

# Nature Study

"FROM A CHILD"

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(DAGENHAM EAGLES)



# Nature Study Requirement 1:

**Read** the story of Jesus' childhood in the Desire of Ages chapter 7 and **relate it to the place of Nature Study** in his education and ministry by presenting an oral report before an audience on original nature lessons drawn from your **study and observation**.

# Instructions

**Nature Study - From A Child** , is an interactive online review session, where questions and answers will be facilitated to prayerfully **reflect on extracts** from your reading, understanding and application of knowledge **from the Book Desire of Ages, Chapter 7**.

**To pass this segment of the requirement** each participant is expected to have read the chapter and completed the associated worksheet. This session aims to consolidate knowledge gained from reading and enable application, through the facilitated peer to enable each participant to confidently summarise and present oral report supported with a powerpoint nature study presentation.

The childhood and youth of Jesus were spent in a **little mountain village**. There was no place on earth that would not have been honored by His presence. The palaces of kings would have been privileged in receiving Him as a guest. But **He passed by the homes of wealth, the courts of royalty, and the renowned seats of learning, to make His home in obscure and despised Nazareth.**

# Discuss

## EDUCATION

- Why was the Little Mountain Village important ?

## MINISTRY

- Why did Christ pass by the homes of wealth in childhood?

- " In the sunlight of His Father's countenance, Jesus "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." Luke 2:52.

Q: Why do you think the writer used sunlight in a favourable way?

His **mind was active** and penetrating, with a thoughtfulness and wisdom **beyond His years**. Yet His **character was beautiful** in its symmetry. The powers of mind and body developed gradually, in keeping with the laws of childhood.

Q: How can nature help you develop you mind and body?

- The child Jesus did not receive instruction in the synagogue schools. **His mother was His first human teacher.** From her lips and from the scrolls of the prophets, He learned of heavenly things. The very words which He Himself had spoken to Moses for Israel He was now taught at His mother's knee. As **He advanced from childhood to youth,** He did not seek the schools of the rabbis. He needed not the education to be obtained from such sources; for **God was His instructor.**



# Discuss

## EDUCATION

**"His mother was His first human teacher"**

**Q: How did Christ mother influenced him as a Child?**

## MINISTRY

**"God was His instructor"**

**Q: In what things did God instruct Jesus and why?**

## Have you ever felt awkward?

“The question asked during the Saviour's ministry, "How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?" does not indicate that Jesus was unable to read, but merely that He had not received a rabbinical education. John 7:15.”

**Q: How do you deal with awkward questions about your ministry or belief? How can nature help you find answers and understanding when faced with awkward questions and behaviours?**

**“Since He gained knowledge as we may do,**



**His intimate acquaintance with the Scriptures shows how diligently His early years were given to the study of God's word”**

