

Lesson 9

God Wants Us to Care for His Animals

Objective

Students will understand that God wants us to care for the animals He created and respect all life.

Supplies

Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

Print from the Site:

- God's Animals Activity Sheets (one for each student)
- God Cares for Creation Bible Verses (one for each student)

Items to Bring from Previous Lesson Plan:

- Attendance Chart
- Stickers (for attendance)

Other Items to Bring:

- Bible (Yours and enough for each student to have one)
- Pens/Pencils/Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Scissors (1 for each student)

Optional Supplies:

- Snack – Carrot and/or Apple Slices

Teacher Tips:

- ★ See Lesson Plan 1 for tips on how to keep the classroom engaged.

1) Introduction to Lesson

10 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Hand out a Bible to each student.

Review with kids that; Say: **Today we are going to talk about animals and their importance as God's creation. We are going to look through the Bible to understand that God expects us to take care of animals as part of His wonderful creation. We will look at why God created animals, what is our job in caring for them, and how by us caring for animals and respecting them as special gifts from God it makes God very happy!**

Why Did God create animals?

Read the following passage from Genesis focusing on the bolded words. Have the kids follow along in their Bibles as well.

Genesis 1:20-26

²⁰ And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." ²¹ So **God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems** and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and **every winged bird** according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the land produce **living creatures** according to their kinds: the **livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals**, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵ **God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds.** And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Why did God create animals? Because God knew it was good and so that we could rule over them and have a useful job to do that pleased God by taking care of His creation that He blessed us with.

The Bible passages say that what God made was good and the animals were a blessing by God – so animals are a blessing. They were to increase on the earth and fill it – so no animal shouldn't increase and be on the earth – all are useful and good to God, and finally God gave them to us so we could rule over them and take care of them, to give us a job that pleased the Lord. But this is not the only job we do that pleases God. As we have been learning we need to take care of all of God's creation – people, the world, and animals!

Now we are going to look at what the Bible says we are to do concerning animals in God's creation!

2) Bible Verses Showing Our Responsibility

15 minutes

To show examples from the Bible that explain our responsibility of caring for animals, hand out Bible verse sheet to each student and have them follow along, for small children allow them to color the picture while you read and together discuss the verses to help them keep attentive.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

What does this verse say our job is with animals, birds and fish? To rule and take care of all animals. We are responsible for them!

Proverbs 12:10

The righteous care for the needs of their animals, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.

***The righteous are people who do what is right and good.**

What does this verse say a righteous or Godly person does with animals? Care for their needs.

What does it say about wicked people? They are not kind to animals even when trying. **If we hurt an animal will people think we are godly or wicked?** They will think we are wicked. We must treat animals well and take care of them. God tells us too!

Psalms 50:11

I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine.



According to this verse, who owns the insects, birds and animals? God

Who knows them best? God

Who is concerned if they are not being taken care of? God

Would you like it if someone hurt something that belonged to you? (No) That's why we have to take care not to hurt or harm animals – even insects! Because they belong to God!

Habakkuk 2:17

your destruction of animals will terrify you.

According to this verse – what will happen to people who destroy animals on purpose? They (the people) will be terrified because of their mean acts.

Exodus 23:12; cf. Deuteronomy 5:14

"Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief."

Deuteronomy 25:4 "You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain."

Luke 12:6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight."

Questions:

According to all these verses – is God concerned about the wellbeing of animals? Their rest, their food, their care? Yes. God cares very much and so should we!

Do you think God wants us to hurt animals? No!

Do you think God is sad when people hurt animals? Yes!

People need to eat and God says we can eat animals for food – that is ok. They are a gift and they taste very good and are healthy for us. The people that prepare the animals though are to take good care of them while they grow so that God is happy.

But what is not ok is hurting an animal for fun or to be mean.

Have you ever stomped on a bug because you didn't like it? Have you ever seen someone throw rocks at an animal to make it go away because they didn't want it around? That is not nice, it makes God sad. It is ok to protect yourself if an animal was trying to hurt you, but to just hurt or kill an animal for no reason – is wrong! Let's all try to make sure we help God by caring for all the animals including insects that

God has blessed us with – every animal is special to God and every animal plays an important role in the world. Some provide food for other animals, some keep us safe, some give us food, and some are there to show us God’s beauty! Let’s make sure we take care of what God created – just for us!

