



**Worship Illustration: Storybook**

***Bible Barn***

**God of Wonders Part 2: Genesis - Joshua**

**Unit 5, Lesson 26**

# **The Day of Rest**

**Genesis 2:1-3**

**Catastrophe sat in his favorite rocking chair outside the door to the Bible Barn. He was rocking back and forth greeting campers as they entered. "Howdy! Hi there! Welcome back! Good to see you!" He called cheerfully. When the barn was full of happy campers, Catastrophe hopped up and shut the door. He jumped onto the stage with landing with both feet and raising a cloud of dust.**

**"How-ooo-dee!" He shouted. "I'm back! I had an awful case of swamp fever, but thanks to your prayers and GranMammy's special elixir, I feel like a new man!" The campers cheered, thankful that Catastrophe was feeling better.**

**"Why don't we start right off by saying our Camper's Code?" he suggested. "On your feet, raise your right hand and repeat after me: I will love God with all my heart. I will love my neighbor as myself. I will be a light wherever I go." Just as the campers were getting settled back into their seats, an awful racket came from behind the stack of hay bales sitting on the side of the stage.**

**"Do ya'll hear that?" Catastrophe asked over the loud snoring. "Sounds like someone's cutting wood." He peered over the hay and shouted, "Fishhead, is that you?"**

**A loud groan followed by some slurping noises replaced the snoring as a gawky young man sat up from behind the hay. He pulled a dusty handkerchief from the center pocket of his overalls and wiped his face. "Oh, howdy, Catastrophe," he replied through a yawn. "You feelin' better?"**

**"I am, Fishhead," Catastrophe said, "But you don't look so good."**

**Fishhead stood up and stretched his arms over his head. He found his dirty fishing cap covered with lures and hooks and placed it over his scraggly red hair. "I am powerful tired, Catastrophe. I was up all night snipe hunting." He explained.**

**"Snipe hunting?" Catastrophe asked with surprise.**

**"Yup. Snipes is these little tiny birds that only come out at night," Fishhead explained pulling two small rocks from his back pocket. "And if'n you click two rocks together and say, 'Here snipe, snipe, snipe' they come a runnin' and then you can trap them in a shoebox."**

**Catastrophe shook his head, "Where'd you hear about these here snipes?"**

**"Wyoming told me." Fishhead replied excitedly. He crossed the stage as he raised both hands overhead. "He said if'n you catch one, you can make him lay a golden egg what's worth about a bajillion dollars!"**

**"Uh, Fishhead," Catastrophe said slowly, "I hate to tell ya this but...there's no such thing as a snipe. It's just one of those things kids make up to tease each other."**

**"What?" Fishhead shouted, spinning to face Catastrophe. "How do you know there ain't no such thing?"**

**"Cause I'm the one what told Wyoming about it when we was kids." Catastrophe explained with a chuckle. "He spent three nights lookin' for them."**

**"Well, I've been up for four nights!" Fishhead said with a sigh as he sat down heavily on a rickety wooden chair.**

**Catastrophe put his hands on his friend's slumped shoulders, "Sorry about that, pal."**

**Fishhead cried, "Now what am I gonna' do?!"**

**"I suggest you do what the Bible tells us to do," Catastrophe suggested, "Get some rest."**

**"The Bible tells us to get rest?" Fishhead asked with surprise as he blew his nose into his handkerchief.**

**"It sure does." Catastrophe replied, grateful to have distracted his over-tired friend from his sorrows. "Why don't we shoot down that can and find out today's verse?" He turned to the campers as he pulled his slingshot from his back pocket. "Ya'll get out your pretend slingshots and take aim. Ready? Aim, fire!" The can fell to the ground with a loud clunk narrowly missing Fishhead's upturned face.**

**Fishhead grabbed the can and pulled out the small, crumpled paper. "Genesis, chapter two." He revealed. "Now where's that Bible?" He muttered under his breath as he poked his head into the grain basket.**

**"Here it comes!" Catastrophe warned as grain began to spill out of the grain bin onto Fishhead's hat.**

**"I got it!" Fishhead shouted as the Bible fell into his hands. He took off his hat, brushed the grain out of his hair and began to read, "'By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work.' God really did make a day for me to rest."**

