



Part 8 – A View From the Zoo
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This morning we celebrate the final week in our 50 day adventure. My prayer for our church is that our families have been encouraged in their journey and better equipped to live like Jesus in their homes. This morning you have the privilege of hearing Gary Richmond. Gary has been a friend for over 20 years and his ability to weave biblical truth through “zoo stories” is unmatched. Our Family service this morning is a fitting conclusion to this special 8 weeks series.

I. Ups and downs (James 1:2-3)

A. Animal: **Giraffe**

B. Big idea: **You will have troubles in life.**

II. Easy to Grab, Hard to let go (Prov. 14:12)

A. Animal: **Cobra**

B. Big idea: **There are things in life that can easily entrap/hurt us if we hold on to them.**

III. I never realized (Luke 22:44; Mt. 11:28-30)

A. Animal: Rhinoceros

B. Big Idea: Jesus understands “our stress” as He experienced stress in the Garden of Gethsemane.

IV. Chaca, Uh Uh!

A. Animal: Monkey

B. Big idea: God is thinking about us, even when we aren't consciously thinking about Him.

Table Talk:

This week's table talk will be the best, if you actually do it! Review the 4 stories with your kids and let them try and retell the story themselves. Make sure they understand the big idea for each story. Then reread the scripture passages and answer the discussion questions below. I suggest that you buy Gary's book, *A New View from the Zoo* if you want many more memorable nights for bedtime or quiet time!

Discussion Questions...

*Note: As you review each story, see if your kids can draw a picture of the animal Gary described!

1. Giraffe:

- ✓ What trials have you experienced that you found to be the most difficult?
- ✓ What made you afraid?
- ✓ What did you learn?

2. Cobra

- ✓ What are things that are easy to grab and hard to let go of in your life?
- ✓ Samson's story is found in Judges 13-16. What are some of the things he had a hard time letting go of?

3. Rhinoceros

- ✓ What was Jesus' "stress" in the Garden? Why did He sweat drops of blood during His prayer to the Father?
- ✓ What are things that stress us out as a family?
- ✓ What are God's instructions to us from Matt.11:28-30?

4. Monkey

- ✓ How often do you think about God as you go about your day?
- ✓ Parents: Share a story from your own life, where God was at work, and you didn't even realize it.

Wrap Up:

I am so glad that you joined us for "50 days for the Family". These past 8 weeks have been designed to help you see the importance of spending intentional time with your families and creating a spiritual climate in the home.

Let's continue the tradition of prayer, devotions and family time as we seek to become a "*community of authentic Christ followers*".