



TODAY'S TOPIC:

**Pets and Animals**

You are welcome to use this lesson to inspire spiritual conversation in your family or youth classroom. It is written for elementary age but could be adjusted as needed.

**THINKING JOB:** Ask a “thinking job question” to get everyone thinking about something pertinent to the lesson. This could be asked moments or hours before your conversation.

***How do you take care of pets and wild animals?***

**Lesson**

Materials	Things to Prepare	Today's Goal
•	•	Know that God gives animals all they need to live and grow, and God does that for us, too!

**ASK:** What are some of your morning activities? Ask for suggestions. (get up – special place to sleep, eat breakfast, washing, combing hair, stretching or exercising, getting dressed.)

**ASK:** Why do we do those things? Need food to live, washing and moving helps us stay healthy, secure place to sleep makes us feel safe.

**ASK:** Do our pets need some of these same things?

**PERSONAL EXAMPLE:** Use pet experience from your life. For example, I have two cats. I really love my cats and I love doing things for them and showing them love and kindness.

**ASK:** What are some things I do for my cats? Feeding them appropriate food, keeping them clean, giving them a safe place to live and sleep, spending time with them, playing with them, giving them exercise, taking them to the vet if they get sick.

**ASK:** Do wild animals need us to do these same things? No!

**ASK:** What is the difference? Wild animals already have all the skill and smarts to take care of themselves. If we take care of wild animals, they do not remember to take care of themselves, and it makes nature out of balance

(example: circle of life, mountain lion eats fox who eats rabbit who eats plants who help the soil.)

**ASK:** So how do we show kindness to wild animals? Keep their environment clean, do not feed them so they remember to find their own food, respect them by learning about their environment and behaviors.

**ASK:** Are we connected to animals? How? Is it a different connection for pets than for wild animals?

**ASK:** How smart are animals? Where does their knowledge come from? Their parents, training, God.

**ASK:** What does God have to do with animals?

**ASK:** What God qualities have to do with caring for animals? Some suggestions: Caring, cleanliness, compassion, connection, generosity, gentleness, helpfulness, honor, joy, kindness, love, patience, peacefulness, respect, responsibility, service, unity.

**ASK:** Does God always give us the knowledge we need just like the animals?

**ASK:** Do animals have feelings? Do animals and people share some of the same feelings? How do you know?

**MOVE:** If you could have any animal, real or imaginary as a pet, what would it be? Why? What qualities would it have? Have everyone act out their favorite animal.

**AFFIRMATION** – I see God in every animal. repeat 4X

Note: Printable affirmations and coloring sheets for this lesson are available at <https://www.milehichurch.org/youth-family/> .