**Q: How diligent and intimate have you been studying God's word and what has been the impact ?**



**“And spread out before Him was the great library of God's created works”.**

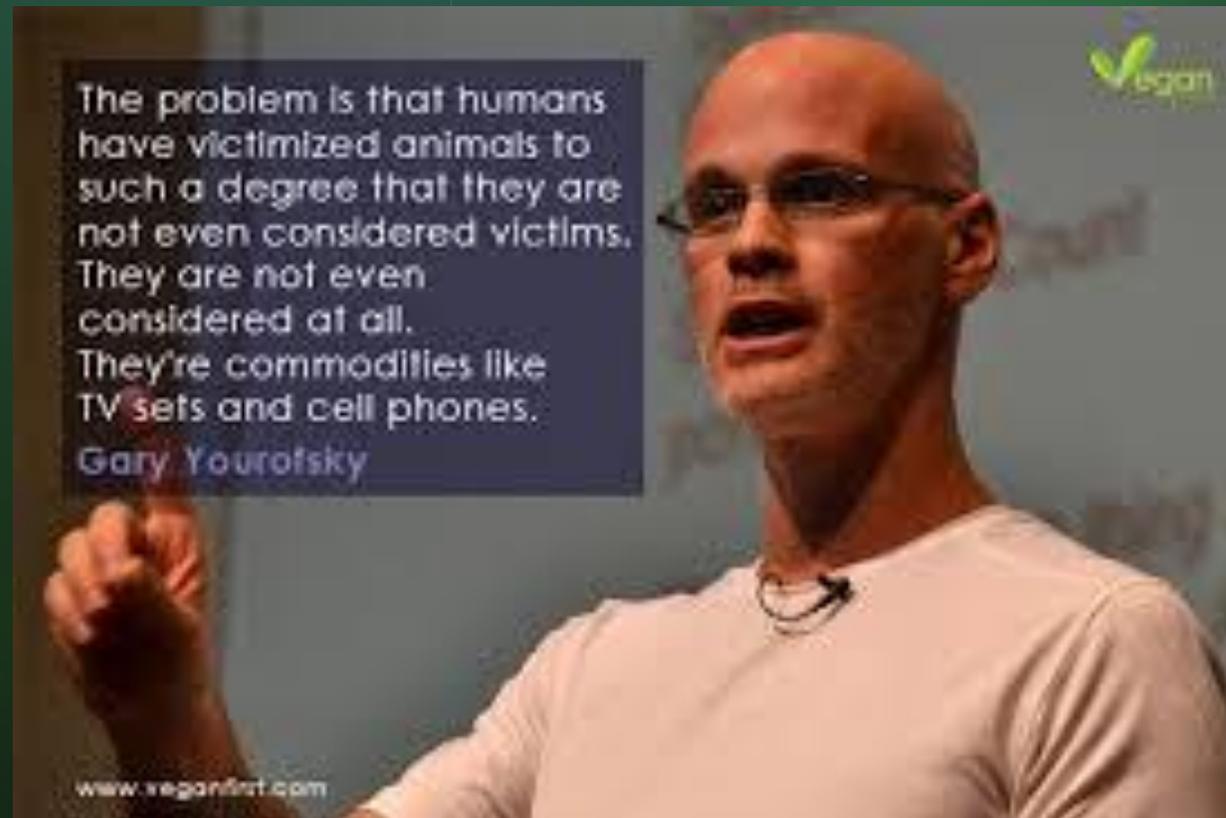
# What can you learn from....

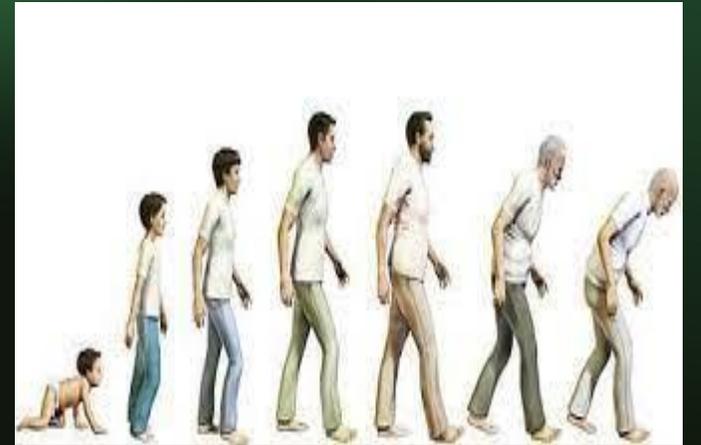


“He who had made all things studied the lessons which His own hand had written in earth and sea and sky.”



Apart from the unholy ways of the world, He **gathered stores of scientific knowledge from nature.**





- **He studied the life of plants and animals, and the life of man.**

# Do you know your one purpose?



- From His earliest years He was possessed of **one purpose**; He **lived to bless others**.

