

## That Robin is Always at the Window

We've adopted a wild robin. Well, actually, the robin has adopted us. Every day it perches on the outside ledge of our picture-pane window. It comes and goes, but it mostly sits and stares. Sometimes I hear a click-click-click coming from the living room. It's that bird, tap-tap-tapping on the window with its conical beak and reddish-orange chest puffed out. Sometimes it's aggressively flapping its dusty wings against the glass trying to get in, or perhaps telling us in its bird-way to *Go away!* There is a new nest high on our porch. Is it a pregnant female or a territorial male? Even when it's out hunting bugs or doing whatever birds do (Seeking out parked cars? Eating worms?), its dusty, feathery outline is left on our window. We even put up a plastic owl to frighten the robin away. It worked for a few days, but now the bird will even perch on the owl's head, doing what birds all around the world do on the heads of the likenesses of dead men on horses. This bird is persistent in its message to us. We don't know what it's trying to tell us. Whether it's curious, territorial, or something else, we may never know. But what we do know is it's there every day, sitting, peering, tapping, and flapping.

This robin reminds me of God. He's there, persistent, tapping at the window of our heart. Or is He *knocking*? "Here I am!" Jesus says in Revelation 3:10. "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." How many people hear God's voice, see God's reflection, and watch God act, and are left utterly confused because they don't know how to recognize His voice or His reflection or His acts or His will? Scripture is full of examples: Pharaoh whose dreams were interpreted by Joseph; King Nebuchadnezzar whose dream was interpreted by Daniel; Peter, whose impulsiveness led him to be rebuked by Jesus on more than one occasion; and the list can go on and on.

How many times have you and I missed those God moments? How can you and I become better at recognizing them? While we might not always know God's exact will for us each day, we can know what kind of people he wants us to be, how we should honor him, and how we should conduct ourselves towards others. The Bible is that guide.

This Bible Quizzing season 16 quizzers from Cove Run, Monacrest, New Brighton, and Sarver dedicated time to studying God's Word and committing it to memory. Jonah Bosch from Monacrest and Vera Covalt, Liza Lambert, and Brenna Milligan from New Brighton committed all 45 Quotes, comprising 69 verses, to memory this season. Our graduates, Jonah and Micah Linhart from Sarver, studied I & II Corinthians, John, Hebrews, I & II Peter, Jude, I & II Timothy, Titus, and Matthew 1-13, over their quizzing careers. These young people are learning to recognize God when he shows up *tap, tap, tapping* on the window (or door) of their hearts. When others miss the cues and the "still small voice" of God, our young people can be prepared like Samuel and say into the night, "Speak, Lord, for you servant is listening."