

ACTIVITIES: LEARNING FROM THE ANIMALS

Read

What can we learn from the animals?

We all know that God made the animals. But God also tells us in the Bible to watch the animals and see what we can learn from them.

Here are seven animals in the Bible that we can learn from:

The ant; the badger; the locust; the lizard; the lion; the rooster; the goat

You will find these in Proverbs 30:25 – 31. Read these verses in your Bible.

Draw

Now take a piece of paper. Draw the animals and write down what these animals can show us.

Read

the following verses from Romans 12: 4-8.

Each one of us has a body, and that body has many parts. These parts all have different uses. In the same way, we are many, but in Christ we are all one body. Each one is a part of that body. And each part belongs to all the other parts. We all have different gifts. Each gift came because of the grace that God gave us.

If one has the gift of prophecy, he should use that gift with the faith he has.

If one has the gift of serving, he should serve.

If one has the gift of teaching, he should teach.

If one has the gift of encouraging others, he should encourage.

If one has the gift of giving to others, he should give freely.

If one has the gift of being a leader, he should try hard when he leads.

If one has the gift of showing kindness to others, that person should do so with joy.

from the International Children's Bible

You will notice that these 'gifts' are the ones we have been learning about in our stories of Africa. They are called 'gifts' because they are in us from the moment we are born. Some people are naturally better at some gifts than others.

Remember

Our African animals help us remember the eight gifts:

- Prophecy (seeing the meaning of what God is saying)
- Serving (helping)
- Teaching (sharing knowledge in an interesting way)
- Encouraging (being strong in the Lord and helping others to be strong in the Lord)
- Giving (cheerfully)
- Leading (and being a servant as well)
- Kindness (caring for the poor, the sick, the needy)

But being naturally strong in a gift does not mean that we shouldn't try to use ALL the gifts. God wants us to practice ALL the gifts so that we get better at the ones we are not so good at. This means we can be available for God to use us in ANY situation. Remember the chameleon? It has the right colour for the right situation. God wants us to be prepared to be His servants and use the right gift in the right situation when helping others.

Writing project

Make a list of the seven gifts. Now next to each gift write some ways in which YOU could use that gift to help other people.

Questionnaire

Write a number next to each of the following sentences. Give yourself a number to show how much the statement is / or is not - like YOU.

3 – greatly

2 – quite a bit

1 – a little

0 – not at all

1. I am enthusiastic about explaining the meaning of the Bible to others.
2. I don't mind going without something myself if I know it can help someone else.
3. I enjoy doing class presentations.
4. I like to encourage those who are having a bad day.
5. I like to share my things with others.
6. I like to organize group members in class.
7. I feel sad when others are sad.
8. I like stories that have hidden meaning,
9. I like to have friends around and make them feel welcome.
10. I like to learn facts.
11. I encourage my friends to do their best.
12. I like to give gifts to others.
13. I like to be a group leader.
14. I like to visit those who are sick.
15. I would like to give class devotion.
16. I like to work under someone who gives me instructions on what to do.
17. I enjoy finding out the meaning of words.
18. I like to help people with their problems.
19. I like to give my money or things to those in need.
20. I like to make plans and carry them out.
21. I feel sorry for those who are having a hard time.
22. I sometimes know what God is saying to me.
23. I like to help Mum or Dad do preparations when visitors are coming.
24. I like reading the Bible.
25. I like to help others know more about God.
26. I like to make gifts for others.

- 27. I like things to be well organized.
- 28. If I do good work I don't mind if people don't know about it.
- 29. When I explain the meaning of the Bible to people they understand what I'm saying really well.
- 30. I like to help people who have a lot of work to do.
- 31. I like to look up Bible verses.
- 32. I can often understand what is troubling someone.
- 33. If I had \$20 a month I would use it to sponsor a child in a needy country.
- 34. In a game I am good at explaining the rules to others and I like teaching them how to play the game.
- 35. When a young child is crying I like to calm them down and find out what's wrong.

Now fill out the chart:

Write your scores for each question next to the numbers in the boxes.

1	8	15	22	29
2	9	16	23	30
3	10	17	24	31
4	11	18	25	32
5	12	19	26	33
6	13	20	27	34
7	14	21	28	35

Now add up the numbers in the rows horizontally. Write the total of each row at the right hand end of the row.

Each row stands for a gift. Find out which gifts are your strongest.
(See next page)

Key to table:

Row A (top row): Prophecy / insight

Row B: Serving

Row C: Teaching

Row D: Encouraging others

Row E: Giving

Row F: Leadership

Row G (bottom row): Caring for the needy (mercy)