**"Oh, He did more than that." Catastrophe said, taking the Bible from Fishhead and continuing to read, "'And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.'"**

**"Well," Fishhead said with a yawn. "I guess God really wants me to rest if'n He made a special day for it." He laid down across a few of the hay bales, placed his hat over his face and settled in to go back to sleep.**

**"But remember the other part." Catastrophe said, lifting the hat from Fishhead's face and picking off a few remaining pieces of grain, "God blessed the day and made it holy."**

**"What does that mean...to make it holy?" Fishhead asked, sitting up.**

**Catastrophe looked around the barn at the campers and asked, "Who knows what the word holy means?"**

**"Holy means perfect," one camper responded.**

**"Holy is something special or dedicated to God," another shouted.**

**"That is exactly right!" Catastrophe said with a smile.**

**"So, when God says to make that day holy, He's not just askin' us to sleep," Fishhead thought out loud, "He's asking us to rest from our work and spend time with Him."**

**"You got it." Catastrophe said, handing the hat back to Fishhead. "God wants us to take a Sabbath."**

**"Now what's a Sabbath?" Fishhead asked, placing the hat firmly on his head.**

**"It's a time to refresh and get our strength back so we can focus on what is important." Catastrophe explained, "It's a time to stop working and worrying and instead, focus on God."**

**"So, a Sabbath ain't just for sleepin'?" Fishhead asked, "We could spend time visiting with family or playing with friends?"**

**"Sure," Catastrophe agreed. "Or you could spend some time talking to God or thinking about Him. You can come to church and worship Him. The important thing is that you rest your mind from worries and think about your friendship with God."**

**"Boy," Fishhead said, jumping to his feet. "I'll bet theys a hundred things you could do on a day of rest."**

**"Actually, there's one hundred and seven." Catastrophe said with a grin.**

**"For real?" Fishhead asked, eyes wide with wonder.**

**"I'm joking with you." Catastrophe replied. "You gotta stop believin' everything ya hear."**

**"Well, one thing I do know from what I've heard today is that I learned a whole mess about what it means to rest." Fishhead said with a smile.**

**"Me too." Catastrophe agreed. "What's your favorite thing you learned about the Sabbath?"**

**"My favorite thing I learned is that on the Sabbath day it's important to spend time with God." Fishhead answered.**

Just then, a faint "who, who" wafted from the barn rafters. "God, that's who!" Fishhead answered the mysterious noise.

"Who, who," the sound grew louder. "I said, 'God, that's who!'" Fishhead answered even louder.

"Who, who," the hooting got even louder. "I said, GOD!" Fishhead shouted.

"Calm down, Fishhead." Catastrophe scolded, "That's just our Critter of the Day."

"Who?" Fishhead asked, looking around.

"Exactly," Catastrophe replied as a beautiful barn owl flew down from the rafters and landed on his outstretched arm. "Here he is, today's critter is the owl."

"Oh," Fishhead said, feeling silly for yelling. "Well, I think I understand why. The wise old owl does his hunting at night, but he uses the daytime hours to rest."

"That's right," Catastrophe agreed. "That reminds us that it's wise to set aside at least one day each week for holy rest."

"Yup," Fishhead said as the owl flew back up to the barn rafters. "And it reminds me of the day after God made the whole earth, when He rested from His work."

"Good thinking, Fishhead." Catastrophe said. "Hey campers, don't that sounds like a mighty fine new verse for our Camp Critter song? Let's try it out!"

Fishhead twirled his hat over his head and spun to the beat as Catastrophe led everyone in the Camp Critter song.

**I spied the OWL overhead.  
Here is what that OWL said,  
"God made the whole earth,  
then He rested from His work!"  
Whew! I spied the OWL  
who followed the LOVEBIRDS  
who followed a HOUND DOG  
who followed a CATFISH  
who followed an EAGLE,  
And the EAGLE hollered,  
"Yippee-kigh-yay!  
At Camp Venture today!"**