



LESSON 4

REFERENCES: LUKE 2:40, 51, 52; THE DESIRE OF AGES, PP. 70, 74, 82, 83.

Friend to All

The Bible doesn't give us details about Jesus' childhood. But based on what we do know about Jesus, let's imagine how He may have been as a child.

M

ost families where Jesus lived had at least one animal. Can you guess what animal

that was? A donkey!

Donkeys are very strong animals. They are good at carrying things. When Jesus' family went somewhere, Jesus may have helped Joseph pack a bag with food and clothes for their donkey to carry on its back.

Jesus may have cared for His family's donkey. He made sure that the donkey had food and water. When the work was done for the day, Jesus would lead the donkey to a resting place.

If Jesus saw some children teasing an animal, He asked them to stop. If the animal looked hungry, He gave it some food. He always touched the animals gently. Horses came to the fence when He passed by. Cats liked to brush by His legs. Dogs wanted to lick His hand.



Memory Verse

“Be kind . . . to one another.”

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV.

The Message

We serve God when we are kind.

Even wild animals liked Jesus. A wild animal is one that lives outdoors and doesn't have an owner. Squirrels probably started chattering when they saw Jesus, as if to say "Hello, Jesus!" Rabbits may have sat up on their haunches and wiggled their ears when He walked by.

Jesus liked to watch insects, too. He liked to watch caterpillars, ants, and ladybugs. He let them crawl on His hand. He never stepped on them.

Jesus liked looking at all the beautiful things God had made. He studied the stars and moon at night. He watched the flowers grow and the trees bud. He sometimes brought pretty flowers to His mother.

Jesus loved people most of all. He didn't like to see anyone get hurt. If one person hurt another, He found a way to make the hurting person feel better. He shared His food with people who were hungry. If someone was thirsty, He gave them a cup of water.

Jesus played with children that no one else liked. He visited people who had no families. People liked to be around Him.

Jesus never destroyed flowers or grass. He was gentle to the earth.

Jesus was kind to every person and every other living thing. Everyone was happier when Jesus was around.



Do and Say



SABBATH

Each day, read the lesson together. Sing the memory verse song, “Be Kind to One Another” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 260).

“Be kind Cross arms over chest. to one another.” Point to others.

Ephesians 4:32 . Palms together, then open.

Take a walk and count all the things that God made for you that you can be kind to. Be sure to notice the insects, too!

SUNDAY

Go for a walk, and help your child use the litter bag made in Sabbath School to pick up trash. (Or use any trash bag.) As you walk, say: “You are helping to take care of God’s world.”

MONDAY

If you have a pet, involve your child in caring for it. Or use toy (stuffed) animals to practice petting animals gently. Thank Jesus for the animals you enjoy.



TUESDAY

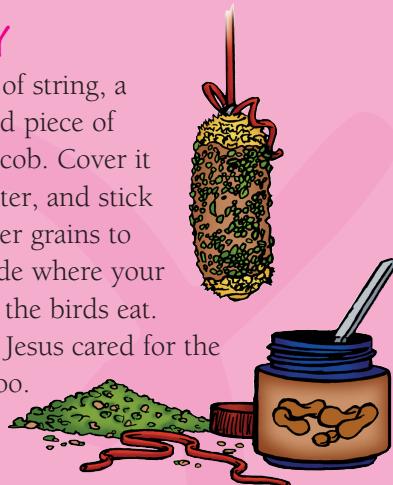
Visit an animal shelter or a pet shop. Talk about why animal shelters rescue and care for animals. Make a plan to help them.

WEDNESDAY

Find a piece of string, a pinecone, a dried piece of bread, or a corncob. Cover it with peanut butter, and stick bird seed or other grains to it. Hang it outside where your child can watch the birds eat.

Talk about how Jesus cared for the little creatures too.

Thank Jesus for the birds.



THURSDAY

Think of a lonely or sad child or adult, and have your child do something kind for them today (pick flowers, call them and sing the memory verse song, etc.). Talk about how Jesus was kind to everyone. Ask Jesus to help your family be kind to each other and to others.

FRIDAY

Fill a clear drinking glass half full with water. Talk about how clean it is. Help your child drop a few drops of dark food coloring into the water. Talk about ways to clean up lakes and ponds by removing trash and cleaning the water. Add drops of bleach to clear the water. Say: “We want to keep our pretty waters clean like this.” Discard that water safely then get some clean water and enjoy a drink.

Thank Jesus for good, clear water.