

Pets in the Family

Scripture:

As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

Bible Story:

Rachel takes care of sheep, Genesis 29:1-12

Goal:

Learn that taking care of pets is part of God's way.

As children arrive, check off their names on the attendance sheet. Children play until it's time to gather in the circle.

Play **Clean up song** and move to Circle Time.

Circle Time

Sing Welcome Song:

Greet each child individually

I'm a little Sunbeam, Sunbeam, Sunbeam

I'm a little Sunbeam, who are you? [say child's name...we're so glad to see you..." child's name"]

[continue around the circle for each child]

Sunbeam Lesson – February 5, 2023

Bible Story:

This time includes praying together!

Materials needed:

a Bible

- a medium sized box to make a well
- a pitcher of water
- a paper cup for each child.

Do: Gently hold the Bible and say, **Look! This is the Bible! The Bible tells about God's ways. The Bible tells about a girl who took care of sheep. Her name was Rachel.** Set the Bible aside. **Every day, Rachel took her sheep to get a drink of water from a well.** Set out the box. Put the pitcher of water in it. Say: **A well is a deep hole in the ground with water in it. Rachel got water from the well and poured it into a long drinking box so the sheep could drink.** Ask the children to pretend they are sheep, to sit on the floor and say, **"Baa-aa."** Go around and say, **Hello, little sheep to each child. You're thirsty, aren't you? Rachel will get you some water from the well.** Now pour water into the cups and give a cup of water to each child to drink. Say: **Sheep can't drink from cups. They drink like dogs and cats drink. But we will drink from cups since we're not really sheep. Mmmm! The water is good and refreshing. Rachel took care of her sheep. We take care of our pets. Taking care of our pets is God's way.**

Say the scripture for today with the children, helping them remember it by showing them how to hold their left fist in front of them as if it were a little bunny or kitten or dog. They can stroke this fist with their right hand as they say the verse.

Prayer

Ask the children to fold their hands and pray the words after you:

Dear God, Thank you for pets. Amen.

CRAFT Activity

Materials

First Service

- a copy of the sheep for each child (page 42)
- cotton balls
- white elmers glue

Second Service

- cut out of sheep [two pieces] for each child
- tongue depressors for each child

First Service Craft Activity

1. Give each child a copy of the sheep.
2. Have the children glue on cotton balls to make their sheep fluffy.

Ask: Do you know someone who has a pet sheep or goat? Do you have a pet at home? Tell about it. How do you take care of it? How care we be kind to animals? Say: Rachel took care of her sheep. We take care of our pets. Taking care of our pets is God's way. Sing "God's Ways".

Second Service Craft Activity

1. Give each child a copy of the sheep body and face and a tongue depressor.
2. Have the children glue the face onto the body.
3. Then, they can glue to a tongue depressor for making a little sheep puppet.

Talk with the children about the sheep that they made. Have them make sheep noises and talk about sheep and caring for them. Ask the children about the pets they have and how they take care of them.

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Circle Time

Creative Movement

Materials: none

Do: Encourage the children to copy you in the following action songs and rhymes.

Two Little Parakeets

Two Little parakeets,	(hold up index fingers, both hands)
Sitting on a swing	
One named Bonnie	(wiggle left index finger)
And one named Bing	(wiggle right index finger)
Fly away Bonnie.	(put left index finger behind back)
Fly away Bing.	(right index finger behind back)
Come back Bonnie.	(left index finger out again)
Come back Bing.	(right index finger out again)

I Take Care of My Pets (to the tune of “Here we go round the Mulberry Bush”)

I take care of my little sheep*
My little sheep, my little sheep,
I take care of my little sheep,
I take care of my pets.

*Let children suggest other kinds of pets.

Fish in the Bowl

Fish in the bowl, bubble up, bubble up.	(pretend to swim)
Kitty in the box, jump out, jump out.	(jump, arms out)
Doggy on the stairs, jump off, jump off	(jump, arms bent)
Birdie in the cage, fly!	(pretend to fly)

Each time you say this action rhyme, get faster and faster.)

Discuss: Say: **Rachel took care of her sheep. We take care of our pets. Taking care of our pets is God’s way.**

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Snack/Reading Time

Materials needed: books, Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear? By Bill Martin Jr., CD's, DVD's about pets, CD/DVD player

Do: Read the book(s) or let the children look at the pictures as you point out and describe the animals in the pictures. Play any CD's/DVD's you've chosen. Point out the animals and animal sounds.

Discuss: Ask the children to make the animal sounds. Ask them to point to the animals' ears, eyes, noses, mouths, feet, tails. Say: **Rachel took care of her sheep. We take care of our pets. Taking care of our pets is God's way.**

Extra Options

Games to play...

Materials needed: None

1. Hide Birdie, Fly Birdie

Tell children that sometimes pets get scared of loud noises. They might go and hide somewhere. Ask the children to pretend they are birds. When you said, “Hide, birdie” they must squat and put their arm over their head like a bird hiding its head under its wing. When you say, “Fly, birdie” they can get up and fly around the room. Call these directions out at random. When children are ready for a change, they can pretend they are Kitties. Call, “Hide, kitties” and “Run, kitties.” You can substitute other pets, such as dogs and fish.

2. Hippety, Hoppety

Ask the children to sit down. Choose one to be a rabbit. He hops around and gently taps other children on the head. As each child is tapped, he or she joins the first children in being rabbits. While they are hopping, say, **Hippety, hoppity never alone. Hippety, hoppity all the way home!** When you say home, they must sit down. Choose other children to continue the game. Cats go “Bouncety, pouncety.” Dogs go “Skippety, bippety.” Birds go “Flippety, flappity”. Fish go “Splishety, splashety.”

Discuss: Ask: **Does your pet ever hide? How does your pet move around (or your grandma’s pet or neighbor’s pet)? How can you help take care of your pet?** Say: **Rachel took care of her sheep. We take care of our pets. Taking care of our pets is God’s way.**

3. Animal Families

Materials: Animal family cards copied and cut out from page 43

Do: Mix up the animal family cards and then let the children match the animal babies to their mothers.

Discuss: Ask: **Do you have any of these kinds of animals as pets at your house? How can you help take care of your pets?** Say: **Rachel took care of her sheep. We take care of our pets. Taking care of our pets is God’s way.** Sing “God’s Ways.”

- Children may play, or you may use optional activities if they are listed in your lesson plan.
- When parents pick up children, check to make sure that the number on the child’s sticker matches the number on the parent’s sticker. Remind children to take home their activity from their bin and take-home paper for parents (and any bags they brought).
- Shepherds for the second hour arrive OR end of second service, wipe down tables/stack chairs 5 high