I would like you to take this sheet home to your parents and read it with them and tell them what you learned in class – that people are responsible for taking care of all of God’s creatures – including animals! Talk to your family about ways you can care for the animals of the world.

3) Name Your Favorite Animal Game

5 minutes

Tell the students: **We are going to play a game: Name your favorite animal! I will say a kind of animal – insects, sea creatures, pets, wild animals, birds and very quickly point to each of you, starting with someone who has been listening well and doing their best in class to say their favorite animal in that category. For example: If I say insect – my favorite is a spider! Each of you will get a turn to say your favorite animal but only when I point to you. So think fast and be ready to answer!**

Go through each category ensuring each student gets a turn to say what their favorite animal is. When everyone has gotten a turn, choose another animal category and pick students in a different order. Keep going until all the categories have been called out.

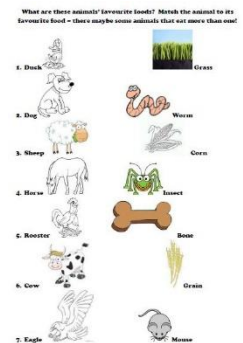
Insects Sea Creatures Pets Wild Animals Birds

4) Activity Sheets – God Wants Us to Care for Animals

20 minutes

Hand out sheets to each student with pencil crayons/pencils. Have them write their name somewhere on the page. Read the instructions on the top of the page aloud and together go through the sheet to match the animal to its food and shelter so the children get the idea that animals have needs too!

Now we are going to do another activity. We are going to look at what God’s animals need to be safe and well fed. Look at the animals on the last page (farm animals). As you color them, what do you think they need to be happy and cared for? While all the students are coloring ask the following questions and



get someone to either raise their hand or just say the answers. Afterwards, have the children clean up and put their crayons away.

In what ways do the animals in this picture require us to help care for them?

The Bible says we should take care of the animals God made. Farmers, Veterinarians, and Game and Park Wardens care for animals. A lot of people have pets as well. If you have a pet, you should take good care of it. Even if you don't have a pet, you can be kind to birds, bunnies, and other people's pets too! We should take care of the animals that are already in the world.

What are some ways you can be kind to animals?

*If time let the students do the other activity sheets about animals and their homes and what they eat. If there is not time, let them take the sheets home.

5) Optional – Snack: Carrot and/or Apple Pieces

5 minutes

“You’ve all done a great job this morning learning about God’s Creation. To help us remember, we are going to have a snack.” Hand out a few slices. Ask the students: **Which animals eat carrots or apples?** Horses, Dogs, and Rabbits to name a few. **Just like humans, not every horse, dog or rabbit likes them, but most do. We need to remember that different animals need different things and that is why it important to make sure we take care of the earth and the animals on it to ensure they have what they need to survive. We can also pray to God that He will help us care for His creation.** Review verses that the students looked through and ask them to tell you their favorite verse from the ones we looked at today. After snack have kids clean up.

6) Closing Prayer

**Ask if there are any prayer requests that kids want to share. Make a list.

Thank you God for all the different animals you made. Thank you for the people who take care of them and help us remember that it is our job to care for all of your creation – including animals. Help us know and remember to care and respect all your animals including birds, fish, pets, livestock, wild animals and bugs too! In Jesus name, Amen.

7) Optional – Old Testament Song, Etc.

5 minutes

Practice learning Books of the Old Testament. You can sing them to the ABC Song.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges....

Who Did Make the Fishies Swim?

Who did make the fishies swim, fishies swim, fishies swim?

Who did make the fishies swim, God in heaven above!

(Actions put hands together and wiggle for fish, and then point to heaven)

Who did make the birdies fly, birdies fly, birdies fly?

Who did make the birdies fly, God in heaven above!

(Actions put thumbs together and wiggle fingers out like wing, then point up)

Who did make the flowers grow, flowers grow, flowers grow?

Who did make the flowers grow, God in heaven above!

(Actions put fist through other hand and when push up and out, open fingers like a flower and then point up)

Who did make both you and I, you and I, you and I?

Who did make both you and I, God in heaven above!

(Actions point to the students and then to self and then point up)

8) Things to Remember

Thank the children for coming.

Encourage them to share what they learned with their family.

Make sure students leave with a responsible person and take their sheets.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!