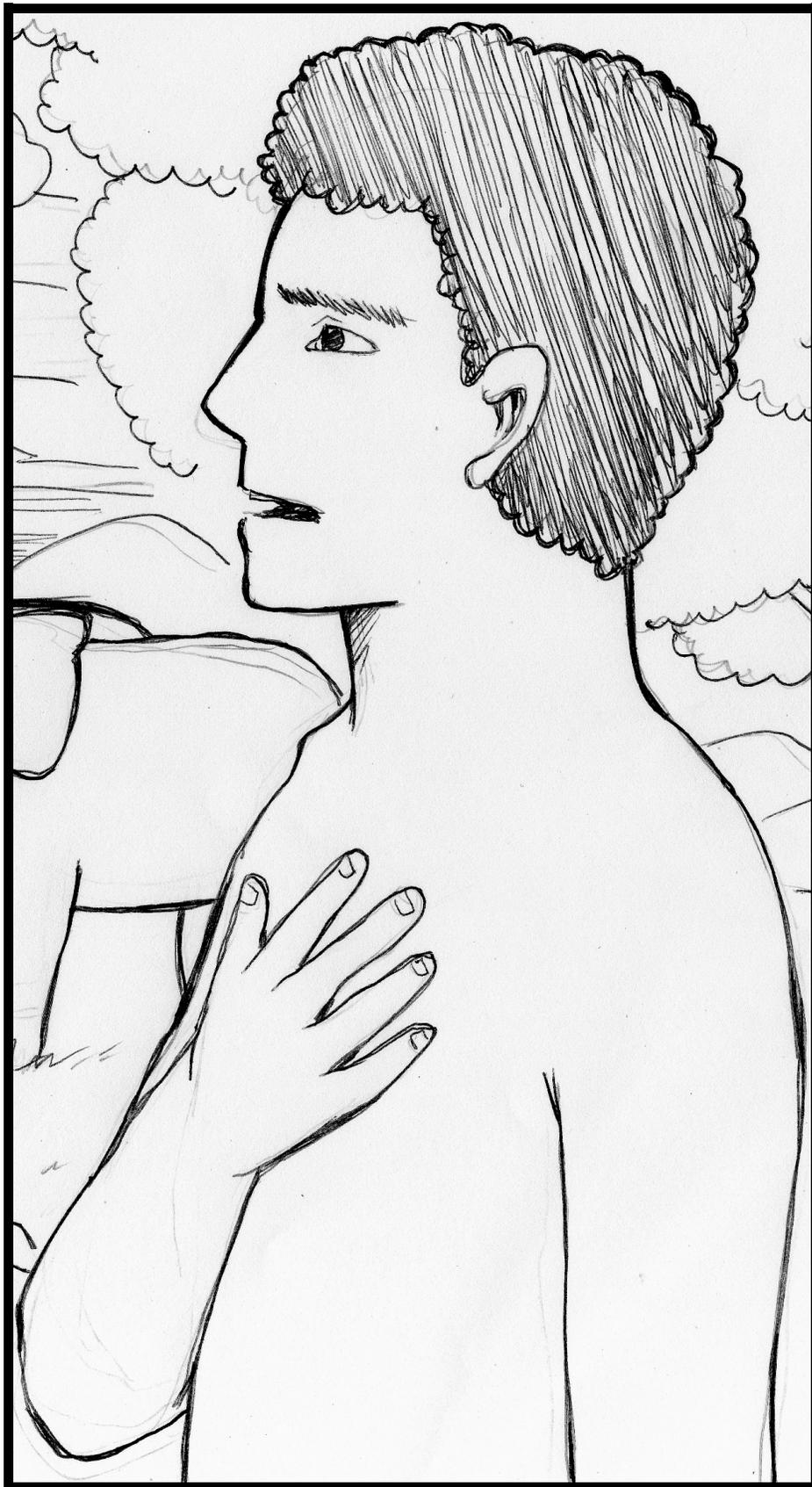


God's Desire For Those After His Kind



The Life Cycle of a Salmon

Salmon are born as eggs in fresh water springs. As the eggs hatch and the fish mature, they will adapt to salt water and swim to the ocean. The salmon will live in the ocean usually from one to eight years, depending on the type of salmon.

