Care for All Creatures

So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. Genesis 2:19

Introduction
To care for all creatures is to be a good shepherd of the Earth. It is our responsibility to nurture all of Creation. When we care for the animals on our planet, including farm animals that are raised for food, we must ensure that they have protection from the weather, treatment when they are sick, clean water when they are thirsty, and healthy food to eat. As human beings, our task of caretaker connects us to both other humans and other creatures with whom we share the Earth. All of the elements that we need to care for animals are provided by the earth. It is our job to make sure that we keep water, which is needed by all creation to live, safe. We must also make sure that we care for the soil and the land; indeed, many of the elements - like oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, and phosphorus - found in soil are also found in us and throughout the rest of Creation. Caring for all creatures starts by caring for and maintaining the Earth that all Creation depends upon, as it was provided to us by the Creator.

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Prayer

Franciscan Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures.

You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land.

You teach us that they are all our brothers and sisters.

We ask you to bless the animals.

By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan.

May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures!

Amen.

Adapted from the Blessing of the Pets, a Christian tradition, usually held on October 4th each year, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi.
Song

Rise and Shine

The Lord said to Noah, there's gonna be a floody, floody (2x)
The whole world is (clap) gonna be muddy, muddy
Children of the Lord, so:

REFRAIN
Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory (2x)
Rise and shine and (clap) give God the glory, glory
Children of the Lord!

The Lord said to Noah, you better build an arky, arky (2x)
Build it out (clap) of birchy barky, barky
Children of the Lord, so:

REFRAIN

The animals came on board, they came on by twosies, twosies
Elephants and (clap) kangaroos, oosies
Children of the Lord, so:

REFRAIN

It rained and rained for 40 nights and day-sies, day-sies
Almost drove those (clap) animals crazy, crazy

REFRAIN

Noah he looked up and saw a dovey, dovey
Saw it up in (clap) heaven abovey, bovey

The sun came out and dried up the landy, landy
Everything was fine and dandy, dandy
Children of the Lord, so:

REFRAIN

To hear the melody for this song, visit MySpace free music. (Words are slightly different than our version printed here.)

Adapted from a traditional Black Spiritual.
Peek-a-Boo Barn Craft

Time Needed: 1 hour

Materials:
- Printable templates of barn and animals (see pages E-5 and E-6)
- Construction paper (red, black, green)
- Glue
- Scissors
- Crayons

Instructions:
1. Print the barn template and cut out the pieces. Trace the barn onto red construction paper. Trace the roof and window onto black construction paper. Cut the pieces out.
2. Cut the doors on the barn so they open. Make a cut down the center of the doors, and along the top of each door. Make sure you don’t cut the very outer edges of the door (on the right and left) or your doors will fall off instead of opening.
3. Glue a piece of red construction paper on the back of the barn so that it covers the doors. Do not glue the piece of construction paper to the doors; you want this piece to act as the “back-drop”, so that there will be some red showing when the doors are open.
4. Glue the barn to a piece of green construction paper.
5. Glue the roof and window onto the barn.
6. Print the animal template and let the children color the pieces they wish to include on the barn scene.
7. Cut the animals/scenery pieces out. Glue the pieces onto the barn. Make sure an animal gets glued inside the barn so the children can open the doors to find it.

Note: Help children learn about how animals interact and how they all affect one another. Since animals have to eat, we must take care of them on a farm.

Used with permission from AllKidsNetwork.com
Sleeping Cows (5 – 7 year olds)

Time needed: 15 minutes

Instructions:
1. Choose 2 people in the group to start as “The Jokers.”
2. The rest of the group become the “sleeping cows” and must lay down on their backs.
3. The Jokers walk from cow to cow trying to make them laugh without touching them.
4. Once a cow laughs, they stand up and become a Joker. The game continues until there are only two Sleeping Cows left.
5. To play again, the remaining Sleeping Cows become the first two Jokers in the next game and the rest of the players lay back down to be Sleeping Cows.

Village Detective (5 – 7 year olds)

Time needed: 15 minutes

Instructions:
1. Everyone sits in a circle and one person is chosen to be the detective and leaves the room or the area.
2. The remaining children select one person to be the Village Detective. The rest of the children will have to mimic the movements and actions of the chief. The detective is invited back without knowing who the Village Detective is.
3. All the children mimic whatever the Village Detective is doing without giving away who the detective is. The detective watches who is copying who until s/he guesses who the Village Detective is.
4. Once the game is over, a new detective is asked to leave the circle while the group picks a new Village Detective and the game starts again!

