CREATURE
KIND
Session 6:
How should Christians treat animals?

CREATURE KIND

For Leaders:

Session 6 Overview:

How should Christians treat animals?

0 m	Opening Prayer	2 m
2 m	Introductions	3 m
5 m	Meal	25 m
30 m	Video: Course recap and a practical question	10 m
40 m	Reactions	10 m
50 m	Bible Study	15 m
65 m	Discussion	30 m
95 m	Experience evaluations and feedback	10 m
105 m	Blessing & depart	

Notes for Leaders:

Session 6:
How should Christians treat animals?

1. Opening prayer
2. Introductions
3. Meal
4. Video: Course recap and the practical question
5. Bible study (see handout)
    - How might these biblical passages help you discern your responsibilities for animals today?
6. Discussion
    - What concerns should we as Christians have about the intensive farming of animals?
    - What do you think having a good life means for a farmed animal?
    - How might we engage with the CreatureKind proposal that Christians should consider reducing their consumption of meat, dairy, and eggs and sourcing the remaining animal products they continue use from animals that have had a good life?
    - What practical steps could we take as a result of the course?
    - What additional resources would be helpful?
7. Feedback on the course
8. Final blessing

Biblical Passage for Discussion

But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds, which are nursing, are a care to me; and if they are overdriven for one day, all the flocks will die. Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, according to the pace of the cattle that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir. (Gen. 33:13-14)

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. (Exod. 20:8–10)

The firstborn of your sons you shall give to me. You shall do the same with your oxen and with your sheep: seven days it shall remain with its mother; on the eighth day you shall give it to me. (Exod. 22:29–30)

When you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden and you would hold back from setting it free, you must help to set it free. (Exod. 23:5)

When an ox or a sheep or a goat is born, it shall remain seven days with its mother, and from the eighth day on it shall be accepted as a sacrifice of an offering by fire to the LORD. But, whether it is an ox or a sheep, you shall not kill both it and its young in one day. (Lev. 22:27-28)

In the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land… You may eat what the land yields during its sabbath—you, your male and female slaves, your hired and your bound laborers who live with you; for your livestock also, and for the wild animals in your land all its yield shall be for food. (Lev. 25:4–7)

You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk. (Deut. 14:21)

If you come on a bird's nest, in any tree or on the ground, with fledglings or eggs, with the mother sitting on the fledglings or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young. Let the mother go, taking only the young for yourself, in order that it may go well with you and you may live long. (Deut. 22:6–7)

You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain. (Deut. 25:4)

The righteous know the needs of their animals, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel. (Prov. 12:6)

Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds. (Prov. 27:23)

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord. (Ps. 36:5-6)

For every wild animal of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.
I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine. (Ps. 50:10-11)

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol you. (Ps. 145:8-10)

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. (Is. 40:11)

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea. (Is. 11:6-9)

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent— its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain. (Is. 65:25)

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. (Matt. 10:29)

He said to them, “Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the sabbath.” (Matt. 12:11–12)

Then he said to them, “If one of you has a child[a] or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a sabbath day?” (Luke 14:5)

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’” (Luke 15:3-6)

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
(Rom. 8:19-23)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ...If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. (Rom. 12:1-2, 18)

And through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. (Col. 1:20)