When they are ready to spawn they swim back to the springs where they were born. This journey can be several thousand miles filled with hazards such as swimming up rugged rapids, leaping over rocky waterfalls, being hunted by bears and other things.

When the mom and dad salmon finally reach the springs/streams and bring forth their children, they both die. They are exhausted, malnourished and the freshwater is now hurtful or even poisonous to them. They have gone on a remarkable journey with great sacrifice to be able bring forth their offspring. *(There are some types of salmon that survive to spawn more than once.)*

What a beautiful picture of how Jesus lives in us. As His Lamb nature grows in us we are able to go in the way of the Cross, against the normal flow of selfishness and hate... until we reach the place of laying our lives down for others to have life (II Cor. 4:11-12). All Christians who reach maturity will experience the "Life cycle of the Lamb" whose nature is in us. The indwelling Life of Christ will inevitable carry us in the way of the Cross.

** The references to "Leviathan" in "The Story of Two Fish" were inspired by Leviathan in Job chapter 41 as a picture of the old nature.*

Introduction For Adults!

This children's book is meant to speak to the hearts of both young and old alike. It is set forth as a simple look at God's heart and desire to have those after His own kind, and our need for the indwelling nature and Life of Christ so that we might be those who are after His kind.

Oh, for Jesus to have those who are after His own kind! Our hearts will break for Him as we comprehend the deep longing of His heart to have those with Him in oneness of kind. Our eternal destiny and calling is to be His; united and filled with His very Life. His divine nature should carry us and quicken us in His flow of Life.

To be His in a way that makes us after His kind can only happen as His Life and nature are formed in us. We must become partakers of the divine nature so deeply that our inner essence, right down to the motives and intents of the heart, come from His nature and not our old life. We are not becoming theologians or deep thinkers, we are being changed into His same image so that He can have those who are after His same kind (*11 Corinthians 3:18*).

May our beloved Jesus not feel alone in the midst of His Church. May He find the communion of His one Life filling all things. May all things emanate the very beauty of His nature and the savor of His Life.

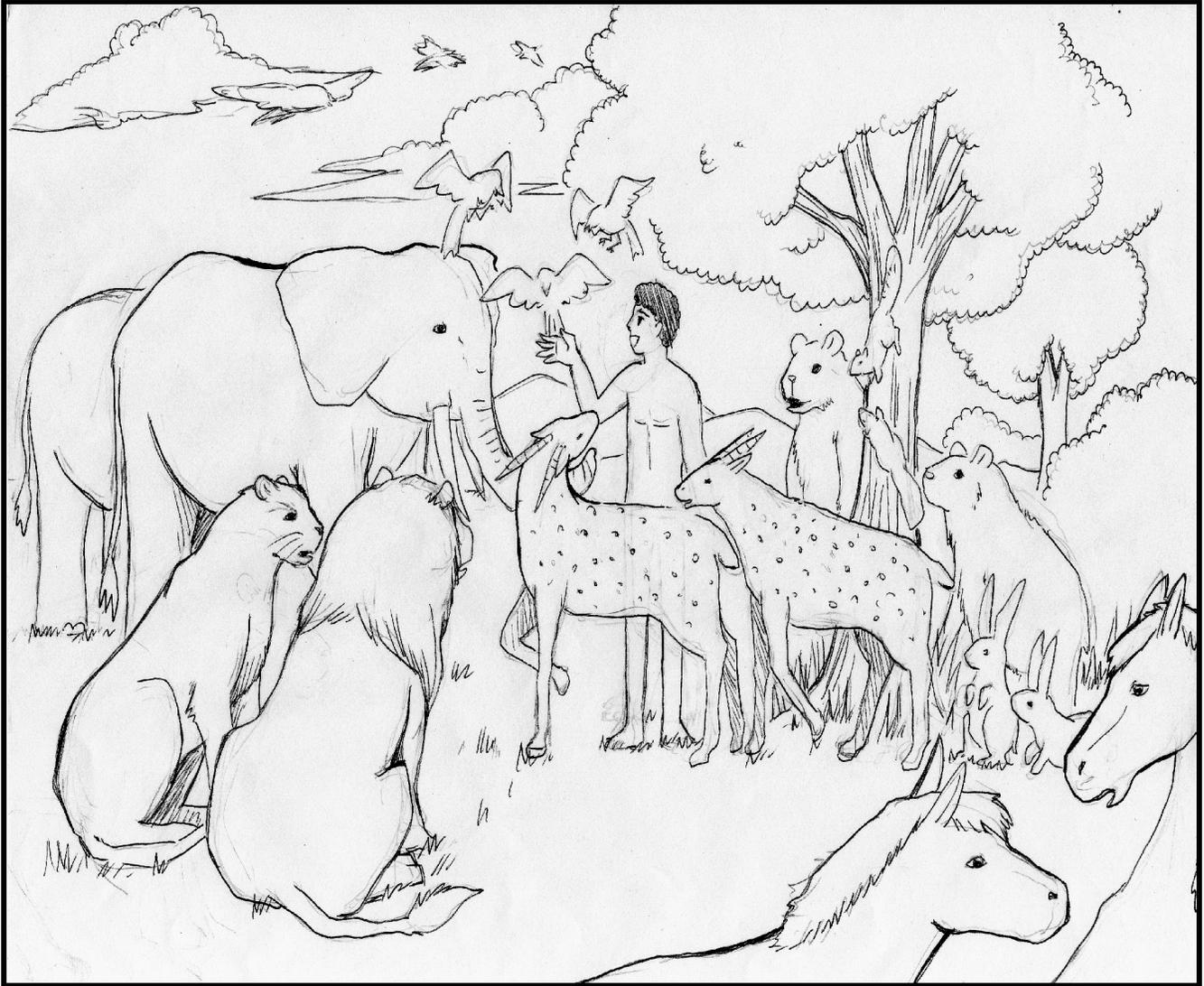
You may be wondering what Salmon have to do with all this! These fish are a wonderful picture of the effects of inward nature. Salmon are not trained to swim upstream. They are not given lessons on how to swim upstream and told what time to do it. God has put it in them, in their very nature, to behave in these ways and patterns. All species have their definitive kind of behavior based upon their nature.

