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LARRY LEARNS ABOUT FISHES By Enola Chamberlin

Larry and his father were looking at the fish in the glass aquarium in the pet store. In one tank there were some tiny baby fishes.

"How do the fish hatch their eggs there in the water without any nests?" Larry asked.

"There are many ways," his father said, "for instance, that bronzy looking fish with the reddish tail and fins, called a barb, simply lays her eggs on the plant leaves and forgets all about them. They hatch out all by themselves."

"What do some of the other fish do?" Larry asked.

"The angel fish, that short almost round, grayish fish with the black bands around her body, takes care of her eggs almost as well as a mother hen does. She makes sure that the spot where she is going to lay them is clean. With the father fish helping she scrubs it with her jaws. As soon as the eggs are laid, she and the father fish fan them with their fins so as to keep fresh water over them at all times. This goes on for about three days. Then the eggs hatch. But the little fishes are still under their parent's care. Each baby is tied to the place where he hatched by a strong filament, placed there by the mother when she laid the eggs. This keeps the young fish from being fanned away by his mother and father's fins. He may be a full week old before he breaks loose and is out from in under their care."

"Look at the beautiful red fish," Larry said, "he is blowing bubbles right at the top of the water."

"That is a fightingfish," Father said. "He is making a nest of bubbles for the eggs of his mate. The mother fish lays her eggs loose in the water right under the nest. The father fish catches them in his mouth and puts them into his bubble nest. All the time they are hatching he blows more bubbles to keep the nest on top of the water where the eggs can get the oxygen they need."

"How can he catch the eggs in his mouth and not swallow them?" Larry asked.

"Maybe he does swallow a few," Father said, "but there is one fish that doesn't. That is a cichlid like that green-blue fish with the reddish sides. The mother fish lays her eggs and then picks them all up in her mouth. She holds them there and does not eat a bite of food until they have hatched. Sometimes she has to go longer than that without eating. After the fish are hatched they dart back into her mouth if they are scared or disturbed."

When Larry and his father got home, Larry told his mother about their visit to the aquarium.

"I sure learned a lot about fish today," he said.

"And you learned something else," Mother said. "You learned how God takes care of the creatures He has made, making it possible for them to live on in their own beautiful way."

"That's right," Larry said. "God is good to the fishes just the same as He is to me."

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IT'S FUN TO MAKE VALENTINES

By Ella L. Bolander

Materials needed: White construction or drawing paper; paper for pattern cutting; red crayon; cut-outs from magazines; paste; scissors.

First cut several patterns of hearts of different sizes. Try a large heart using paper about 6x7 inches. Try cutting paper $3\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Figure 1 shows how to fold the paper and cut only one half of the heart shape.

The valentine shown here is a booklet, or a folded card. To make it you must have a piece of paper twice as wide as the heart. Fold a piece of white paper and fit your heart pattern to it, as in Figure 2. Trace around the pattern and cut the folded paper. Be sure to leave a part of the folded edge uncut as shown by the dotted line in Figure 2.

Look at Figure 3. The front page is folded back and a small heart is cut as shown by the heavy line. This makes an opening in the front of the valentine.

Figure 4 shows how you can fold your valentine back in place and color a red heart through the opening.

Figure 5 shows another way to decorate the valentine. Cut a pretty picture from a magazine and paste it to the inside page. Write a greeting on the front or the inside.

-30-

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LEARNING GOD'S GOOD WAY

By Esther Thom

Most of the time Jesus was in the midst of many people. But every once in a while he would go away by himself to talk to God.

Sometimes Jesus went into quiet fields. Sometimes he climbed to the top of a hill.

Jesus talked to God early in the morning and at the end of the day. Many times he also stopped his work to pray.

When Jesus came back from these quiet times he was always rested and eager to help people again.

READ Mark 1:35; Matthew 14:23; 26:36.

Do you ever stop your play to talk to God? Do you ever talk to God at school? Do you talk to God when you are happy, just as you talk to him when you are unhappy or afraid? How do you feel after you have spent some quiet times with God?

A PRAYER

Dear God, I am glad that I can talk to you at any time and in any place. Please help me know what you want me to do. Lead me to do what is right, in Jesus' name. Amen.

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