Both activities adapted from UltimateCampResource.com
Secret Maze (8 – 11 year olds)

This game fosters team building and problem solving as the entire team has to pay attention and communicate clearly. The difficulty level can be adjusted by making the grid larger or smaller and the route easier or more complicated.

Time needed: 30 minutes

Materials:
- 25 items to mark out a grid (if played outside, one could use chalk on concrete; indoors you can try masking tape, paper plates, or carpet squares)

Tip: Make sure the items are not easily moved so that as children walk through the maze it stays consistent.

Instructions:
1. Before you play the game, create your secret route through the maze and mark it on a piece of paper that you can keep the children from seeing. Above is an example of a maze path that would be pretty complicated. Judge the level of your group and draw a maze accordingly.
2. Lay out the grid on the ground before the children are ready to play, or as another leader is explaining the game.
3. Explain that this grid of markers contains only one path for getting from one side to the other. The group’s goal is to get everyone safely through the maze.
4. Gather all of the children on one side of the maze. Explain that each child will take turns attempting to solve the maze. S/he will select the marker s/he thinks is the first step of the maze and the leader will say yes or no as to whether s/he guessed correctly. If s/he is correct, s/he gets to guess the next step. If s/he guesses wrong, his/her turn is over and the next child gets to try.
5. All the children continue taking turns until the maze has been solved and ALL the children make it through the maze.
6. Consider increasing the difficulty level by not allowing the children to talk while someone is in the maze. This means that every child must pay attention during others’ turns so they know where to go.
7. Once the children solve one, give them a new, more difficult maze to attempt as time allows.

Adapted with permission from the Corrymeela Community, Ballycastle, Northern Ireland: corrymeela.org
Very Berry Blast Smoothie

Makes 10 Servings.

Time Needed: 5 minutes

Ingredients:
1. 4 cups of fresh or frozen berries
2. 3 cups plain yogurt
3. 1 cup of ice
4. Honey to taste
5. Water (optional to reach desired consistency)

Instructions:
1. Mix berries, yogurt, ice, and honey in a blender.
2. Slowly add water until smooth and you reach the thickness you want.
3. Pour into cups and serve.

Image used with permission from rúpigo
Good Shepherd Learning Activity and Craft

One way that we can take good care of the earth is to nurture the animals and other creatures that live on it. As noted in the introduction to this module, we can be good shepherds of all of the creation by making good choices that protect our air, soil, and water; care for other animals; and show respect and love for each other.

**Time Needed:** 1 hour

**Make Your Own Good Shepherd Set**

Print out the shepherd and sheep printables for each student (see next page), and then color, cut, and glue them around toilet paper tubes with a glue stick. You can make as many sheep for your set as you want, but two for each child is preferable.

**Materials:**
- Foam board
- Green paper
- Glue stick
- Something for “hole poking” (a corn cob holder, skewer, toothpick, etc.)
- Pipe cleaners
- School glue
- Scissors

**Instructions:**
1. Trace a circle onto your foam board and green paper using a mixing bowl, and cut them out. It will be easier to cut the foam board using a box cutter if you have one on hand.
2. Glue the green paper circle onto your foam board circle with a glue stick.
3. Poke holes around the outside edge of the “pasture” for the fence. Leave an opening for the sheep to come in and out (see picture).
4. Cut the pipe cleaners into thirds and insert them into the holes for the fence. You can put one drop of glue on each hole before inserting the pipe cleaner for a permanent hold.
5. When poking your holes and inserting your pipe cleaners, go all the way around the circle, putting them side-by-side first. Then poke holes in between each section of fence and insert a second layer of pipe cleaners, so that the fence pieces appear to cross each other. Don’t forget about leaving your opening!

*(continued on next page)*

*Used with permission from CatholicIcing.com*
Shepherd

Sheep

Cut TP Tube to this height

cut along outside edge
Soup Sippers

Makes 10 Servings.

**Time Needed:** 10 minutes

**Ingredients:**
1. 10 cups tomato or vegetable juice
2. 1 ½ tsp of desired seasoning (chili powder, onion powder, basil, etc.)

**Instructions:**
1. Stir seasoning into juice.
2. Microwave or boil on the stovetop and serve.

**COMPLETE THE MEAL:**
Serve with cheese and 100% whole wheat crackers or bread and apple slices.
Treat Animals Humanely

This activity will help children learn about the needs of animals and how those needs are or aren’t met with the farming practices in place today.

