

All God's ANIMALS

Learn about ANIMALS through Bible Stories
Fun Fish Toddlers



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Welcome to “All God’s ANIMALS”
Learning ANIMALS through Bible Stories

Welcome to a resource for toddler’s groups in the community and church. ‘All God’s ANIMALS,’ is a series of 12 stories about animals in the Bible and provides a forum in which toddlers can develop spiritually, emotionally, and socially.

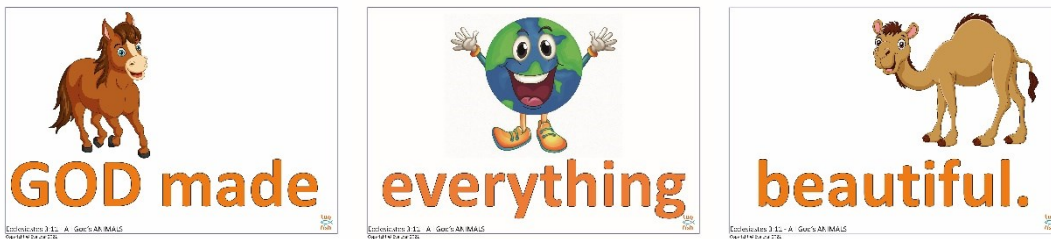
Toddlers are important and the way we teach them is equally important. Jesus always communicated with children at their level. The Bible says, ‘He took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them’ (Mark 10:16).

- He made them **feel safe** - He drew them close to himself.
- He gave them **focused attention** – He reached out to each child.
- He **affirmed** them – He gave them God’s blessing.

And every person who works with little children can do the same.

The theme of this book is ‘Living with Emotions’, and it happens best in a safe environment. The topic, ‘Bible Animals,’ gives a toddler the chance to reciprocate that attention by focusing on God’s stories about 12 animals. The heart attitude of this series is to affirm these children, bless them and enable them to move on in confidence.

‘All God’s ANIMALS,’ also has a ‘memory line’, enabling toddlers build a solid foundation for life. In this series it is, “God made everything beautiful” (Ecclesiastes 3:11), enabling a child grow in wonder for this beautiful world.



Enjoy the adventure of “All God’s ANIMALS”!

Suggested Fun Fish Toddlers Structure

Welcome

Theme Song: to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star...”

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Introduce Animal and Topic:

Have the memory line (download free at www.funfish.org.uk) pegged up on a clothesline. Download the appropriate ANIMAL card ready for each session. Add a new one in each new session. Talk about the animal, share some facts about it, and link it to the topic for that day.

More songs:

Bible Story (interactive):

- A dramatized telling of the story with puppets, dolls, toy animals and props.
- Invite Toddlers to take part as they wish.

Reflective Time (interactive):

Discuss the story with the toddlers, for even they have opinions. Always thank them for their contribution. Always take seriously what they say. Link the story to the animal. For example, ‘Whenever you see a “sheep” always remember that God loves you.’

Then end with the [memory line](#).

Bean Bag Prayers:

Prayer is a challenging concept for a toddler. To help, hand out beanbags (or a soft toy animal) and place a cloth on the floor in front of them. They can hold up their beanbags during the one sentence prayer. Then when the ‘Amen’ is said, they can throw their beanbags onto the cloth. But remember to always begin with, ‘I shall say a prayer. If you want, you may join in...’ Praying is a choice.

Craft of your choice and best related to the story.

Close with Theme Song

Materials Needed for Sessions

Remember to set up beforehand.

What to bring to each session:

- "All God's ANIMALS" cards, string, and clothes pegs
- Puppets
- Safety pins, tape, string
- Name Badges for leaders
- Words for songs: memory stick, or acetates for an Overhead Projector

What to have on hand in your cupboard for the various sessions:

- Lengths of fabric between 2 - 4 meters long (or solid-coloured blankets)
 - Non-wrinkly and easily washable
 - Excellent for making backdrops, boats, mountains, cloaks, rivers...
 - Bright solid colours: red, brown, blue, purple, white, green, yellow...
- Laminator for the animal cards, memory line, and paper items used
- For donkey/horse hoof sounds – two plastic cups tapped together
- Toy props

Session 1: GOATS – Finding Peace – A Gift for Esau

Memory Line: “God made everything beautiful” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Welcome:

Theme Song: to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

ANIMAL and Topic:

Did you know that a baby goat is called a ‘kid’, a mummy goat - a ‘nanny’, and a daddy goat - a ‘billy’? But those billy goats, those older goats, they like to fight. They butt their heads together and push each other around. They get cross and don’t even think of making peace.

