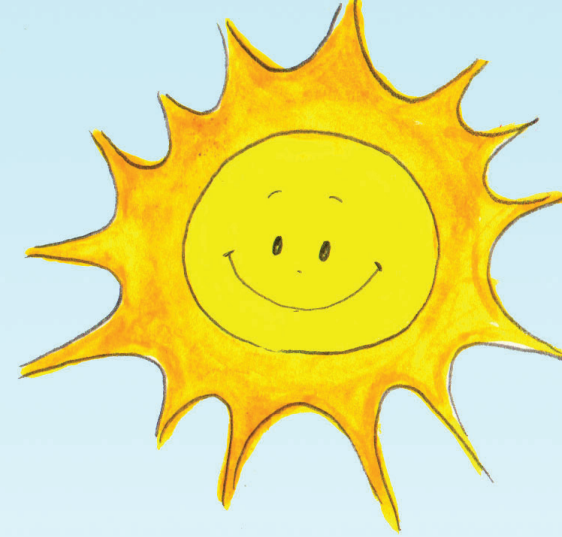


TALES OF FARM FRIENDS

THE DUCKLINGS AND THE CHICKS





DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR A HEN, WHETHER A DUCK OR A CHICKEN, TO WANT TO SET ON EGGS TO HATCH THEM.

ONE SUMMER WHEN ONE OF THE CHICKENS WANTED TO SET ON EGGS, MY MOTHER PUT BOTH CHICKEN AND DUCK EGGS UNDER THE HEN. SHE PUT THE DUCK EGGS UNDER THE HEN FIRST, FOLLOWED BY THE CHICKEN EGGS A WEEK LATER. THAT'S BECAUSE THE INCUBATION PERIOD (HOW LONG IT TAKES BEFORE THE EGG HATCHES) IS 28 DAYS FOR DUCKS AND 21 DAYS FOR CHICKENS.