The term "instinct" has been defined as; *"A stereotyped, or largely unvarying, behavior that is typical of a particular species. An instinct is the inborn pattern of behavior; the inherent disposition of a living organism toward a particular behavior. Instinctive behavior does not have to be learned."*

A goat is not taught to act selfishly and a lamb is not trained to be submissive at the time of its own slaughter. These creatures both act according to the natures they were born with. It is very "natural" for all of us to be self centered because we were born with the old sin nature (*Ephesians 2:3b*). A child does not have to be taught how to want its own way. Before a child even knows how to speak they know how to cry if denied a desire. Yet, through new birth, God has put in every born again believer the very nature of Christ, the Lamb of God. As we allow His Spirit and Life to form in us, we will find ourselves transformed. His reactions and attitudes will come forth in the form of Life as the result of a new nature. This is so much better than learning to display behaviors that are not the result of your innermost being. Salmon are able to overcome enormous obstacles as they swim upstream. The reason they swim is because of an inner drive that has been placed in them by God. God has put more than an instinct or inner drive in us, He has given us His Son and made us partakers of His divine nature (*1 Peter 1:4, 1 John 5:12*). We must continue to nurture the Life of Christ within until His Life is strong enough to carry us into the places of love and sacrifice that we would never go.

I pray that the Holy Spirit might speak to your heart through the foolishness of a kid's book, and draw your attention to the very heart of Jesus and His desires.

God's Desire For Those After His Kind



In the beginning, the very beginning of creation, there was a man named Adam. Adam was the only person on earth at that time. God had a special job just for Adam: God asked Adam to name all the animals. (*Genesis 2:19-20*)