Bible Story: A Gift for a Brother (Genesis 32)

Dolls, puppets or dressed up wooden spoons:

Jacob

Esau

Children

Materials needed: (if you don’t have the materials below, feel free to replace them)

Goats

Field

Road

Reflective Time (interactive):

Sometimes we want to fight. We think we are right. But we can make those around us sad. God wants us to think of them as well, not just of ourselves. So, whenever you see a GOAT, remember – try to find peace.

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to find peace. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“All God’s ANIMALS” card for this session:



Story 1: A Gift for Esau (Genesis 32)

A long time ago, there were twin brothers, Esau and Jacob. They got along mostly. They both worked on their dad's farm.

One day their dad said it was time to pass on the farm, and in those days, it always went to the oldest brother. Esau would get everything, even though he was only born 10 minutes earlier. Jacob didn't like that.

Now their dad was blind, so Jacob tricked him. Jacob lied and said that he was Esau. His dad believed him and gave him the farm. But when Esau found out he just about exploded. "I will kill you!" he shouted at Jacob.

In the dark of night, Jacob had to run away. He left the farm. He left his dad and travelled far away. He lived there for many years. He started his own farm with GOATS and sheep, cows and donkeys.

Then he heard that his dad was sick, and Jacob wanted to go back home. He knew he should and help take care of his dad. But he was scared. Would his brother, Esau, still be angry.

Jacob packed his things. He gathered all his animals. He headed back home. Then he heard that Esau was coming with 400 men. He was even more scared. So, he prayed to God for help, and an idea came to mind.

He sent 200 GOATS ahead of him. He sent 200 sheep, 40 cows and 40 donkeys. He even sent 30 camels. He told his helpers, "When you meet my brother Esau, tell him that these are a gift from me."

But when Esau saw Jacob, he ran to him and hugged him. He kissed him on both cheeks. How they cried. How they had missed each other. And together they found peace. Together they took care of their dad.

Session 2: DONKEY – Staying safe – That Talking Donkey

Memory Line: “God made everything beautiful” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Welcome:

Theme Song: to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

ANIMAL and Topic:

Donkeys are special animals. They are slow and strong. They carry lots of things on their back. They will do what they are told. But, when they get frightened, they won’t move an inch. They know when to stay safe.

Bible Story: That Talking Donkey (Numbers 22)

Dolls, puppets or dressed up wooden spoons:

Angel

Balaam

Donkey

King

God’s people

Materials needed: (if you don’t have the materials below, feel free to replace them)

A wall

Road

Two bags of gold

Plastic cups to click together for hoof sounds.

Reflective Time (interactive):

When we feel unsafe, it is good to stop, just like that donkey. It is important to get away from anything which scares us. So, every time you see a donkey remember to stay safe.

Short Prayer: “Dear God, help us to stay safe. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“All God’s ANIMALS” card for this session:



Story 2: That Talking Donkey (Numbers 22)

There was a king who didn’t like God’s people. “Servants,” the king called, “take this big bag of gold to Balaam. I want him to say bad things to God’s people. Then maybe bad things will happen to them.”

The servants ran, but Balaam said, “God wouldn’t want me to do that.”

The servants told the king. He sent an even bigger bag of gold. Balaam smiled and climbed on his donkey. He set off to say those bad words.

But an angel stood in the road, waving a shining sword. Balaam didn’t see it, but his donkey did. She ran into a field to stay safe. “Stop!” shouted Balaam.

The angel appeared again. Balaam didn’t see it, but his donkey did. She tried to go around and scrapped against a wall. “OUCH!” Balaam shouted.

The angel moved ahead and trapped them. The donkey couldn’t move. She lay down on the ground. She didn’t move one bit. “GET UP!” Balaam howled.

“Master,” said the donkey, “why are you shouting at me?”

