

We Care for God's Creatures

Scripture Focus: Genesis 1:26–31

Lesson Goals

- to recall that God created all creatures
- to state the different ways that creatures help us
- to identify that we must care for and respect all creatures

Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 22 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Genesis 1:26–31).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

Get Ready! (10 minutes)

Pray the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.

Invite your child to take turns with you to think of as many different animals as you can in 3 minutes.

Tell your child that today's lesson explores how God made all creatures and why we must care for them.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

Read the Featured Story on page 22 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Genesis 1:26–31).

Ask your child these questions:

- Whom did God put in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals? (*human beings*)
- Did God provide food for the animals as well as people? (*yes*)
- How did God feel about all the creatures he had made? (*pleased*)

Read the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 23 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

Invite your child to complete the puzzle on page 2 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.

Answer: See solution on the third page of this home guide chapter.

Discover! (20 minutes)

Read with your child the article "Caring for God's Creatures" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key word. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

Invite your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 4 activity booklet. *Answers will vary.*

Go! (10 minutes)

Invite your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.

Choose one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 4 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

Ask your child to find the sticker sheet and the Seek and Find sheet in the folder. Tell your child to place the chapter 4 sticker in the correct location on the Seek and Find sheet.

Conclude by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.





Chapter 4

Caring for God's Creatures

What is the strangest animal you can think of? What is your favorite pet? What creature do you find annoying—or even scary? From the pesky mosquito to the peaceful goldfish to the long-necked giraffe, God created every animal that lives on the Earth, in the sea, and in the sky.

We must respect all **creatures** because God created them. He gave every kind of animal to us to help us, but every animal belongs to him. All his different creatures remind us that he is amazingly creative!

How do God's creatures help us? Some animals provide us with food: meat, milk, even honey. Some

animals help us do hard things. Other animals protect us from harm, and some animals are especially good at sharing love. Sometimes we can't see how an animal can help us. But God asks us to take care of them even when we don't understand them.

Respect for God's creation means we must treat his creatures with respect and kindness. We should never hurt, tease, or scare an animal on purpose. We can capture spiders and take them outside. Every day we must give our pets and farm animals food, water, and warm places to sleep.

God gives every creature the gift of life. We respect this gift by taking care of his creations.

Key Word

creature An animal of the Earth, sea, or sky, created by God.

We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article and activity in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "God Made You and Loves You" + activity, pages 6–7

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and invite your child to complete the activity.

Review

1. Who created the creatures and gave them the gift of life?
2. Why did God create all the animals?
3. How are we supposed to treat animals?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!



Answer Key

A H U M A N S

L Y R J G O D

P L E A S E D

I Q E P B L K

K F E A R T H

C R E A T E D

A N I M A L S