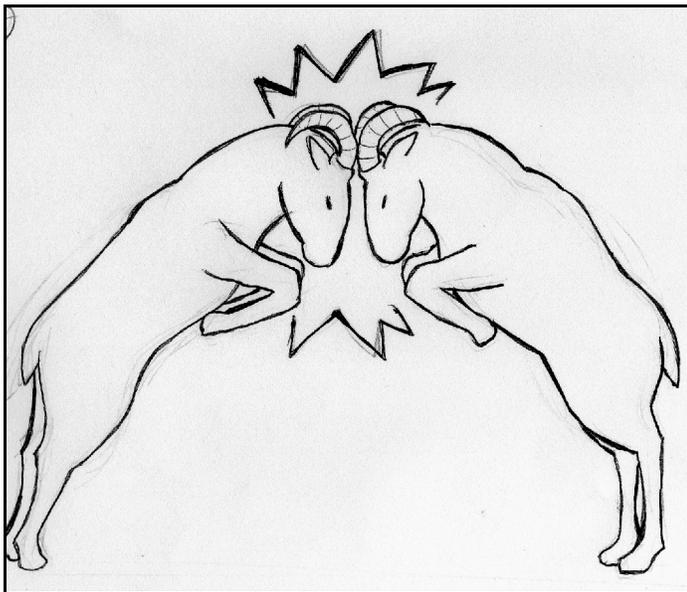
There were so many animals! There were birds that filled the sky, fish that filled the waters, and land creatures of every kind.

God made the animals come to Adam so he could name them. As Adam watched the animals, he may have noticed that there were at least two of every kind of animal. They were not lonely because they had each other and they were just alike! How wonderful that each animal had those that were of the same kind to be with. They could move and think and live together so easily because they shared the same nature! It was amazing! (*Genesis 2:18-20*)



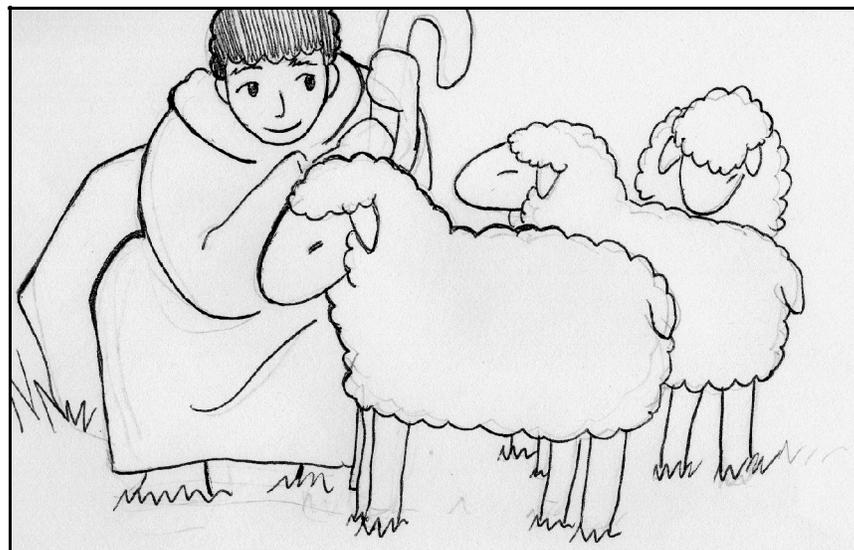
As Adam watched the animals, he kept looking for the One that was just like him, the One that would be his kind. The more Adam looked, the more lonely he felt. Yet Adam kept looking and observing how similar each kind of creature was!

Just imagine if Adam watched the pigs rolling in the mud together! No matter how much he could try to clean up the pigs, the pigs would squeal for joy just to jump back into the mud and get dirty again! Pigs naturally love the mud!

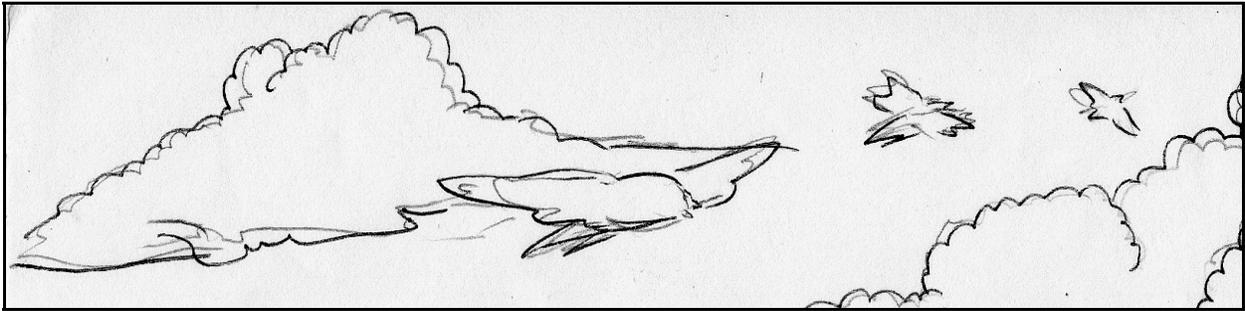


What if Adam watched the goats butting their heads together?