“You’ve made a fool of me,” shouted Balaam once more.

“Master, have I ever done this before, in all the years I served you?”

“No,” said Balaam. Then God opened Balaam’s eyes. He saw the angel with that shining sword. Balaam bowed down low.

“Balaam,” said the angel, “your donkey kept you safe. You knew it was wrong to go and say those bad words. Now, God wants you to go and say good things. That king needs to hear that I love my people.”

So that is exactly what Balaam did. He took his donkey. He knew he would be safe. And, he said good things about God’s people.

Session 3: CAMEL – Keep Going – A Wife for Isaac

Memory Line: “God made everything beautiful” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Welcome:

Theme Song: to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

ANIMAL and Topic:

Did you know that CAMELS can run very fast? With such long legs they can run as fast as a car, about 40 mph, but only for a short time. Camels can go much further when they walk, about 30 miles in a day. They can keep going and going. What a long way!

Bible Story: A Wife for Isaacs (Genesis 24)

Dolls, puppets or dressed up wooden spoons:

Abraham

Isaac

Servant

Rebekah

Materials needed: (if you don’t have the materials below, feel free to replace them)

Camels

Well

Tent

Blanket

Reflective Time (interactive):

Abraham’s servant didn’t stop looking. He kept going when it was hot or cold. He didn’t stop. So, whenever you see a CAMEL, remember that you can keep going. You don’t have to give up.

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please give us the strength to keep going. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“All God’s ANIMALS” card for this session:



Story 3: A Wife for Isaac (Genesis 24)

Abraham and his son, Isaac, lived in the desert, but Isaac was lonely. So, Abraham called a servant and said, “Go back to where I used to live and find Isaac a wife.”

Now back then they didn't have maps, or mobile phones with GPS. But the servant bowed to Abraham and said, “Yes, sir. I will find Isaac a wife.”

The servant packed his CAMEL. He took another one as a gift. He set off the next morning. He sat on the camel and waved goodbye. “I'll be back!” he called.

He walked and walked in the hot, hot sun. He slept beside his CAMEL in the cold, cold night. He walked the next day and the next. He kept on going. He didn't give up.

Finally, he found the village where Abraham used to live. He hurried to the village well and prayed, “Dear God, I shall ask one of the girls who are coming to the well, if they can give me a drink. May one of them say, ‘I shall give a drink to your camel as well.’ If she wants, this one will be Isaac's wife.”

Before he had even finished praying a beautiful girl came to the well. The servant hurried over. “Please give me a drink,” he asked.

Rebekah smiled. “Yes, and shall I give your camel a drink as well.”

The servant stared. That was a quick answer to prayer! He asked if he could meet her family. He told her that he was Abraham's servant. He told them Abraham had a son called Isaac.

Everyone knew Abraham. They were so happy to see him. Then he asked Rebekah, “Would you like to become Isaac's wife?”

She said, “YES!” What a good job the servant kept going.

The servant gave her family the other camel and then they waved goodbye.

Session 4: HORSES – Feeling Happy – Chased by Horses

Memory Line: “God made everything beautiful” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Welcome:

Theme Song: to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

ANIMAL and Topic:

Horses live in different places. In a field or barn, and sometimes even in cities. Horses also like company. They like to be with other horses. They like people. And sometimes, when people feel sad, a horse can make them feel happy.

Bible Story: Chased by Horses (Exodus 14)

Dolls, puppets or dressed up wooden spoons:

Pharoah

Moses

People

Materials needed: (if you don’t have the materials below, feel free to replace them)

Horses

Tents

Animals

Sea

Reflective Time (interactive):

Sometimes we don’t feel happy. Things aren’t going our way. But we can pray to God, and he will help us. Then we can be happy.

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you for all the things which make us happy. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“All God’s ANIMALS” card for this session:



Story 4: Chased by Horses (Exodus 14)

God’s people lived in a faraway land. Now, it was time to go back home. But the king didn’t want them to leave. He liked it when they did all his work.

Moses knocked on the palace door. “King,” he asked, “let God’s people go.”

“NO!” said the king. He said it again and again. But Moses kept asking and finally the king said, “Okay!”

Moses ran to God’s people. “Pack up! We’re going home!”

