

Small Group Discussion Questions

Drawn from “Protecting Life and Creation,” A Sermon on Deuteronomy 22:6-8

Pastor Nicoletti @ Faith Pres Tacoma

September 6, 2026 AM

1. This week’s passage is about what Israelites were supposed to do when encountering a wild bird and her nest. Have you ever stumbled upon a bird’s nest in an unexpected place? If so, please share. If not, please tell the group what your favorite bird is and why.
2. Look again at verse 7 and notice the allusion to the 5th commandment (a central motif throughout the entire book of Deuteronomy). How should this intertextual connection influence our interpretation of the command found in verses 6 and 7?
3. Last year Pastor Nicoletti preached on the Deuteronomic prohibition against cutting down fruit-bearing trees during a siege. Look again at Deuteronomy 20:19-20 and compare/contrast that case law with this law against eating both a mother bird and her eggs.
4. Look again at verse 8 and notice the allusion to the Noahic covenant in Genesis 9:5-6. How should this intertextual connection influence our interpretation of the case law found in verse 8? What might it suggest about the penalty for failing to build a parapet around the roof?

5. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti specified that the case law against eating both mother and eggs specifically applies to **wild** birds. In your opinion, would this same law **also** apply to domesticated, privately owned birds and their eggs? (In other words, could an Israelite farmer eat both his chicken and her eggs?). Explain your answer by speaking to the rationale and intent behind this biblical law.
6. In your opinion, should these two case laws influence or inform the building codes and hunting laws of our contemporary society? Why or why not? If so, how specifically?
7. You are talking with a fellow Christian who says, “I don’t think it’s wrong to care about the environment and I understand that creation is good. But compared to matters of eternal consequence, conserving the environment is just not important. I think Christians should keep their focus on prioritizing what really matters- saving souls, planting churches, and living lives of holiness- and let the world worry about the environment. After all, the Great Commission should be the church’s concern and focus, not cultural and political causes.” How might you respond?
8. Think about your own city, neighborhood, workplace, home, and property: Where might the law of the parapet (verse 8) challenge you and those within your circle of influence to be more careful about the safety of others?
9. Near the end of the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti read a quotation from GK Chesterton in which he argues that the “virtues have gone mad because they are isolated from each other and are wandering alone.” In your own words, what does this mean and where do you see examples of it in your own life?