



## THE GIFT OF A DUCK



### FUN FACTS ABOUT DUCKS

- **THEY CAN SEE UNDERWATER!**
- **THEY CAN LAY UP TO 300 EGGS PER YEAR!**
- **DUCK DROPPINGS MAKE A GREAT FERTILIZER FOR A GARDEN!**

### TEACH A MAN TO DUCK.

Have you heard the expression "*Give a man a fish, he'll eat for a day; teach a man to fish, he'll eat forever*"? It means that knowing how to do something for yourself is the best.

In Bangladesh, World Renew is teaching people to duck -- *and we don't mean crouching down so you don't get hit!* World Renew uses *ducks* in Bangladesh to help fight malnutrition and let kids grow up stronger and healthier. And, instead of just giving people a duck, we teach them how to care for it too, so that they can care for themselves and their families for a long, long time.

Akhil is a father in Bangladesh who had invested everything he had to buy some ducks and he was despairing: his ducks were dying.

World Renew was offering agricultural training there and so Akhil attended classes and learned about vaccines, and ducks' diets, and even where the best place to sell ducks and eggs would be. Then, World Renew offered Akhil a small loan to replace his ducks that had died and so, with training and new ducks, Akhil started over. He was so motivated that soon he repaid that loan and got another one and bought more ducks. In two and a half months, Akhil sold 15,000 eggs!

Akhil's life was transformed. He had the skills to be a successful duck farmer. He was taking good care of his family. He started sharing his knowledge with others and other people sought his advice about raising ducks.

World Renew wants to make sure that lots of people in Bangladesh learn how to duck. When you give the gift of a duck, you aren't just feeding someone for a day. You're helping them feed themselves for a long time to come.



**A DUCK EGG PROVIDES A PERFECT PROTEIN FOR A HUNGRY CHILD.**





## ARE YOU MY MOTHER?

Have you ever seen a mother duck with her babies toddling close behind her? They seem programmed to follow her everywhere and that is, in fact, exactly right. Ducks and other waterfowl have a unique bond with their offspring called **imprinting, a kind of biological programming** in which babies form an immediate attachment to whatever they first see when they are born. This makes caring for a flock of ducklings easier for their mother that's for sure!

But what happens when the first thing a duckling sees is not a duck? You may have seen videos online of ducklings who have imprinted on dogs or cats or even humans. (No?! Check out *Annoyed Dog Followed Everywhere By Baby Ducks* and *A Momma Cat and Her Yellow, Feathered Kittens* on YouTube for a quick look at imprinting gone wrong.) Scientists have even imprinted ducks on plastic balls or model trains!

Watching a flock of ducklings torment a dog can be entertaining, but imagine being the dog! Ducklings were meant to be cared for by ducks, the same way human children are meant to be cared for by humans.



God created ducklings to see and know their mothers instantly, to be permanently bonded to the thing that will care for them. Likewise, **God created us to see and know Him, our Creator.** God created us to imprint on Him, to be bonded for life to our Source and Safety.

**Sometimes, we humans try to imprint on other things. We form attachments to other people or things and seek our safety and identity in them.** This is a form of imprinting gone wrong of course and the cause of much personal unhappiness as we persist in following someone or something that simply cannot care for us as God intended (*if you didn't watch that video of the ducks following the dog, now would be a great time to do that — talk about a vivid illustration of Following The Wrong Thing!*).

Praise God that we were created in His image, that our "imprinting" in Him happens upon our creation and that, even if we seek our source and safety elsewhere, we are always His and He is always ready to welcome us back, to lead us, and to know us. The prophet Isaiah affirms this: **"But now, this is what the LORD says — he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.'"**

## DUCK-O-RAMA

**These lesson-extras are ducky!**

For a short and entertaining **video**, try **Life Lessons From Ducks** [<http://www.animalsaustralia.org/features/life-lessons-told-by-ducks.php>] or any one of the *thousands* of duck videos on YouTube.

3475 Mainway  
PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1  
Burlington ON L7R 3Y8  
800-730-3490

## HOW MANY DUCKS CAN YOU GIVE?

**At \$11 each, a duck is a great giving idea!**

One way to raise money for ducks is to host a **duck race**. If weather permits and you have a good location, have kids sell rubber ducks to your congregation and their friends and family and then have a race in a local creek or stream. Winner gets a prize and kids get some outdoor fun.

If a wet, outdoor event isn't for you, try this: **put a child's wading pool somewhere at church or school and challenge kids to sell enough ducks to fill it.** OR, start with a full "pond" and hold a **raffle**, drawing a few winners at the end for things like "Have Your Favorite Hymn Sung In Church" or "Valet Parking For Your Car For a Month of Sundays" or first in the lunch line for a week.

You can find rubber ducks in bulk on Amazon or at OrientalTrading.com.

For more ideas, visit [www.worldrenew.net/kidsfundraisingideas](http://www.worldrenew.net/kidsfundraisingideas)



Young children love to hear a story -- try **Make Way For Ducklings** by Robert McClosky. This Caldecott award-winning book is a classic; Mrs. Mallard gets help from the Boston Police in moving her ducklings to their new home, the Boston Public Gardens.

And of course, little ones (and even older ones) enjoy getting on their feet and burning off some energy -- how about a **game of Duck-Duck-Goose?**

1700 28th Street SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49508-1407  
800-552-7972

[worldrenew.net](http://worldrenew.net)

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