



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - August 26, 2012

Sermon

*“God Blesses Animals,
Too”*

Psalm 148:5-10 & Isaiah 11:6-9
by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 8/27/12
Psalm 148:5-6

God created the world and everything on it, including each and every animal. Think about that! Every living creature was created by God and each animal is a representation of God’s handiwork. The animal kingdom is different in varying parts of the world. We don’t have too many tigers roaming around Pennsylvania for example. And yet God created them all! One of the best parts is that we get to enjoy these very special creations, too!

Tuesday 8/28/12
Psalm 148:7

When we think of animals, most of us think of our pets and the other mammals we see around our homes in the fields and forests. But there are plenty of creatures in the deep waters of the oceans. The Psalmist calls them “sea-monsters!” I guess this even includes the Lock Ness Monster! Sometimes we tend to forget these creatures that live deep down in the waters, but God made each one of these, too! Today, think about all the unusual sea creatures and give thanks to God for them all!

Wednesday 8/29/12
Psalm 148:10

Verse 10 of Psalm 148 mentions the beasts, all cattle, creeping things, and flying birds. These are more of the animals we think of and are accustomed to seeing. Which animals are your favorite? Which are your least favorite? Do you like snakes and skunks? What about spiders and other insects? Mosquitoes? God’s creation is filled with many different kinds and species of animals. The Psalmist says we should be thankful for each and every one. Are you thankful for all of God’s creation; even the ones that are creepy and the ones that smell, too?



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

List all the different kinds of animals you can think of...

List your favorite animals...

List the animals you wonder why God created...

Thursday 8/30/12

Isaiah 11:6

Some animals that are different get along well together. Have you ever seen a bird sitting on the back of a big bull? I love this image because it is such a contrast: the big beast and the little bird together! Well, Isaiah is prophesying that there will be a day when the wolf and the lamb will dwell peacefully together, too! Wow, can you imagine that? Do you remember hearing the story of Little Red Riding Hood? What about the Three Little Pigs? These stories had wolves in them and they depicted how scary and ferocious they can be toward people and other animals! This image of a wolf and a lamb lying down together in harmony is quite an image!

Friday 8/31/12

Isaiah 11:7

Have you ever seen a lion? Did you ever see on TV or in person when a lion chases its prey and then eats it? Nature and animals can be brutal and the lion is definitely the king of the jungle in many ways! This verse says that some day the lion will eat straw like oxen do. Can you believe this? God's creation is beautiful, amazing, curious, and, yes, even brutal at times. Somehow it is all part of God's great plan.

Saturday 9/1/12

Isaiah 11:8-9

Poisonous snakes scare me. I don't prefer snakes to the other creates in nature. There's just something about them that surprises me and I don't like these kinds of surprises! These two verses talk about a day when a child won't get hurt even when he puts his hand on the adder's den. We teach our children what not to touch and how to be careful in this world. God is watching over us, too. God's promise is that things will be different some day. Are you looking forward to that incredible day?