

BAPTIST FEATURES

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CHILDREN'S PAGE
August 25, 1955

THE WISE SQUIRRELS BY: Julia W. Wolfe

Under a great big tree there lived a family of squirrels. All through the lovely summer days they climbed the trees, and ran gayly along the branches, and raced up and down.

One day, when the little family was running off through the fields, two children came through the woods, and saw a curious-looking hole under a tree. Jamie poked a stick into the hole, and found that it contained quantities of nuts. It was the very store that the squirrels had all worked hard to gather for their food during the coming winter.

Without one thought of harming the squirrels, Jamie and Janie took every nut from that hole. Then the squirrels returned, and were surprised, and began running up and down trees and chattered and scolded as fast as they could. But, of course, the children did not understand squirrel chatter, and they kept on putting all the nuts into a little basket, which they carried away to their home. A few of the bigger squirrels followed after them and kept up scolding all the way.

Jamie and Janie handed the basket to their mother when they reached home, and thought she would be pleased with their find; but she did not even smile; she said she was sorry they had done such a thing. "Don't you know, my children, that the squirrels gather these nuts for their winter's food? Don't you know the squirrels have had much work to get all of these nuts together?"

She said, "The nuts must be put back just where they were found or the squirrels will go hungry all winter."

Jamie and Janie wanted to keep the nuts, but after thinking how they would not like to go hungry themselves, they took the nuts back. The squirrels were watching and saw all of their treasures go into the hole in the ground out of sight. And just as soon as Jamie and Janie were out of sight, down from the big tree scrambled the squirrels. After a lot of chattering among themselves, the old squirrels scratched every nut out of that hole, and then they each took a nut and carried them off a long, long way, and buried them under a ledge under a hill.

How hard they worked, and how tired they grew! But they did not stop until every nut was stored away safe in the new storehouse.

The very next day Jamie and Janie crept slyly to the old storehouse under the tree; they could not find a single nut. There was nothing except an empty hole. And up in the tree the squirrels were frisking about, looked down from a safe distance and chattered at Jamie and Janie.

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EARNED FUN BY: Ila Lewis Funderburgh

Today I did my tasks with care,
Nor shirked a single one,
And when the time for playing came,
I never had such fun!

The games were just the usual kind
That we play any day;
I think they seemed so special for
I'd earned them as my pay

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TROPICAL HITCH-HIKERS BY: Gladys Cleone Carpenter

In Florida waters and in tropical seas live strange, eel-like creatures called shark-suckers or remoras. They vary in length from eight inches to two feet.

On the head of each one of these blue-black fish is a suction disc. By means of this, the remora attaches itself to the underside of a large fish or sea turtle and has free transportation. If he rides on the top of a creature, he has to journey upside down.

The remoras can detach themselves when they see small fish they want--then catch another ride.

Fisherman use the remora for catching big fish, turtles and sharks. They tie a line to the sucking fish and free it. The power of the remora's sucking disc is so great that when it has attached itself to even a huge turtle that creature is hauled in with the remora.

God's handiwork seen in nature is constantly to be marveled at. Also it seems that often he has written a plain lesson for us to see. In the case of a big creature and a remora, doesn't it appear that if we let worthless, unchristian-like people attach themselves to us that we may be pulled in the wrong direction?

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GARDEN IN A NUTSHELL BY: Valrie M. Geier

It's fun to make nutshell gardens. You can plant them on anything you have on hand: tiny dime-store mirrors, cork or grass glass mats, small pottery plates, or a half-inch slice of wood sawed from the branch of an old tree.

Find bits of moss and several tiny slips of small, quick-rooting plants in your yard or in the woods. Pack each plant into the nutshell with damp peat moss, or garden soil. Mix a bit of sand with the soil.

Glue the planted shells onto the mat, or other base you have chosen.

The plants will grow for weeks if you water them each day. Use only a few drops of water from an eye dropper.

Nutshell gardens make interesting party favors. They make an attractive gift for someone. Why not gather your materials together and start making nutshell gardens today?

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Mat for this is labeled "A".