

SERIES OVERVIEW

Tagline: What The Animals In The Bible Teach Us About God

Synopsis: There are many different animals in the Bible. We can look at the stories of these animals to learn powerful lessons of obedience, love and how we can live God's way.

Objective: Kids will learn that God's way is the best way.

Memory Verse: *"Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you."* Psalm 25:4 (NirV)

Lessons:

Snake

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-15, 21-24, The Fall

In the Garden of Eden, the snake tempted Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit. But it was ultimately their decision to disobey God and choose to sin. In the world, there is temptation all around us, but it is our choice whether or not we say yes to temptation or yes to God's way.

Objective: Kids will learn that they have a choice whether to give into temptation or choose God's way.

Dove

Scripture: Genesis 7:24-8:17, The Flood Waters Recede

Even after the 40 days of rain, Noah and his family had to stay in the ark, as the earth was still covered with water. Noah sent out a raven and then doves to see when it would be safe to leave the ark. God promised that Noah and his family would survive the flood, and God fulfilled that promise.

Objective: Kids will learn that God keeps his promises.

Frog

Scripture: Exodus 8:1-15, The Plague of Frogs

God loved His people and promised to free them from slavery in Egypt. God showed his power to the evil Pharaoh through 10 plagues – one of which was the plague of frogs. Though Pharaoh's heart was hard, God's power was greater.

Objective: Kids will learn that God is powerful to help us.

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Quail

Scripture: Exodus 16:1-17, Manna and Quail

The people of God had been freed from slavery and were now traveling to the Promised Land. Out in the desert, they had no food. They cried out to God, who provided them with quail and manna to eat.

Objective: Kids will learn that God provides for our needs.

Donkey

Scripture: Numbers 22:21-38, Balaam's Donkey Speaks

Balaam had done things his way instead of God's way. In order to get his attention, God sent an angel to block his way, and gave his donkey the ability to talk. In the end, Balaam realized that God's way was the only way.

Objective: Kids' will learn that we are wise to do things God's way.

Fish

Scripture: Jonah 1 & 2, Jonah and The Big Fish

God had a special mission for Jonah, but Jonah ran away from God. God sent a storm and then a big fish to get Jonah's attention. In the end, Jonah realized the importance of obeying God.

Objective: Kids will learn that we should obey God.

Raven

Scripture: 1 Kings 17:1-6, Elijah Fed By Ravens

After Elijah delivered a message from God to the evil king, he fled to safety. Out in the wilderness, God sent ravens to look after Elijah's needs.

Objective: Kids will learn that we can trust God even when we feel alone.

Lion

Scripture: Daniel 6:13-27, Daniel in the Den of Lions

The law said that no one could pray to anybody but the king. When Daniel continued to pray to God, he was thrown into a den of lions. God protected Daniel from the lions and rewarded his obedience.

Objective: Kids will learn that we can do what's right even when no one else does.

Pig

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32, Parable of the Lost Son

Jesus told the parable of a son who took his father's money and went his own way. Eventually, when the son had been reduced to a job of feeding pigs, he returned home in disgrace. But the father took him back with joy and celebration. That is the same way Jesus rejoices when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and come into our hearts as our Savior.

Objective: Kids will learn that God loves us and will forgive our sins when we repent and ask Jesus to be our Savior.

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Camel

Scripture: Matthew 19:16-26, The Rich Young Man

A rich young man walked about disappointed when Jesus told him to sell all of his possessions and give to the poor. Jesus said it is easier for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven. This was a way to illustrate that it is hard to follow Jesus when we love our stuff, more than we love God.

Objective: Kids will learn that nothing is more important or worth more than following Jesus.

Rooster

Scripture: Matthew 26:31-36, 69-75, Peter Disowns Jesus

Peter loved Jesus, but when Jesus was arrested Peter let his fear take over. Peter denied even knowing Jesus. When the rooster crowed, Peter remembered that this was exactly what Jesus said would happen.

Objective: Kids will learn that even in tough times, we can choose to stand faithfully for Jesus, because Jesus is always faithful to us.

Sheep and Goats

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46, The Sheep and the Goats

Jesus told the story of the sheep and the goats – who weren't really sheep and goats. The sheep were those who obeyed God and served others. The goats were those who did things their own way.

Objective: Kids will learn that serving God means serving others.