



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - July 22, 2012

Sermon

The Beauty of Creation:

“God Created All the Mammals”

Genesis 1:24-25 &

Genesis 7:1-9

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember about this sermon...

Monday 7/23/12

Genesis 1:24

Wildlife is all around us here in the Poconos. Deer, squirrels, turkeys, rabbits, bears, and more are our neighbors. Most of us don't go a day or two without seeing some of the beautiful mammals God created! The wildlife around us is certainly interesting and even entertaining to watch. Have you watched a deer closely for more than just a few minutes? Did you ever have the opportunity to watch a black bear tearing up an old log looking for food? Take some time this week to carefully observe the wildlife all around us.

Tuesday 7/24/12

Genesis 1:25

God created each and every mammal on the earth. The author of this story of Creation is very clear that God created every beast after its kind, and all the cattle after its kind, and everything moving after its kind. The mammals of creation have some similarities and some definite differences. We know there are families of animals and then some animals which are much different. Yet God created each and every one. What is your favorite animal? Why? Give thanks to God for this animal today.

Wednesday 7/25/12

Genesis 7:1-9

Noah saved all the animals by gathering them together and taking 2 of every living animal on the ark. Read this story again. It's only seven verses, but I'm guessing some of the details might surprise you. Did you know for example, that Noah first gathered seven of some animals? How old was Noah when the earth was flooded? Are these details important? Why do you think the writer included them in this story? Now compare this story with the story of creation and what do you observe?



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

List all the wild animals that live here in the Poconos.

Observe some animals for a length of time--really watch and study them.

Thursday 7/26/12
Numbers 22:21-31

You've probably heard of the horse whisperer. Some people seem to have a direct connection with some animals, almost like they can talk with them. Well, this story of Balaam and his donkey is similar. The donkey sees things her owner does not see. In fact, one time as the donkey sees the angel of the Lord, she moved to the side and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall. When Balaam was in desperation on what was happening, God gave the donkey the power to talk to Balaam! Do you ever wish animals could talk? What would they say?

Friday 7/27/12
Psalm 42

The Psalmist compares a deer longing for water with how his soul longs for God. We can learn many lessons and see parallels to our own lives by watching and observing animals. The little things they do can teach us a great deal. Do you see any similarities between the animals and us humans? How are we alike? How are we different? What role do animals play in God's creation?

Saturday 7/28/12
Luke 15:1-7

Jesus talked about animals and here in this Lukan passage we hear how even one lost sheep was of concern to him. Jesus taught in parables and many of these parables related to the common things the people were used to seeing around them--fig trees, mustard seeds, birds of the air, and sheep. Jesus used these common subjects to teach about the kingdom of heaven. One lost sheep was of concern to him. Is a lost animal of concern to you? How can we show our concern and love for animals in our daily living?