

Lesson #16: Animals

OPENING

Teacher: Remind children: 1) sit quietly, rest their arms in a position that they feel most comfortable 2) lower their faces to listen to the prayer. Explain when you pray, you have to show respect to God. Ask who can recite opening prayer:

“I bear witness, O my God, that Thou hast created me to know Thee and to worship Thee. I testify, at this moment, to my powerlessness and to Thy might, to my poverty and to Thy wealth.

There is none other God but Thee, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.” – Bahá’u’lláh

- Ask the children if any of them know a prayer by heart that they could recite for the class.

Has anyone new memorized the Obligatory Prayer:

“I bear witness, O my God, that Thou hast created me to know Thee and to worship Thee. I testify, at this moment, to my powerlessness and to Thy might, to my poverty and to Thy wealth.

There is none other God but Thee, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.”

LESSON: ANIMALS

QUOTE:

“He should show kindness to animals, how much more unto his fellow-man, to him who is endowed with the power of utterance.” —Bahá’u’lláh

“Lord! Pitiful are we, grant us Thy favor; poor, bestow upon us a share from the ocean of Thy wealth; needy, do Thou satisfy us; abased, give us Thy glory. The fowls of the air and the beasts of the field receive their meat each day from Thee, and all beings partake of Thy care and loving-kindness.

Deprive not this feeble one of Thy wondrous grace and vouchsafe by Thy might unto this helpless soul Thy bounty.

Give us our daily bread, and grant Thine increase in the necessities of life, that we may be dependent on none other but Thee, may commune wholly with Thee, may walk in Thy ways and declare Thy mysteries. Thou art the Almighty and the Loving and the Provider of all mankind.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

One can measure the greatness of a nation and its moral progress by the way it treats its animals. – Mahatma Gandhi

- **What is an animal**
- **Who created animals?**
 - God
- **Show video of animals**
- **Do they have special abilities?**
 - Vision – a shark has crystal behind his retina and can see 10x better under water
 - Smell – Bear can smell food miles away (in park smelling you); shark smell blood. Bears can smell better than blood hound
 - Hearing – dogs can hear 4x times better than us
 - Touch – earthquakes and animals
 - Taste – Cows have taste buds 25,000-35,000, 2 to 3x more to humans; herbivores, Science indicates in order to help them distinguish between poisonous and non-poisonous plants and ingest only nutritive food.

The majority of the diseases which overtake man also overtake the animal, but the animal is not cured by drugs. In the mountains, as in the wilderness, the animal's physician is the power of taste and smell. The sick animal smells the plants that grow in the wilderness; he eats those that are sweet and fragrant to his smell and taste, and is cured. The cause of his healing is this. When the sugar ingredient has become diminished in his constitution, he begins to long for sweet things; therefore, he eats an herb with a sweet taste, for nature urges and guides him; its smell and taste please him, and he eats it. The sugar ingredient in his nature will be increased, and health will be restored. – ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

- **What does the Baha'i Faith teach about animals?**
 - Bahá'í Faith teaches that animals should be treated with kindness, and that this is a matter of great importance. Bahá'u'lláh listed kindness to animals as one of the qualities which must be acquired by anyone searching for God.
- **Name some of your favorite animals and talk about it, including any special ability**
- **Should we just automatically pet animals?**
- **How can we take care of animals?**

Singing Time

Son of Spirit
 Love, Love, Love
 Busy Hands
 If You're Happy and You Know It

Activity

Color your animal pages

END CLASS:

Someone says a closing prayer. Ask Children to settle down and bow their heads. Remind them that the quote talks about a pure heart.

**“He is God! O God my God! Bestow upon me a pure heart, like unto a pearl. -
‘Abdu’l-Bahá**