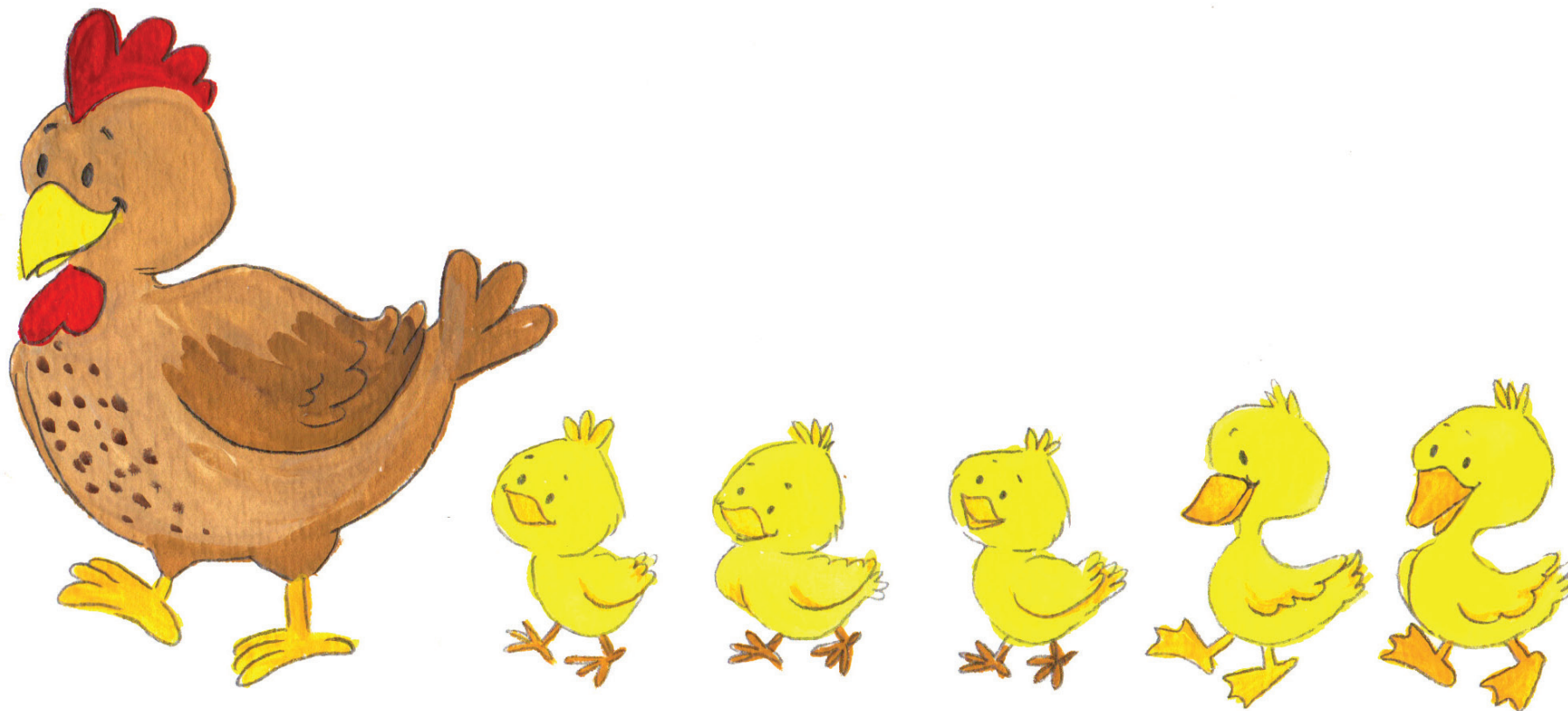


WHEN A DUCK SETS, AT LEAST A COUPLE OF TIMES A DAY SHE WILL LEAVE HER NEST TO EAT AND DRINK. BEFORE SHE GOES BACK TO HER NEST, SHE WILL GET INTO THE WATER. THAT WAY WHEN SHE'S ON HER NEST, HER WET BREAST MAKES FOR A MOIST, WARM ENVIRONMENT FOR THE EGGS.



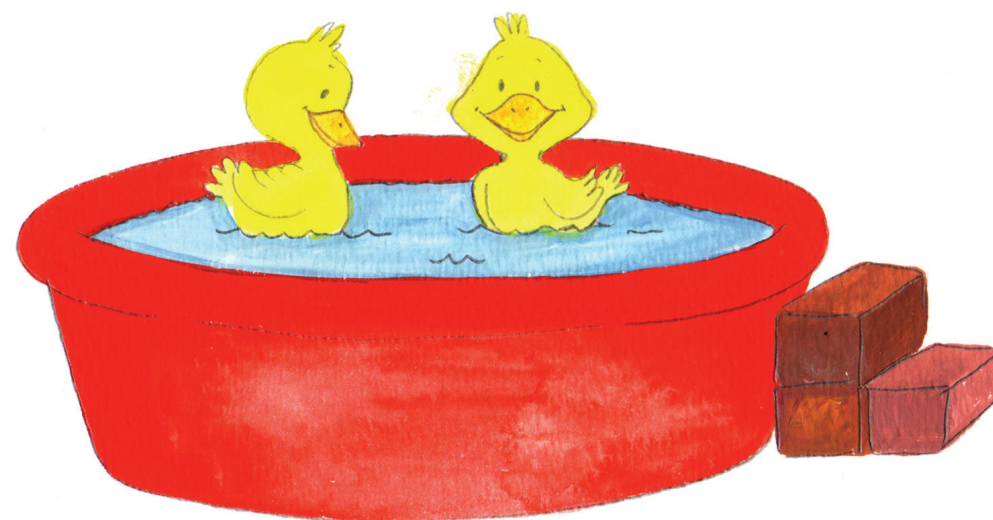
THOUGH CHICKENS GET UP A FEW TIMES EACH DAY TO EAT AND DRINK, THEY DON'T GO IN THE WATER. THEY GET BACK ON THEIR EGGS WITH A DRY BREAST. THAT MEANT THE DUCK EGGS WOULDN'T HAVE HATCHED PROPERLY WHEN INCUBATED UNDER A CHICKEN UNLESS THERE WAS OUTSIDE HELP. TWICE A DAY, MORNING AND EVENING, MY JOB WAS TO TAKE THE DUCK EGGS OUT FROM UNDER THE HEN, QUICKLY DIP THEM IN SOME ROOM-TEMPERATURE WATER, AND PUT THEM BACK UNDER THE HEN.





ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY, WE WERE EAGER TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN. SOON, LITTLE CHICKS AND DUCKLINGS WERE PECKING THEIR WAY OUT OF THE EGGS. AND IN LESS THAN TWO DAYS THE CHICKEN WAS CARING FOR TWO DUCKLINGS AND THREE CHICKS.

WHEN THE LITTLE BIRDS WERE A FEW DAYS OLD, KNOWING THAT DUCKLINGS LOVE TO SWIM, WE CHILDREN SET UP A SMALL TUB FOR THE DUCKLINGS TO SWIM IN. THEY HAD SO MUCH FUN SWIMMING AROUND IN THE WATER. TO MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM TO GET IN AND OUT OF THE TUB WHEN THEY WANTED TO, WE STACKED BRICKS TOGETHER TO FORM A STAIRCASE UP THE SIDE OF THE TUB, AND PLACED A BRICK INSIDE TO HELP THEM HOP OUT.