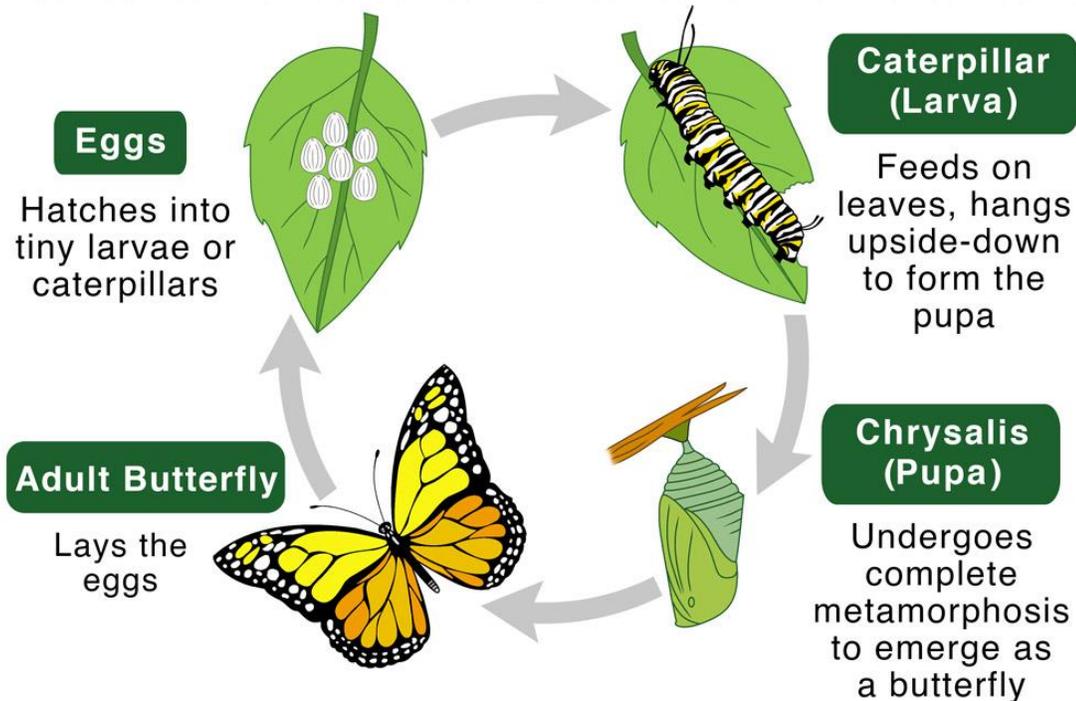
- For this He found resources in nature; new ideas of ways and means flashed into His mind as He studied plant life and animal life.



What song flashes into mind? Why?

