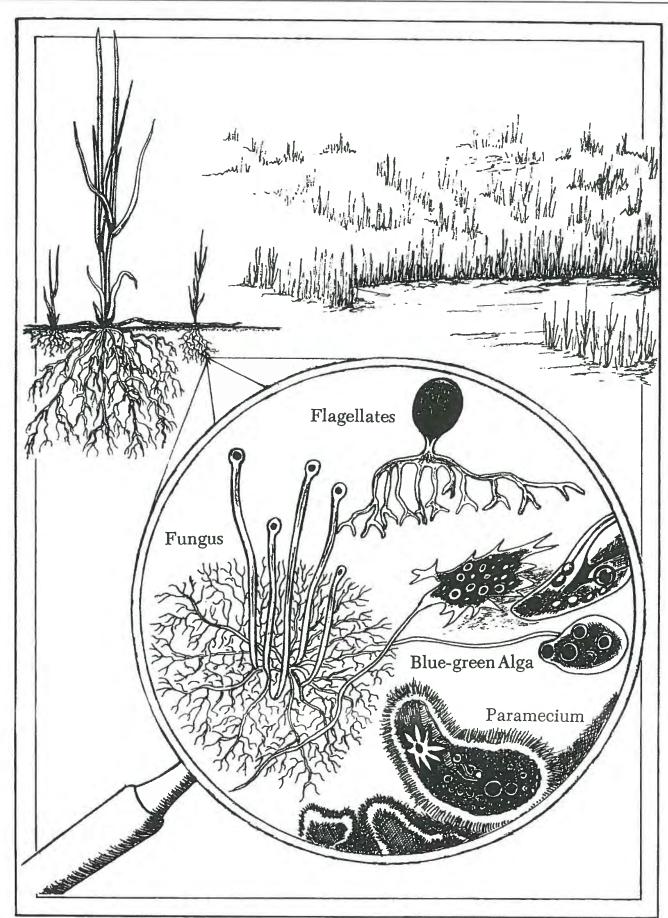
They can live without us. We can not live without them. "but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and god has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence."

1 Corinthians 1:27-29



FAMILY PROJECT:

Go to your back yard and dig up a few table spoons of top soil. Spread it out onto some white paper. Look carefully with a picket magnifying glass. Do you see any sign of life? It teems with life largely unseen. Yet we owe our life to their ministry to the plant world.



The Gospel According to Creation Seminars



Terry McComb, Speaker and Writer with Creation
Illustrated magazine, has conducted countless characterbuilding, Bible-based seminars that reveal eternal truths
through the handiwork of God. The Spiritual messages
have a lasting impact on all ages and include black-light
chalk drawings with his wife's soft piano
artistry in the background.

Pastor McComb has authored more than 50 articles with Creation Illustrated magazine and co-authored with his wife Jean, four children's books for parents to study with their children – Gospel According to a Dandelion; Gospel According to a Blade of Grass, Gospel According to a Snowflake and Gospel According to a Tree.

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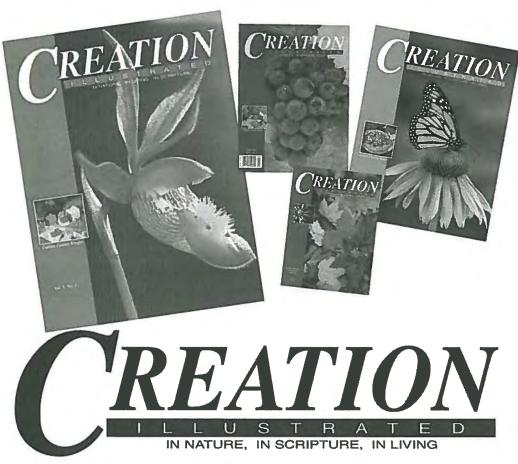
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