CREATURE KIND

Session 1:

What's Christianity got to do with animals?

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For Leaders:

Session 1 Overview:
What's Christianity got to do with animals?

0 m	Opening Prayer	2 m
2 m	Introductions	3 m
5 m	Meal	25 m
30 m	Video 1: Introduction to the CreatureKind course	5 m
35 m	Discussion: What's Christianity got to do with animals?	20 m
55 m	Video 2: What's Christianity got to do with animals?	10 m
65 m	Reactions	5 m
70 m	Bible passage for discussion: Psalm 104	15 m
85 m	Theology: quotation for discussion	15 m
100 m	Final thoughts & questions?	5 m
105 m	Blessing & depart	

Notes for Leaders:

Session 1:
What's Christianity got to do with animals?

1. Opening prayer
2. Introductions
3. Meal
4. Video: Course Introduction
5. Discussion: What's Christianity got to do with animals?
6. Video: Christian stories about animals
7. Bible study: Psalm 104
   Key questions:
      What does the psalm teach us about animals?
      What do we learn about God's relationship with them?
8. Theological text: Pope Francis, "Laudato si"
9. Final thoughts (and questions)
10. Final blessing

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77. "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made" (Ps 33:6). This tells us that the world came about as the result of a decision, not from chaos or chance, and this exalts it all the more. The creating word expresses a free choice. The universe did not emerge as the result of arbitrary omnipotence, a show of force or a desire for self-assertion. Creation is of the order of love. God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things: "For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made; for you would not have made anything if you had hated it" (Wis 11:24). Every creature is thus the object of the Father's tenderness, who gives it its place in the world. Even the fleeting life of the least of beings is the object of his love, and in its few seconds of existence, God enfolds it with his affection. Saint Basil the Great described the Creator as "goodness without measure", while Dante Alighieri spoke of "the love which moves the sun and the stars". Consequently, we can ascend from created things "to the greatness of God and to his loving mercy."

Pope Francis, Laudato Si'

Full text available at http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html. For more information on papal encyclicals, visit: https://catholicclimatemovement.global/what-is-an-encyclical/