



## **THE HONEYGUIDE**

**(Children's Story/Parable)**

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“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life” (John 5:24 NIV).

In northern Kenya a nomadic tribe of people, the Borans, have learned to communicate in a crude way with a species of birds, known as honeyguides. These birds first draw the attention of humans by swooping close to them, hopping restlessly from branch to branch nearby, and making a persistent call.

When the humans approach, the bird disappears over the treetops, but reappears after about 20 minutes to call again and wait for them to proceed further. The Borans follow the birds, all the while whistling, banging sticks together, or talking loudly. This pattern is repeated till the bird and the human reach a beehive in an average of about three hours. Then the Borans enjoy the honey—a staple in their diet—and the honeyguides feast on bee larvae and wax from the honeycombs.

Although accounts of this relationship between human and bird have been reported since the 1700s, biologists have only recently documented it. Researchers have found that if they leave the hive to which a bird has led them without breaking into it, the bird will guide them back again and again.

This, in a way, is what Bible study does for a Christian. It repeatedly returns the reader to the real source of life, Jesus Christ. And out of that experience of coming to know Jesus, we are nourished and refreshed in a way that will bring “eternal life.”