The people packed their food. They packed their bags. They took all their animals. They hurried away.

That night they camped by a gigantic sea. They set up their tents. They ate their food. They talked about going home. They couldn’t wait.

But the king sat in his palace. It was a mess. Dirty dishes. Dirty laundry. No one folded his clothes. He shouted out, “I want my servants back! Soldiers, get my chariot and HORSE. And get every chariot and HORSE you can find. We’re bringing those people back.”

The king and his army rode all night. “Come back!” they shouted out.

God’s people heard the shouts. They heard the HORSES. “We’re trapped!” they cried. “The sea is here. The king is there.”

“Don’t be afraid,” Moses said. “God will fight for you.”

That night the wind blew. It blew all night. The sea piled up. It made a path. “LOOK!” Moses called early the next morning. “Follow me!”

He ran down the path. God’s people ran too. The king tried to follow, but all his chariots and HORSES got stuck. They couldn’t move in the thick, thick mud.

So, God’s people crossed over. They danced and sang. They felt so happy as they headed home.

Session 5: BIRDS – Feeling Tired – Birds Feed Elijah

Memory Line: “God made everything beautiful” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Welcome:

Theme Song: to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

ANIMAL and Topic:

If you look, BIRDS are everywhere. They all lay eggs. They take care of their young. They catch bugs and worms so their babies can grow. What a lot of work. Do you think they ever get tired?

Bible Story: Birds Feed Elijah (1 Kings 17)

Dolls, puppets or dressed up wooden spoons:

Ahab

Elijah

God

Materials needed: (if you don’t have the materials below, feel free to replace them)

Green cloth for tree

Brown cloth for tent

Birds

Bread and meat

Blue cloth for a brook, a cup

Reflective Time (interactive):

Sometimes when we are brave, we get very tired. It is good to know that and take a break, have a bit to eat and drink. It important to take care of ourselves. So, every time you see a bird, remember that it is okay to take care of yourself.

Short Prayer: “Dear God, when we feel tired, help us to rest. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“All God’s ANIMALS” card for this session:

<https://www.vecteezy.com/free-vector>



Story 5: Birds Feed Elijah (1 Kings 17)

There once was a king called Ahab. He was mean. He shouted. He bullied everyone. Everyone was too scared to tell him that he should stop.

Well, almost everyone. There was a man called Elijah. He went to the king and he said, “King, if you don’t stop being mean, God will stop the rain.”

But the king didn’t listen, so God stopped the rain. The plants stopped growing. The wells went dry, and still Ahab didn’t stop being mean.

Elijah didn’t know what to do. Ahab was getting cross with him as well. So, God said, “Elijah, you had better leave. Go and hide in a ravine. No one will find you there. Drink from the brook and birds will bring you food.”

Elijah didn’t wait another moment. He ran away. He was so tired and sad. He set up a tent. He hid under the trees. He needed some space and rest.

The next morning when Elijah woke up, he heard a tapping outside his tent. Now he was scared. Had Ahab found him even out there. He finally poked out his head and saw two birds. They hopped right up to him.

One had a piece of bread in its beak. The other had a piece of meat. The birds dropped the food and then hopped away.

Elijah stared, and then he smiled. God was taking care of him. God was helping him rest. He cooked the meat on a little fire. He ate the bread and drank water from the brook.

That evening as the sun went down, another bird hopped up. It dropped some bread in front of him. Now Elijah had supper as well.

Every day after that, God fed him. God took care of him, and Elijah could rest and feel safe as well. And when Ahab finally started to be nice, the rain came down again.

Session 6: WHALE – Feeling Scared – Jonah in the Whale

Memory Line: “God made everything beautiful” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Welcome:

Theme Song: to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

ANIMAL and Topic:

Did you know that WHALES are huge. Sometimes bigger than a house. They aren’t afraid of anything, except orcas. Orcas are mean and steal their babies - which is terrible! So, WHALES travel in groups to feel safe.

Bible Story: Jonah in the Whale (Jonah 1 and 2)

Dolls, puppets or dressed up wooden spoons:

Jonah

Sailors

People of Nineveh

Materials needed: (if you don’t have the materials below, feel free to replace them)

Whale

Sea

Ship

Road

Dice

Reflective Time (interactive):

Who felt scared in this story? How did God keep everyone safe? Whenever you see a big, strong whale, remember that God will always help.