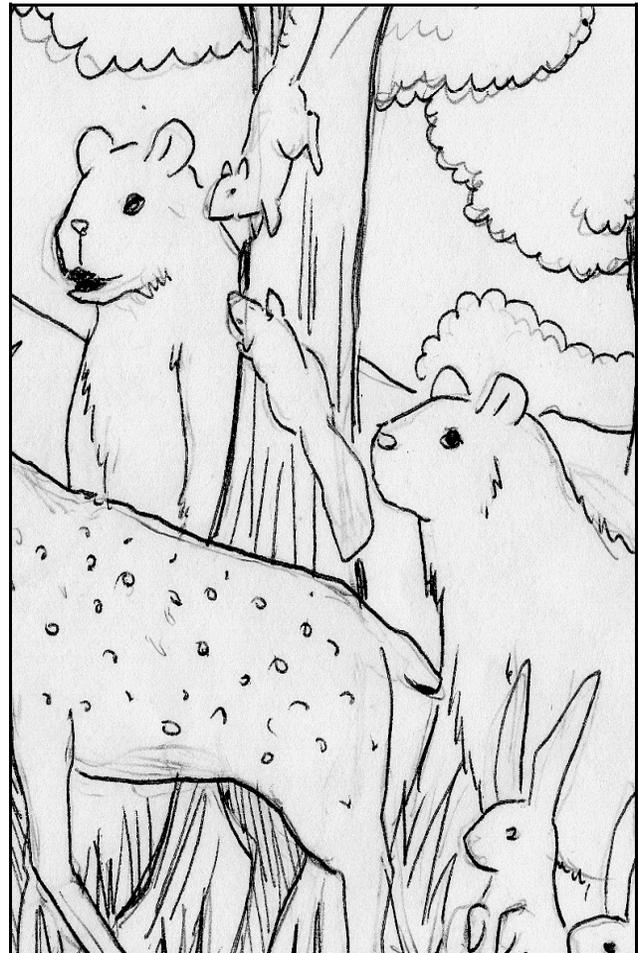
Goats just seem to fight and not get along, but the sheep are more peaceful and easy to lead.