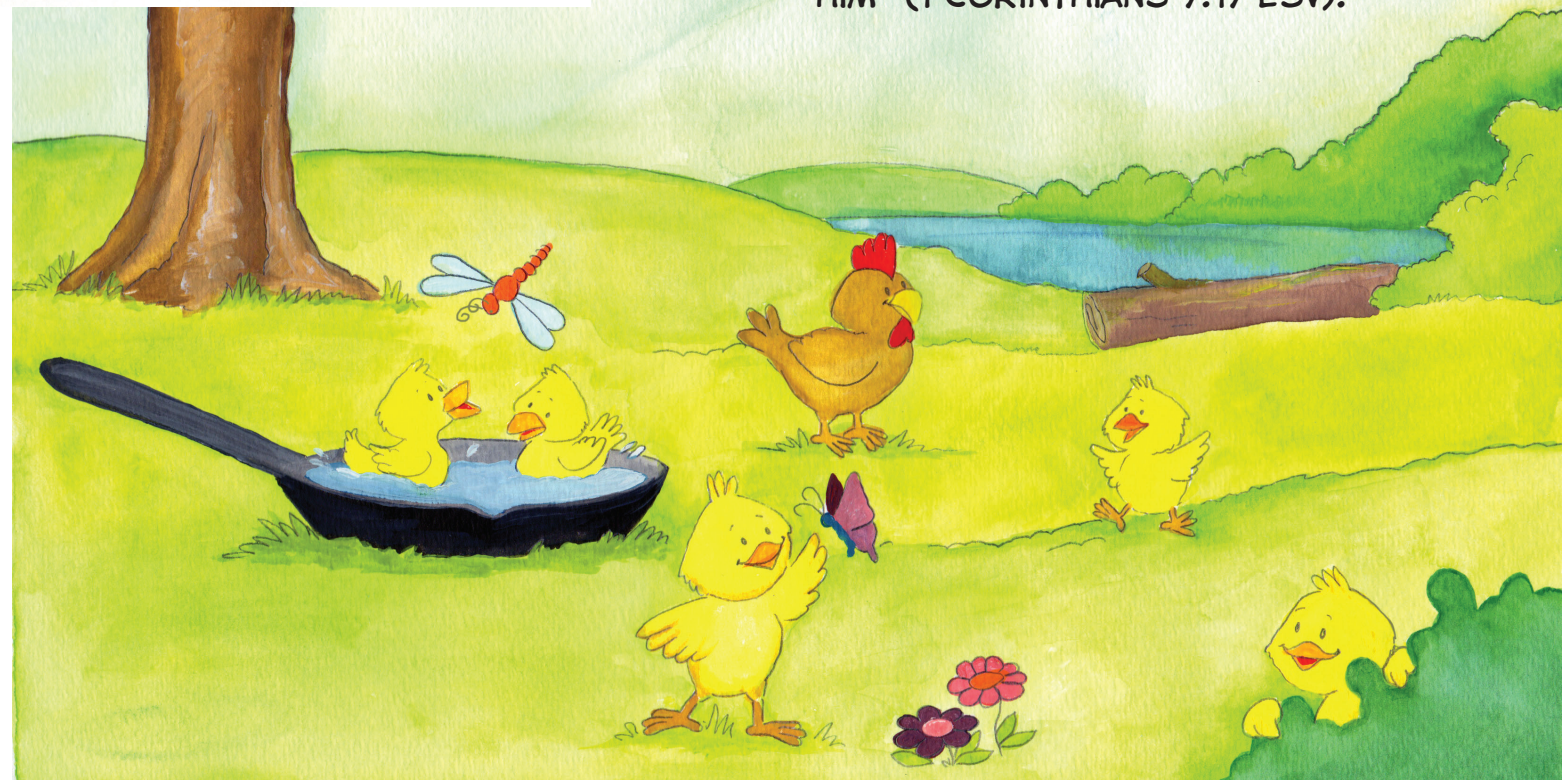


UP THE DUCKLINGS WENT, AND JUMPED INTO THE WATER. THE CHICKS, SEEING HOW MUCH FUN THE DUCKLINGS WERE HAVING, DECIDED TO JOIN THEM. UP THE BRICKS WENT THE CHICKS, AND THEY TOO HOPPED INTO THE WATER. BUT OF COURSE, THE POOR CHICKS COULDN'T SWIM, AND IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO SINK AND HAD TO BE RESCUED.



“LET EACH PERSON LEAD THE LIFE THAT THE LORD HAS ASSIGNED TO HIM, AND TO WHICH GOD HAS CALLED HIM” (1 CORINTHIANS 7:17 ESV).

AFTER THAT WE KEPT THE BRICKS AWAY FROM THE TUB, AND LATER GAVE THE DUCKLINGS A SHALLOW DISH TO SWIM IN THAT WASN'T DEEP ENOUGH FOR A CHICK TO DROWN IN. THE LITTLE CHICKS NEVER TRIED SWIMMING AGAIN, AND WERE HAPPY TO RUN AROUND IN THE GRASS WHILE THEIR DUCKLING BUDDIES WENT FOR A DIP.



S&S link: Character Building: Contentment-1d; Christian Life and Faith: Creation-1b
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