

Lesson 16: Woodpecker, Turtle, Deer

Welcome back to our Via Positiva theme of Blessings and Gratitude.

This week, we're sharing a story from the Buddhist tradition!

Review

Here are a few tips for introducing the lesson and reviewing the previous ones.

- ❖ Blessings are things that make us feel good, lucky, thankful, etc.
- ❖ God offered Abraham the blessing of many, many descendants - as numerous as the stars in the sky.
- ❖ God did finally bless Abraham and Sarah - even though they were very old - with a son. His name was Isaac.
- ❖ Isaac eventually grew up and married Rebekah. They had twin sons named Esau and Jacob. Esau was born first, so he should have been given the birthright from his father, Isaac. But Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac, who was old and blind, into giving his blessing to Jacob instead.

Introduction to Buddhism

Here's a quick kid-friendly introduction to Buddhism. For a more detailed review, [click here](#). Many of the Nurture program kids are familiar with the Tibetan form of Buddhism because they have been to Urban Dharma for stories and meditation sessions.

- ❖ Buddhists follow the teachings of the Buddha. He was a real person who lived about 2,500 hundred years ago.
- ❖ "Buddha" is a title that means "Awakened One." It was bestowed on the man, Siddhartha Gautama, to indicate that he achieved full enlightenment in that lifetime.
- ❖ The Buddha lived in the northeastern part of India
- ❖ Two important Buddhist practices are sitting meditation and listening to teachings offered by gurus or lamas.
- ❖ This story is a Jataka {jah-tah-kuh} tale. These tales are animal stories that teach a moral lesson. In fact, many historians think they were the forerunners to Aesop's fables. In each story, there is a character that represents the peaceful, compassionate nature of the Buddha. In fact, some Buddhists believe that this character represents one of the Buddha's past lives.

Story

A very simple video version of this story can be found [here](#).

The version we wrote, which can be found [here](#), is a bit longer but it's also much closer to the traditional tale.

Thought Questions

Do you have a friend you don't see very often? Could you still count on this friend if you ever need help?

Have you ever felt like the hunter who tried to start something and then had to wait a while to try again?

Have you - either with your friends or without - ever been able to outsmart someone who was supposedly older and wiser than you?

Do you have a friend who is really different from you?

Craft

There are a couple of cool woodpecker crafts out there that are fun to make.



This [woodpecker craft](#) from Made by Joel includes a woodpecker template and instructions.



If you have a few craft supplies hanging around your house (like a hole-punch and a brad), this craft is also fun. Just download a woodpecker coloring template and use up some of those empty toilet paper rolls!