Short Prayer: “Dear God, when we are scared, help us to trust in you. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“All God’s ANIMALS” card for this session:

[Whale Vectors by Vecteezy](https://www.vecteezy.com/free-vector/whale)



Story 6: Jonah in the Whale (Jonah 1 and 2)

One day God said, “Jonah, go to Nineveh and tell those people to stop doing bad things. Tell them that they should say ‘sorry’.”

Jonah didn’t want to. He ran away. He thought God would never find him.

He ran as fast as he could. He found a ship. He climbed on board and fell fast asleep down below. But God did find him and sent a storm.

The ship rolled from side to side. The sailors threw boxes overboard to lighten it. They were scared. “Let’s hope this works,” they cried.

It didn’t. The storm grew worse. “Where is Jonah?” the sailors asked. “We must find him and make sure he is okay.”

They found him below, fast asleep. “Get up!” they yelled.

Then the sailors had a strange idea. “Let’s throw dice and see if one of us is causing this storm.” They gathered around and it pointed to Jonah.

They stared at Jonah. “What did you do?”

“I’m running away from God. I don’t want to do what he says. The only way to stop this storm is to throw me overboard.”

“No!” cried the sailors. “We will never do that.” But the storm grew worse.

“You must,” said Jonah, “or you will all die.” So, the sailors picked him up and threw him overboard. The storm suddenly stopped.

A whale swam by and swallowed Jonah. For three days and nights Jonah sat in the whale. He too was scared. He said, “I am sorry, God. I will do what you say.”

The whale spat Jonah out, just outside Nineveh. Jonah hurried to the city. “God has a message,” he called. “Stop doing bad things and say sorry instead.”

The people listened. They said “sorry” to each other. They said “sorry” to God. They did what was right.

Session 7: WORM – Feeling Cross – Worm Eats Jonah’s Bush

Memory Line: “God made everything beautiful” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Welcome:

Theme Song: to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

ANIMAL and Topic:

God even made worms beautiful. They might be wriggly and slimy, but they are very good. Even though they have no arms, legs or eyes, they make the earth better. They eat leaves and plants and put it all in the soil. They make the soil better and it helps new plants grow.

Bible Story: Worm Eats Jonah’s Bush (Jonah 3 and 4)

Dolls, puppets or dressed up wooden spoons:

Jonah

God

People of Nineveh

Materials needed: (if you don’t have the materials below, feel free to replace them)

Bush

Worm

City of Nineveh

Reflective Time (interactive):

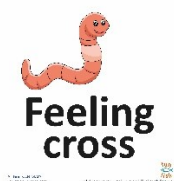
It is easy to get cross when things don’t go our way, when people don’t do what we want. But remember, whenever you see a worm, that everyone is important. Everyone is special to God.

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you for loving us. Help us to love others just like that. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“All God’s ANIMALS” card for this session:

<https://www.vecteezy.com>



Story 7: Worm Eats Jonah's Bush (Jonah 3 and 4)

Jonah had scary adventure, on a ship, in a storm, and then in the stomach of a whale. But the whale spit him out and Jonah finally did what God said. He went to the people in Nineveh and told them to stop doing wrong.

He didn't expect them to, but they did. They said 'sorry' to each other. They were kind and good.

But Jonah still didn't believe them. He thought that they would forget in a day or two and start doing wrong all over again. They would forget about God.

He went outside the city. He found a big bush. He sat underneath it and waited for them to do bad. They had put him through so much, just because God cared for them. Why should he care about them?

The longer Jonah waited, the more cross he got. He said, "God, you're always so good. This is why I didn't want to go to Nineveh. You always forgive people for the wrong they do. I'm not like you."

God answered him back. "Please don't be cross. Remember, you didn't do what I wanted as well, running away on a ship like that."

Jonah refused to listen. He waited outside Nineveh all that day. He found a bush and sat under it. It was so hot and windy. But then a WORM came and ate the bush. Jonah exploded. He shouted, "Worm, this was my bush, not yours. You had no right to eat it up."

