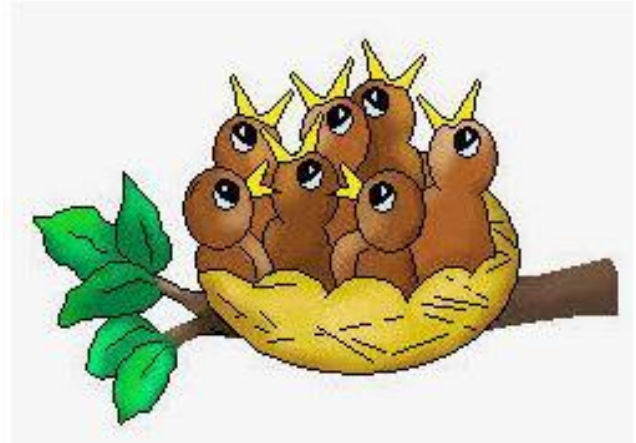


One of Us

There was a farmer who saw that a bird's nest had fallen out of a tree near his barn. The farmer was concerned for the safety of the young birds that had nested there. He knew that they needed to eat to survive. The farmer put out some food for the young birds in his barn. He also thought the barn would protect them and give them shelter. At first he merely invited to birds to come into the barn. They had no interest in going into the safety of the barn. Next, the farmer spread bread crumbs leading the way into the barn. The birds readily ate the crumbs but would not enter the barn, going no further than the barn door. Then the farmer tried to wave them into the barn but they just flew away. All of his attempts to coax the birds into the barn were to no avail. The



farmer realized that the birds would not follow a human into the barn. He reached the conclusion, "If I could be one of them I could show them the way and they would follow."

Even though food and shelter was offered the birds wouldn't go into the barn unless they were led there by one of their own. We, too, need someone to lead us. God took care of that. He sent Jesus to live among us and show us the way. *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).* Jesus is God living among us. He has shown us the way. *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6).* Will you follow Him?

The Bible Says: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16-17).*

Questions: In what ways do you recognize that Jesus is leading you? Are you following Him?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. You sent your son to live among us, to be an example of how we are to live our lives. Jesus is calling us to follow. We pray that we will follow Him. Amen.

I heard this story at the Town of Kernersville's Employee Appreciation Luncheon. It was told by Joey Langley, a town employee and pastor of a local church. This story is retold with permission of Mr. Langley.