Time needed: 1 hour

Materials:
- Animal masks for each child (make copies on cardstock of farm animal faces from clip art; glue or tape to paint stir sticks or dowels)
- Supplies to decorate mask (markers, glue, cotton balls, etc.)
- Need cards (see pages E-14 to E-25)
- Condition cards (see pages E-14 to E-25)
- 2 poster boards (one labeled “Needs Met” and the other “Needs Not Met”)
- One copy of the five freedoms page or laminated copies of The Five Freedoms resource page

Instructions:
1. Copy Need cards and Condition cards and the Five Freedoms page.
2. Have children decorate their masks and name their animal.
3. Read out loud the Need cards for each farm animal. Note: Read the top part of a Need card, but not the related Need at the bottom.
4. Show them a Conditions card for each animal and ask the students if the animals’ needs are being met.
5. Ask them to make their animal noise (i.e. moo if they are a cow, etc.) or raise their hands if the picture shows that their needs are being met. Then tape the picture on the appropriate poster board.
6. Ask each child to state what need their animal has. (Note: You can call the kids by their animal’s name).
7. After going through all the cards, show the kids the Five Freedoms page. Explain that these Freedoms have been determined by animal welfare groups to be a useful checklist for assessing animal farming practices.
8. Why are animal farming practices employed that do not meet the needs of animals (economics, lack of awareness, belief that animals don’t feel pain or emotions, justification that they’re going to die anyway).

Used with permission from the National Council of Churches (NCC) Eco-Justice Program: http://nccecojustice.org/resources/
FREEDOMS

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst by providing fresh water and the right amount of food to keep them fit.

2. Freedom from discomfort by making sure that animals have the right kind of environment including shelter and somewhere comfortable to rest.

3. Freedom from pain, injury, and disease by preventing them from getting ill or injured and by making sure animals are diagnosed and treated rapidly if they do.

4. Freedom to behave normally by making sure animals have enough space, proper facilities and the company of other animals of their own kind.

5. Freedom from fear and distress by making sure their conditions and treatment avoid mental suffering.
Cow

When a mother cow is separated from her calf, she will call to her child for days.

Need
To have company of family members

Cow

We like to lie down 40%-50% of each day. The rest of the time, you’ll find us standing.

Need
Freedom of mobility
We feel frustrated, as evidenced by our rolling of our tongues and shaking our heads, when we can see and smell grass, but can’t get to it.

Need
Freedom from hunger

We do not like to use the bathroom near our living and eating areas! We’re really clean animals!

Need
To behave normally
P / G

We really like to be with our friends and family members. We even sleep together in a “nest” when we can.

Need
For companionship

P / G

Water is the most important part of our diet.

Need
Freedom from thirst
We like to use our sensitive beaks for exploring our surroundings, picking up items, feeding, and more.

Need
To do our thing

We have a particular way in which we like to build our nest.

Need
Freedom from distress
CHICKEN

We like to take dust baths every couple of days, but we can’t if we’re in cages.

Need
To behave normally

TURKEY

We like to forage for seeds, berries, beetles and other things. At night we like to roost in a low branch of a tree.

Need
To be free to behave normally
We become more fearful when we are separated from our group.

Need freedom from fear and distress

Our young lambs love to play chase and romp together in fields.

Need To engage in normal behavior
**Storytime**

*Bee and Me*
by Elle J. McGuinness

When a young boy discovers a bee trapped in his bedroom he hides for fear of being stung. But when the amiable bee frantically explains all that bees do, the boy comes to understand how good things come in different packages: "Bees make honey. That much we know. Bees also spread pollen, which makes all things grow."

The subject of honeybees' mysterious dwindling population throughout the world has been a growing concern in the news in recent years. *Bee and Me* brings the critical importance of bees to light for young children in an engaging story of friendship and understanding, and provides valuable information about how important bees are to sustainable agriculture.
Rainy Day Option: Make Puppets

Time Needed: 1 hour

Materials:
- Paper bags or old socks, 1 per child
- Markers/crayons
- Bits of yarn, fabric, buttons, etc.
- Glue or tape

Instructions:
1. Provide the children with the craft supplies and explain that they will all be making puppets. Show them how the puppets will work by slipping your hands into the socks or paper sacks and moving the “mouth.”
2. If the children need more direction, guide them in making a puppet of their favorite farm or garden animal.
3. Once the children have completed their puppets, encourage them to interact with their puppets or put on a play. To get them started, interview each child's puppet and have the children respond as the puppet. “What’s your name? Where do you live? What’s your favorite food?”