

*Preschool Winter*  
*Lesson 4:*  
*God Wants Us to Take Care of His Animal Creation Continued*

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Understand that God expects us to care for His animals
- 2) Understand that God has commanded us to respect the life He has created and blessed us with by looking a different Bible verses

**Accommodations:** How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See previous lesson for ideas

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**Supplies:** Check with coordinator to ensure supplies are ready.

**Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)**

- Pens/Pencils
  - Bible (please bring your own)
  - Crayons/Pencil Crayons
  - Attendance Sheet
  - Stickers – one per child for attendance
  - God's Animals Activity Sheets (one for each child)
- God's Winter Animals – Reindeer Child's Hand Print Craft**
- Cardboard piece – 12 inches x 12 inches – one piece per child making sure the front side has no writing and is smooth
  - Twigs –12 inches x 12 inches each approximately - 4 per child
  - Chocolate Pudding – make enough so the pudding will fill a plate and each child can place their hands on the plate and use the pudding as finger paints
  - Fluffy pom pom for Reindeer nose – one per child (if unavailable use scrunched up tissue paper or a red marker to draw a nose)
  - Googly Eyes Large – two per child (if unavailable draw Reindeer Eyes with Marker)
  - Twine or string – 16 inches long – one per child
  - Hot Glue Gun and Glue or white glue – Adults only should use the glue gun and hot glue and glue twigs on for children
  - Ribbon – enough for each child to make a bowtie for the reindeer
  - Marker – to write name and year on front of cardboard – to share

**Optional Activities**

- God Created the Animals Color Page (one for each child)
- Stuffed Animals – various kinds for children to play with
- One balloon for every two children, inflated before class and tied close
- Sharpie pen to write bird face on balloons – see below for instructions.
- Snack - gummy worms and celery
- Napkins
- Cups with water

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**Lesson:**

**1) Introduction to lesson:**

**5-10 minutes**

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week, if a new child arrives put their name on the chart for them. Have them sit around the table.

**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! First let's sing a song:**

**A Way to Go** – An action song  
A robin flies, (*Wave arms in flying motion.*)  
A bunny hops, (*Hop of jump up and down.*)  
A turtle crawls so slow; (*Crawl or step in place very slowly.*)  
God gave each animal He made  
A special way to go! (*Walk two fingers up one arm.*)

### **Why Did God create animals?**

Read the following passage from Genesis focusing on the bolded words. While you are reading, hand out teddy bear animals to each child so they can play with something while they listen.

#### **Genesis 1:20-26**

<sup>20</sup> And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." <sup>21</sup> 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**. <sup>22</sup> 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.**" <sup>23</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> 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**.

<sup>26</sup> 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:

**It was good and they were blessed by God – so animals are a blessing, and 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) God's Winter Animals – Reindeer Craft 15-20 minutes**

**Before class:** gather supplies (see above under teacher materials) and ensure you have an assistant to help for this activity if you have more than 2-3 children.

**During class:** Hand out one piece of cardboard to each child and either before class or during, show the students the twigs and while they stay at a distance, glue the twigs onto the cardboard one on each

side in a square pattern to “frame” their picture. Glue a piece of ribbon on the back spaced apart at the top of the page to use as a hook for the picture.

Next, put chocolate pudding on a plate and after having children wash their hands with wet wipes or by going to the washroom – have each child carefully dip their two hands in the pudding and then making sure there is not too much on their hands, have them make two hand prints at the top of the cardboard as “antlers” for the reindeer – see picture and show students picture so they get the idea.

Next, with their finger, have them fill in the reindeer's face as shown with the rest of the pudding on their hands. Have an assistant or parent then escort the child to the washroom to wash their hands. Once all the children have made the base of their picture, move on to the remaining activities below, returning to the reindeer's before class is over and the pudding is somewhat dry.



Have them glue on two eyes and a pom pom nose. Sign and date their name at the bottom of the picture and if time and available make a ribbon and glue to the bottom of the reindeer as shown. Allow to fully dry during church service and then tell parents to come get their reindeer crafts at the end of service. Show them the “hands” that their child used to make the antlers. This can be a keepsake for the parents to show them how small their child was once upon a time! Have the students help clean up before moving on to the next activity.

\*Make sure no child goes near the hot glue gun or glue and unplug the glue gun as soon as you are finished using it. If it is unavailable you can use ribbon and glue stick and don't frame the cardboard with twigs, or hot glue gun twigs before class.

### 3) Activity Sheets - God Wants Us to Care for Animals! 15-20 minutes

**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.** Hand out animal activity sheet to each child, along with a pencil. Have them write their name somewhere on the page. Tell the children to, “**look at the animals on the first page (farm animals) as you color them, what do you think they need to be happy and cared for?**” When they are finished, turn to the next two pages, 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!

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!**

**What are some ways you can be kind to animals?** Let students answer.

**4) Optional: Play - Keep the Birds Up Balloon Game 5-10 minutes**

Before class inflate and tie one balloon for every two students. Draw two eyes, a triangle beak and a smiley face. On each side draw a wing. You have made birds!

Have the children form two lines facing each other. Give every two students a balloon and have them hit it back and forth. See which team can keep the balloon up the longest. Or you can have the whole class play at once with everyone trying to keep the balloon up. If you have a large class you can play with more than one balloon at a time depending on how big your class is.

Tell the children, **everything God made is good and we are to take care of what God made. Let's help keep the birds in the air while we play this game. Remember to not hit the birds hard, but be gentle and try to keep them in the air so they can fly!**

**5) Optional: God Made the Animals Color Page 5-10 minutes**

Hand out one sheet to each child, read the words on the page, ask the students the question and have them answer while they color. Hand out crayons and help them if needed. Remind students that these are animals God gave us to feed us, help us, and give us something to take care of – let's remember to be careful and kind to all animals!

**6) Sing Songs 5-10 minutes**

Have children sing songs with you from the front of the binder or C.D.

**7) Optional: Snack - gummy worms and celery sticks 5 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 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 with a glass of water. After snack have kids clean up. Then move on to the remaining activities.

**8) Close in prayer**

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 as well. 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.

**9) Remind students**

To take home any sheets. Thank them for coming and ask them to help clean up before they leave.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!