

## Winkie the Baby Parakeet

One day, late in December a little boy called Terry got a six-week-old parakeet. He named him Winkie. After school, Terry would hurry home to play with his new pet.

When Winkie was eleven weeks old, Terry let him out of his cage in the house for some exercise. Just at that moment, a knock came at the back door. As Terry's mother opened the door and stood in the doorway, Winkie flew out the door and the wind carried him high up into the sky. Terry ran to the door calling Winkie's name, but he was nowhere to be seen. Terry went outside and walked around his yard, and then he walked around the neighborhood calling his name. But he could not find Winkie. It began to snow, so he went back home.



He told his mother that he couldn't find Winkie, but he would keep looking for him. Mother offered to buy Terry another parakeet. But he refused to think that Winkie would not come back to him, and that he might have to get a new bird. Instead, Terry put on his coat and boots and went out to look for Winkie again. This time, he went to all the neighbors' houses and asked them to be on the lookout for Winkie.

Then he went home and asked his mom to find something in *Science and Health* that would help. She found a verse that told Terry that all of God's creatures are loved and indestructible. Terry was thankful to know that Love was taking care of Winkie and that in God's kingdom, nothing can be destroyed. This helped Terry to not be so afraid for his little bird's safety.

When Terry's dad came home at three o'clock and learned that Winkie was gone, he went out to look for him. But he could not find him anywhere. He told Terry that it was snowing and all the birds looked the same in the snow.

Night came, the snow was falling faster, and it was getting colder. Terry's dad said that he didn't think that Winkie could survive out in the snow. "I'm not going to think that way," said Terry. So he went and got Winkie's cage. He put seed and fresh water in the cups. That was his way of trusting God's care to bring Winkie back home.

At nine o'clock, Terry's mother tucked him into bed. But Terry couldn't go to sleep because he wanted to think about Winkie, and how God was protecting him out in the snow.

At eleven o'clock, the doorbell rang. A man in the neighborhood, walking between Terry's house and the house next door, had found a baby parakeet in the snow. And it was Winkie! He was cold and wet, but happy as ever to be home.

Winkie is now three years old and is a fine healthy bird that can perform many tricks. Terry was sure that God's Love protected Winkie, and he proved it.

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*S&H 514: "All of God' creatures, moving in the harmony of Science, are harmless, useful, indestructible."*