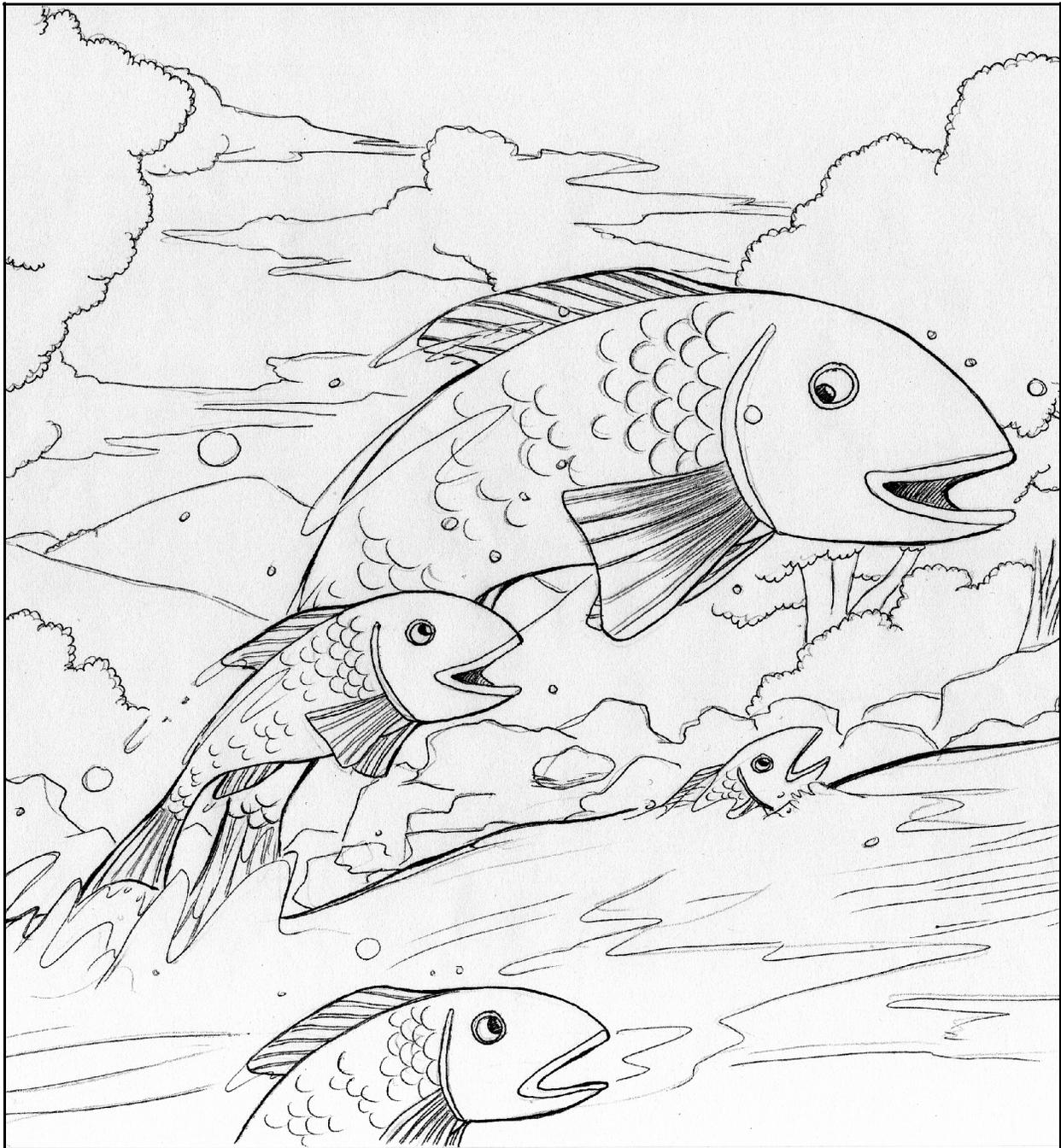
Have you ever watched as certain birds naturally migrate together to warmer climates? How do they all know where to fly? It is just in them to do it. Deep inside, beyond thinking and trying, the birds just want to fly to warmer places when it gets cold. All the birds fly together; they all have one way, and it is so easy!



Have you ever thought about how bears like to hibernate in the winter? Beyond thinking and trying, studying and obeying, they just know instinctually to sleep through the winter! The moms, dads and all the kids know inside when it is time to sleep!