God spoke up. "Jonah, you loved that bush. You wanted it to live. Shouldn't I care for people just like that. I want them to do good, for that is when they are the happiest in their hearts."

Jonah listened. God had a point. It is so easy to get cross when things don't go our way. But people are so much more important than things. God wants us to always remember that.

Session 8: LIONS – Trusting God – Daniel in the Lion’s Den

Memory Line: “God made everything beautiful” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Welcome:

Theme Song: to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

ANIMAL and Topic:

A lion is big and strong. His roar is very loud. It can be heard 8 km away. But we don’t have to be afraid, because here every lion is in a cage, and the rest live in Africa. Yet there are other big things that can make us afraid, but we can trust God. He is bigger than anything or anyone.

Bible Story: Daniel in the Lion’s Den (Daniel 6)

Dolls, puppets, or dressed-up wooden spoons

Daniel

Two men

Soldiers

King

Materials needed: (if you don’t have the materials below, feel free to replace them)

Lions with a dark cloth for the den

Daniel’s house

Cloak for Daniel

Swords for soldiers

Reflective Time (interactive):

Sometimes things can go very wrong. The best thing to do is pray. So, whenever you see a lion, remember that God is stronger than them. He is more clever, because he can do anything.

Short Prayer: “Dear God, help us to remember to pray when things go wrong. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“All God’s ANIMALS” card for this session:



Story 8: Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6)

Daniel worked for a king and the king liked him. Everyone liked him, except two men. They hated Daniel because he was good. "Let's get rid of him," whispered one of the men. "I have a perfect idea."

Both men laughed. They hurried to King Darius. "O King, you are wonderful. You can do anything. How about telling everyone to pray to you for the next thirty days. If they don't, throw them into the lion's den."

King Darius smiled. "I like it! Go and make sure it happens."

But when Daniel heard, he knew what to do. He always prayed to God three times a day. God was the one who answered prayers, no matter what the king said. So, Daniel knelt by his window and prayer.

The two angry men were watching him. They burst into his room. "We caught you!" they shouted. "Off to the lion's den you go!"

They dragged Daniel to the king. "Oh, king, we caught this Daniel red-handed. He was praying to his God, not you. Throw him to the lions!"

The king suddenly knew he had been tricked. But he couldn't change the law because a law was a law. "O Daniel," he said, "may your God save you."

The soldiers dragged Daniel away. The king watched him get thrown into the lions' den. Then the soldiers rolled a huge stone in front.

The king couldn't eat or sleep that night. The next morning early, he ran to the lion's den. "Daniel," he cried, "did your God save you?"

"Yes!" called Daniel. "God knew I was innocent. He shut the lions' mouths." So, the king ordered the soldiers to take Daniel out. He looked as good as new!

But the king was angry. Now he knew who the bad men were. He threw them to the lions instead.

Session 9: SHEEP – Feeling loved – The Lost Sheep

Memory Line: “God made everything beautiful” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Welcome:

Theme Song: to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

ANIMAL and Topic:

Sheep mostly eat grass and seeds. They are vegetarians. They also grow their own coats. Every winter their coat grows thick. Every summer the shepherd cuts it off so they don’t get too hot. The shepherd loves his sheep, just like God loves us.

Bible Story: The Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1 - 7)

Dolls, puppets or dressed up wooden spoons:

Jesus

Shepherd

Sheep

Materials needed: (if you don’t have the materials below, feel free to replace them)

Field

Rocks

A hole/pit (use a dark coloured cloth on an upturned chair)

Reflective Time (interactive):

If you ever fall down and someone picks you up, you will feel cared for and loved. How can we do the same for others? How can we show that same kind of love?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you for loving us. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“All God’s ANIMALS” card for this session:



Story 9: The Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1 - 7)

One day some people asked Jesus a question. “Jesus, do you love everyone?” That was a good question, so Jesus told them a story.

There once was a shepherd who had a hundred SHEEP. He talked with them. He gave them names. He counted them every day. But one day the shepherd stopped and scratched his head. “I must have counted wrong,” he said.

He started all over again. “One, two, three, four... ninety-eight, ninety-nine.” The shepherd jumped up and looked around. Where was baby sheep?”

He called at the top of his VOICE. “Baby sheep, where are you?” He called again and again.

