

Lesson 3

God Created Animals

Objective

Students will understand that God expects us to care for His animals.

Supplies

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

Print From the Site:

- God Created Animals Color Page (one per student)
- Bird Craft Template (one per student)
- Taking Care of Animals Color Page (one per student)
- God Cares About Animals Verses (one for teacher)
- Attendance Chart
- Songs for Winter Quarter Sheet (teacher)
- Bible
- Pens/Pencils/Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Stickers (for attendance)
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- White Cardstock Paper (one per student for bird craft)

Optional Supplies

- Gummy Worms and Celery Sticks Snack
- Play Dough
- Various Stuffed Animals (enough for each student)
- Bird Craft Decorations (feathers, googly eyes, felt, tissue paper and/or glitter glue)

Teacher Tips

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

1) Introduction to Lesson

As students enter, welcome them and help them find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance. Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week.

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 our job is in caring for them and how by us caring for animals and respecting them as special gifts from God it makes God very happy!

Now let's sing a song to get us started!

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 hands 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 wings, 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)

2) Class Time - Read Genesis 1:20-26

15-20 minutes

Hand each student a "God Created Animals" color sheet and some crayons. Ask the students to put their names on the color sheet.

Read **Genesis 1:20-26** below to the class, putting focus on the bolded words.

20 Then God said, "Let the water be filled with many living things, and let there be birds to fly in the air over the earth." 21 So God created the large sea animals.[e] He created all the many living things in the sea and every kind of bird that flies in the air. And God saw that **this was good**.



22 **God blessed all the living things** in the sea and told them to have many babies and fill the seas. And he blessed the birds on land and told them to have many more babies.

23 There was evening, and then there was morning. This was the fifth day.

24 Then God said, “Let the earth produce many kinds of living things. Let there be many different kinds of animals. Let there be large animals and small crawling animals of every kind. And let all these animals produce more animals.” And all these things happened.

25 So God made every kind of animal. He made the wild animals, the tame animals, and all the small crawling things. And God saw **that this was good**.

26 Then God said, “Now let’s make **humans** who will be like us. **They will rule over** all the fish in the sea and the birds in the air. They will rule over all the large animals and all the little things that crawl on the earth.”

God created the animals because they were good. 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: It was good and they were blessed by God – so animals are a blessing – all are useful and good to God. 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.

What else does the Bible say about animals? Let’s see!

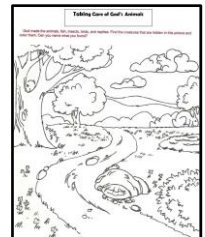
3) Activity - Taking Care of Animals Color Sheet

10 minutes

Hand each student a “Taking Care of Animals” color sheet and crayons.

Read the passage on the page. Help the students find all the animals hidden in the picture. Have them circle the hidden animals and color the page when they are done.

Have the students name and talk about the animals they are finding while they color, reminding them that they are God’s creation.



Ask students: **How do we take care of rabbits, turtles, cats, dogs, fish and birds?**

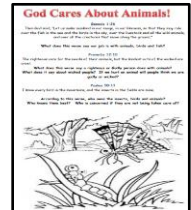
Answers might be: we love them, are kind to them, we feed them, we keep the earth safe and clean, we protect them, etc.

4) Activity - God Cares About Animals Bible Verses

10 minutes

Show the students the “God Cares About Animals Bible Verse” page.

Optional: Let the students choose some stuffed animals that you have brought so they can listen to the verses and play at the same time to help emphasize that God made all the animals. If stuffed animals are not available, play dough can be another option for the students to play with so they can focus on an activity while you read.



Here are some examples from the Bible that show our responsibility of caring for animals. Read the sheet aloud and ask the questions and help with answers as needed.

Ask the students the following and discuss:

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!

Do you think God wants us to hurt animals?

Do you think God is sad when people hurt animals?

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 and prepare them in a way that doesn’t hurt the animal so that God is happy.

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 were 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

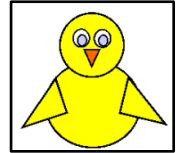
provide food for other animals, some keep us safe, some give us food, and some are there to show us God's beauty! Let's make sure we take care of what God created – just for us!

5) Activity - Bird Paper Craft

15 minutes

Prep

Before class, print the “Bird Craft Template” for each student. Pre-cut the smaller pieces of the template and allow the students to cut the bigger ones during class. This activity will need cardstock paper, scissors, crayons and glue. If you chose to bring any extra decorations such as feathers or googly eyes, have those ready as well.



Activity

Hand each student a “Bird Craft Template” along with the smaller pre-cut pieces so that everyone has a complete set. Also provide everyone a piece of cardstock paper and some crayons.

- 1) Have the students color the pieces to their bird and then cut them out.
- 2) Then glue the smaller circle (head) onto the larger circle (body), then both onto the cardstock paper.
- 3) Glue the face pieces (circle eyes and triangle beak) onto the head.
- 4) Glue the triangle wings onto the body.
- 5) Color the caption at the bottom of the template and then cut it out. Then glue it onto the white cardstock sheet along with the bird.

Optional - Once the bird is assembled on the cardstock paper, have the students use feathers, felt or sparkle glue to decorate the bird. You could also use pieces of tissue paper to decorate the wings and/or body. Also, use google eyes as the bird's eyes. Remind students that God wants us to take care of His creation.

6) Optional Activity - Sing

5-10 minutes

Practice songs sung earlier or find different songs in Songs for Winter Quarter

7) Optional Snack - Gummy Worms & Celery

10 minutes

“You’ve all done a great job this morning learning that God wants us to care for His animals. To help us remember, we are going to have a snack. Show the kids the gummy worms and celery **and ask, “What animal do you know eats worms and grassy things?”** (Birds). **“Great! We need to remember that different animals need different things and that is why it is important to make sure we take care of the earth and animals and ensure they have what they need to survive. We can also pray to God that He will help us care for His creation. Let’s all eat like birds today!”**

Hand out the snack to each child. After snack, have students clean up.

Talk about their favorite animals, how they can show love to animals, and how God loves us and the animals He created.

8) Optional Activity - Play Dough Creation

10 minutes

Hand out Play Dough to each child, if possible letting them choose the color they want and reminding them not to mix the colors.

Have the students use the Play Dough to create an animal. Remind them that God made the animals and it is our job to help take care of them and treat them nice because they are God’s creatures. Ask each student what they are making and what the animal is doing? Ask them, **“What are ways we can be kind and care for this animal?”**

When finished, have the children clean up without mixing the colors. If allowed, let them each take one creation home with them.

9) Closing Prayer

**Before the prayer, make sure the activities/snacks have been cleaned up.

Ask if there are any prayers the students want to share. Say closing prayer remembering to thank God for creating all the different animals and to help us remember that it is our job to care for all of creation.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!