

Animal Farming

God is a Loving Provider

Spiritual Awareness: God cares for the creation

God has provided animals for our use. He has given us authority over the animal kingdom, and with this authority comes responsibility. Christians need to form a viewpoint on the treatment of animals in some modern agricultural practices.

The care and protection of the shepherd in Biblical times is an illustration of the love, care and protection that Jesus has for us.

Our response to 'God is a Loving Provider'

Because God is a Loving Provider I will...

- Love God
- Love others
- Forgive others
- Be kind and patient with others
- Help others
- Thank God for the things He provides
- Thank my parents for the things they provide
- Share with others the things that God has provided.
- Trust God to take care of me.

Supporting devotional resources

Themes for Christian Studies 1, (Love): God is a loving and faithful shepherd

Themes for Christian Studies 4, (Provider): God is a caring provider

Themes for Christian Studies 5, (Provider): God is a faithful provider

Biblical references

Bible stories and passages

John 10 The Good Shepherd.

Psalms 23 The Lord is my shepherd.

Luke 15 The lost sheep.

Matthew 6:25-34 God's care for animals and more so for us

Luke 12:6-7; Matthew 10:29-30 We are of more value than many sparrows.

Memory verses

Psalms 50:10 Every beast of the forest is Mine; the cattle on a thousand hills.

Psalms 104:14 You make grass grow for the cattle and plants for man to use. (GNB)

Psalms 147:7-9 Sing praise to our God, who provides rain for the earth, who makes grass grow on the mountains. He gives food to the animals.

Isaiah 40:11 He will take care of His flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in His arms; He will gently lead their mothers.

Key Questions

How do animals help provide for our needs?

How do people provide for the needs of animals?
How does God want us to treat animals?
What is a shepherd?
How did the shepherd look after his sheep in Bible times?
How does Jesus, our shepherd look after us?

Outcomes

Students will

Knowledge

- understand that God has provided animals to meet our needs
- understand that living things have offspring like themselves
- identify foods and useful materials that come from animals
- understand the diversity of farm animals

Skills

- ask questions
- make observations
- discuss
- research
- compare, classify, draw conclusions
- record, draw

Values

- appreciate needs of farm animals and understand the importance of caring for animals
- be thankful for God's provision through animal products

Activities

- Classify animals into categories of wild / domestic; pets / farm animals.
- Classify farm animals into categories of birds and mammals.
- Visit a farm.
- Invite a community member to speak about and show photographs of farm animals he/she owns
- Make a list of products from farm animals.
- Describe how some animals help the farmer e.g. cattle / sheep dogs; horses.
- Investigate how farm animals care for their young.
- Discuss the needs of farm animals and the farmer's role in meeting these needs.
- Discuss the role of a vet.
- Make a yearly calendar showing changes in farm activities from season to season.
- Make a chart showing a day in the life of the farmer.
- Compare lifestyle of people groups who hunt for food with farmers who raise animals for meat.
- Compare sheep farming today with Biblical times.
- Research the processes involved in animal products, from farm to consumer e.g. leather, wool, meat.
- Discuss the ethics of animal raising practices such as caged hens and pigs versus free range.

Assessment

1. Choose one type of animal farming. Write/draw a description of the jobs that the farmer must do to get the product from the farm to the consumer.
or
2. Write a report on an excursion to an animal farm.

What have I learned from the study of animal farming...
about God?
about doing what God wants me to do?
about the Bible?

Link with Australian Curriculum:

Science Foundation Year and Year 1: Science for human endeavour – People use science in their daily lives when caring for the environment and living things

Science Year 2: Biological science – Living things grow and change and have offspring similar to themselves

Learning connections:

English: animal stories such as “The Little Red Hen”; word banks; writing an excursion report; listening to a speaker

Science: Compare materials from animals, e.g. fur, wool, feathers, leather. Investigate properties, e.g. floating/sinking, textures, insulating potential

Health: Nutritional value of animal foods

Art: Collage using feathers and wool; making a yarn from sheep’s fleece; weaving/stitching/knitting with wool

Maths: Counting and grouping activities with farm animals

Thinking Skills: See *Creative Thinking Skills* on this web site – “God gives” (Lower Primary).

Additional Beacon Media Resource

Visual Language Unit: Farming – See Primary Units of Study:

http://www.beaconmedia.com.au/bm/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=69&Itemid=60