“I must find her,” said the shepherd. He put the rest of the sheep in the middle of a giant field, where he knew that they would be safe. He grabbed his staff and set off.

He looked at the river. He looked in the next field. He looked in the woods. He couldn’t find his baby sheep anywhere. He kept calling out, “Baby sheep!”

The shepherd hiked to the river. Sheep liked it there too, but they never thought to just have a drink. They walked out into the middle and sometimes were washed away. “Peggy,” he called. He stopped and looked. No Peggy.

Suddenly, he heard, “BAA! BAA!” He ran and found his sheep inside a deep hole. “Baby sheep,” he cried and lifted her out.

The shepherd carried that baby sheep all the way home. He called his friends and said, “Come for a party. My sheep was lost, but now she is found.”

Jesus stopped and explained the story. “I love everyone. I don’t give up until I have found my lost sheep.”

Session 10: PIGS – Feeling Lost – A Lost Son

Memory Line: “God made everything beautiful” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Welcome:

Theme Song: to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

ANIMAL and Topic:

Did you know that pigs are smarter than dogs, and dogs are very smart? Also, mother pigs sing to their babies while the babies are drinking her milk. She makes long, low grunts while they eat. And pigs have a great sense of direction. They don’t get lost.

Bible Story: A Lost Son (Luke 15)

Dolls, puppets or dressed up wooden spoons:

Jesus

Lost son

The father

Materials needed: (if you don’t have the materials below, feel free to replace them)

Pigs

Brown cloth for mud

Bags to pack

Reflective Time (interactive):

Sometimes we might get irritated with our family. We hide away, but when we do, we can feel lost, because God made us to want to live in families. But if we don’t have one, God will be our Father. He always loves us.

Short Prayer: “Dear Jesus, thank for being with us, so that we don’t feel lost. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“All God’s ANIMALS” card for this session:

[Pig Vectors by Vecteezy](https://www.vecteezy.com/free-vector/pig)



Story 10: A Lost Son (Luke 15)

Jesus told an amazing story...

A man and his son worked outside every day. “This is too much,” said the son. “Life is about fun, not work.”

Finally, one day he said, “Dad, give me all the money which belongs to me. I’m moving away. No more work for me.”

The dad gave him boxes and boxes full of gold. The son put them on a wagon and drove away. “Bye, Dad,” he called.

He bought a house. He ate bananas and ice cream and chocolate cake. Everyone wanted to be his friend, but then one day he ran out of money.

He sold his house, his chairs, and clothes. His friends disappeared as well. “I’m so hungry!” said the son. “I feel so lonely. I suppose I should get a job.”

He found a farmer. “Please, give me a job.” The farmer told him to feed smelly PIGS. But that son so hungry, he ate the PIGS’ rotten mush. YUK!!

Suddenly, he thought, “My dad has lots of food. He can eat anything he wants. So, why am I starving here? I will go home and say, ‘Dad, I am so sorry for going away. You don’t have to treat me like a son. Let me be a servant instead.’”

The son told the farmer that he was going home. And since the son had nothing to pack, he just set off. He walked a long way, wondering if his father would ever want to see him again. Guess what? When his dad saw him coming, he ran to his son. He gave him a huge hug.

“Dad,” said the son. “I’m sorry. I don’t deserve to be a part of this family.”

The dad said, “SHH!” Then he called the servants, “Quick! Get my some the best clothes in the house and let’s have a party. I thought my son was dead, but he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found.”

What a party they had!

Session 11: COCKREL – Feeling Sorry – Peter Feels Sorry

Memory Line: “God made everything beautiful” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Welcome:

Theme Song: to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

ANIMAL and Topic:

A cockerel is a boy chicken. Is it bigger than a chicken and has a red beard. It also is like an alarm clock. If you live on a farm, a cockerel will wake you up very early every morning. They can also have a bad temper. If they were a person, they would be saying sorry all the time.

Bible Story: Peter Feels Sorry (John 18)

Dolls, puppets, or dressed-up wooden spoons:

Jesus

Peter

Soldiers

Materials needed: (if you don’t have the materials below, feel free to replace them)

Hill – use a green cloth

Cockerel

Swords – wooden spoons

Fire – a red or yellow cloth.