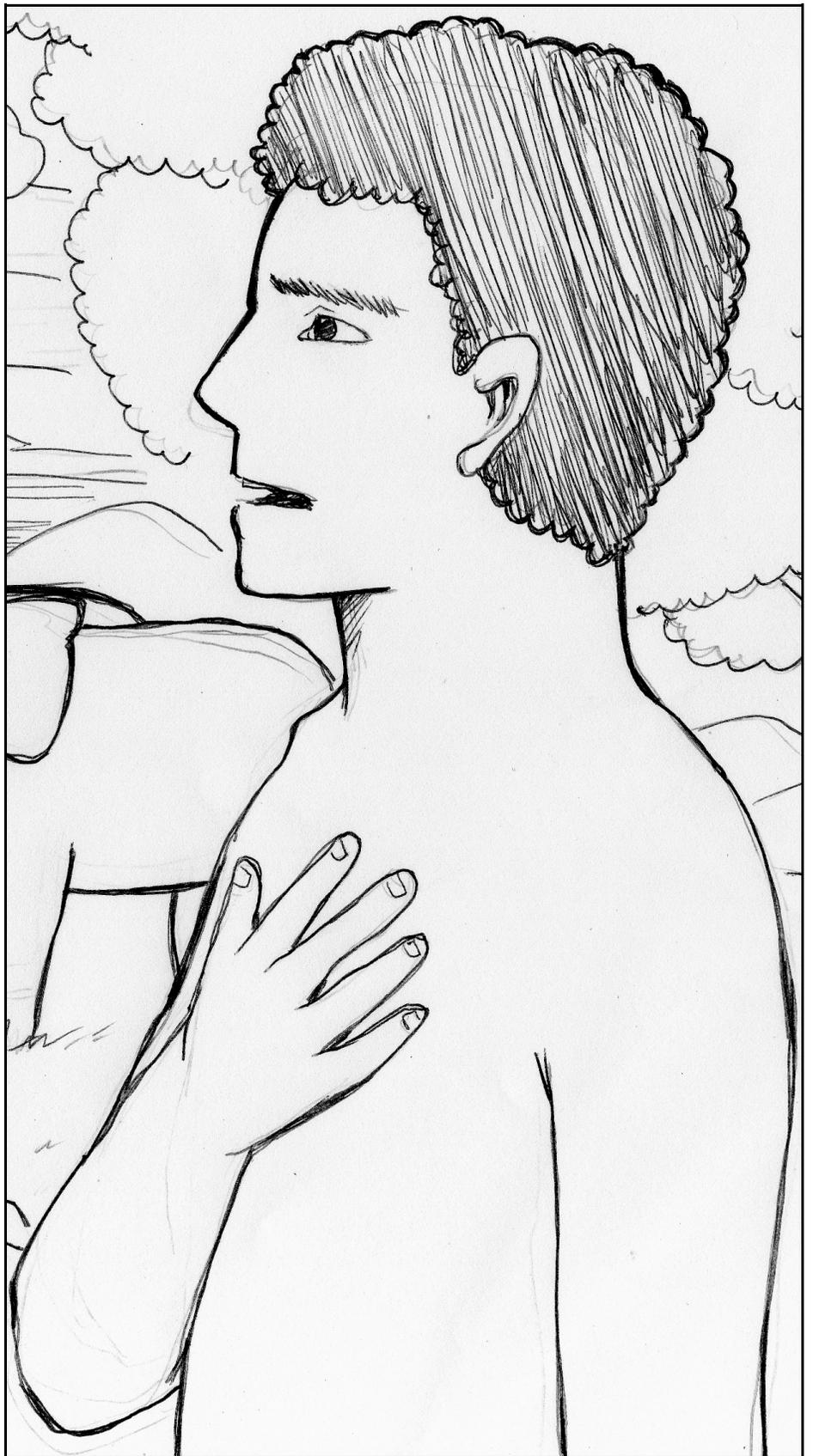


Adam may have looked at the salmon swimming upstream to have babies; up waterfalls and strong currents, they go and go and never stop. They do not plan to do this or schedule trips upstream. Deep inside, something makes them desire to swim and press through strong and hard obstacles to make it to the springs where their babies can survive.



The more Adam watched all the creatures as he named them, the more lonely he became. All the animals had someone that was the same kind. Each day he felt more lonely until he ached deep inside. Adam tried to not be lonely, but none of the animals were just like him, and he was so alone.

Adam wanted someone that could really be with him because they had his same nature. He longed for someone who could understand his heart and have his same desires. Adam knew deep inside that he needed someone that was after his kind.



Adam was feeling what God feels. God wants those that are after His kind too. God longs for people who deep inside have the same nature, instincts and heart that He has. God wants a family that is just like Him with His Life inside of them so that they naturally do what He does!

Just like the pigs have one kind of nature, and the salmon have their kind of nature, Jesus has His kind of nature also. Jesus has the nature that is above all other natures, so it is called the "divine nature". Jesus' divine nature is described as a lamb because He always lays down His life for others. God's divine nature is self-giving love. Jesus' heart always goes in the way of love for others, just like when He died on the Cross for us. No one has to force or command Jesus to love like this. It is so big in His heart to do this that He cannot go another way. It is natural for Jesus to not be selfish. It is easy for Him to love His enemies. Just like birds know to fly south, bears want to sleep through the winter, and salmon naturally swim upstream, Jesus loves and lays His life down for others.

Jesus wants to have a family that is just like Him on the inside! Greater than us working hard or trying to act good, God wants to put the nature of Jesus, the Lamb nature, inside of everyone! All we have to do is ask Jesus to come and live inside of our hearts! With Jesus Himself in us, we will become just like Him because His nature will be inside of us! With Jesus in our hearts, we can be with Him in oneness of Kind! Jesus will not feel alone when He sees our hearts full of His kind of love!



Dear Jesus,

Thank you for being so loving. I think Your heart and nature is beautiful. I want You to live in my heart and fill me with Your kind of Life that loves so much. I want You to have a big family that all has Your same loving nature. I want to be part of Your family forever.

Amen.