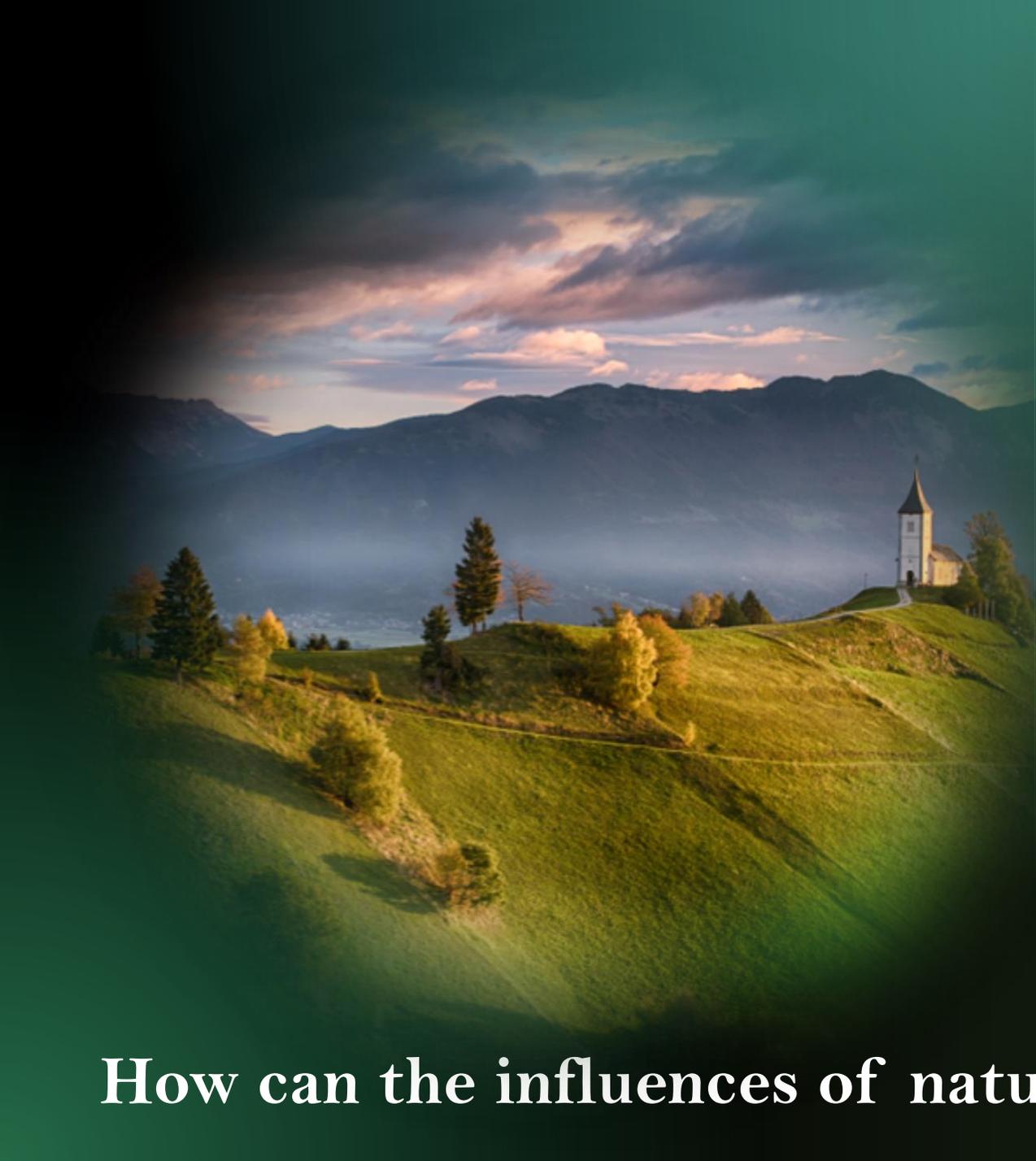
## Life Cycle of a Butterfly

BUTTERFLY  
IDENTIFICATION



What life principles  
can we draw from  
things seen?

“Continually He was  
seeking to draw from  
things seen illustrations by  
which to present the living  
oracles of God”.



“The parables by which, during His ministry, **He loved to teach** His lessons of truth show how open His spirit was to the influences of nature, and how **He had gathered the spiritual teaching from the surroundings** of His daily life.”

How can the influences of nature impact your spiritual life?

# Activity

Parable of the Sower - Matthew 13:3-8.

Parable of the Weeds - Matthew 13:24-30.

Parable of the Mustard Seed - Matthew 13:31-32.

Parable of the Yeast - Matthew 13:33.

Parable of the Hidden Treasure - Matthew 13:44.

Parable of the Pearl - Matthew 13:45-46.

Parable of the Fishing Net - Matthew 13:47-50.

1. Imagine you are a little Child, chose one of the parable cards and explain why “**He [Christ] loved to teach His lessons of truth and show how open His spirit was to the influences of nature**”
2. When surrounded by nature, how can you open your spirt to the influences of nature?



# In Summary...

- Every living thing , whether plant or animal goes through stages of growing. Nothing is mature at birth. Growth takes time, nourishment and sometimes much help and care. Like an infant, human being spiritual growth takes place like a tree which has roots in good fertile soil. Roots collect its food from the earth in much the same way the Christian is planted in Christ . He needs to be rooted and grounded in Christ and in His Word.
- As we read God's Word, think upon it and pray for God's help and blessings that He not only understand the promises and the teachings but applies them to his daily life. You may have made mistakes. Christ loves you still and will forgive your sins. Turn to Christ with repentance and confession. Consider the Lily and the mustard seed: no one can grow as a Christian, who is planted in the wrong soil. You cannot have roots in sinful things while trying to stand in your own strength. To succeed as a Christian, build, reflect and live Christ.