Reflective Time (interactive):

Sometimes it is easy to forget to be kind to others, and it is easy to hurt others. Saying ‘sorry’ is the opposite. It can be hard because we must admit that we did wrong. But it is a very brave thing to do.

Short Prayer: “Dear God, when we hurt someone, help us to say ‘sorry’. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“All God’s ANIMALS” card for this session:

<https://www.vecteezy.com/free-vector/rooster>>Rooster Vectors by Vecteezy



Story 11: Peter Feels Sorry (John 18)

Peter was proud to be Jesus' helper. He smiled as he walked beside Jesus. Jesus was like movie star. Peter loved every minute. One day Jesus said to his helpers, "I will be arrested, and you will all run away."

"Jesus, never!" Peter replied. "I will always stay with you."

Jesus shook his head. "Peter, when the cockerel calls three times you will say that you don't know me."

Suddenly they were surrounded by soldiers. They took Jesus away. But Peter followed close behind. "I'm really scared," he thought. "But I promised I would stay close."

Peter followed Jesus to a house. He stood in the front, warming himself by a fire. A servant girl looked at Peter. She pointed to him. "This man was with Jesus!"

Peter growled at her. "I don't know him," he said.

Another person pointed at Peter too. "Hey, you there. You're one of Jesus' followers"

"No, I'm not!" Peter cried.

Another stranger shouted the same, and Peter almost exploded. "What are you on about?! Leave me alone! I NEVER knew that man."

Suddenly the cockerel called out three times. Peter heard it and remembered Jesus' words. He burst into tears and ran away. "I just let Jesus down," he cried. "I didn't care for my friend."

Peter was very sorry.

Session 12: FISH – Finding Hope – A Huge Catch of Fish

Memory Line: “God made everything beautiful” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Welcome:

Theme Song: to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

ANIMAL and Topic:

Have you ever seen a real fish? They live in water and like to swim. They can’t help swimming. They have to stay in water if they want to live. And you can always see their eyes because their eyes are always open, even when they sleep. Hope is like that. It is always there if you look.

Bible Story: A Huge Catch of Fish (Matthew 28, John 21)

Dolls, puppets or dressed up wooden spoons:

Jesus

Helpers

Materials needed: (if you don’t have the materials below, feel free to replace them)

Fire

Boat

Fish

Reflective Time (interactive):

Sometimes we feel sad, especially when we miss someone special. A friend. Someone in the family. When we lose our favourite toy. But we can always look around, like those fish. Somehow, somewhere God shows us hope.

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you for caring and giving us hope. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“All God’s ANIMALS” card for this session:

[Fish Vectors by Vecteezy](https://www.vecteezy.com/free-vector/fish)



Story 12: A Huge Catch of Fish (John 21, Matthew 28)

After Easter, Jesus sent a message to Peter and all the helpers. He said, "Go back home and I will meet you there."

Peter and the helpers ran almost the whole way home. But when they got home, they couldn't find him. He wasn't by the lake. He wasn't with the relatives. He wasn't in the shop.

The helpers didn't know what to do. They kicked the dust on the road. They looked around.

But Peter felt especially sad. He had been mean to Jesus, even though Jesus was his best friend. Would Jesus ever forgive him? He missed Jesus so much.

Peter sighed. "I'm going fishing. Helpers, do you want to come with me?"

Everyone nodded. They climbed into a fishing boat. They rowed out on the lake. They let down their nets. They fished all night, but they didn't catch a thing. Then, just as the sun was coming up, they saw someone on the shore. He called out, "Have you caught any fish?"

"No," they all answered.

The man said, "Throw your net on the other side of the boat."

Peter and all the helpers did. Suddenly, the net filled with fish. It was so heavy they couldn't pull it back into the boat.

One of the helpers looked at the man on the shore. He suddenly knew who he was. "That's Jesus!" he shouted. Peter jumped straight into the water and swam to Jesus. He couldn't wait to see Jesus.

Peter climbed out on shore, dripping wet. Jesus smiled. He wasn't angry with Peter. He even had a job for Peter, to tell everyone about God. Peter knew Jesus had forgiven him.

The End

There are more Early Learning Fun Fish Toddlers Series at:

www.funfish.org.uk