

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR GOD'S WILD KINGDOM-

WEEK 7: THE ELEPHANT (7/19/20)

Bible Verse: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
John 13:35

EXPLANATION: Jesus is speaking to His 12 disciples just before He goes to the cross. He is about to leave them and is telling them that when they love and take care of each other, other people will know that they belong to Jesus. Many wonderful things are shown when the followers of Jesus take care of each other.

- 1. People see how God takes care of those who love Him.*
- 2. Believers in Jesus are taken care of. Their needs are met.*
- 3. People might decide to become followers of Jesus to enjoy the care and love they see given to His people.*

Believers in Jesus can do a lot to help others but there is one thing they CANNOT do-they cannot forgive sin. Jesus Himself met every person's biggest need-the need for forgiveness of sin. He is the only one who lived a perfect life, and He is the only one who could pay the price for EVERY sinning person by dying when He didn't deserve to. Jesus gives all people who believe in Him perfect help and care when He died on the cross!

Verse Activity: Supplies needed: Paper, pencil/crayons/markers

Write this verse on paper and then make a poster that shows what this verse is about.

Journal: Supplies needed: Journal page (see below) pencil

EXPLANATION: The female elephant spends her whole life living with and caring for the members of her family. When her family needs food, she leads them, cutting a path through the brush of the land, to the food. When they need water, she digs a water hole with her powerful tusks. When danger threatens the younger members of her family, she and the older, bigger elephants circle around them to protect them. Elephants care for their family...and God tells believers in Jesus to take care of those in their family-the family of believers in Jesus Christ so that the world will see the care and love of God in action.

Remember, only God can meet our biggest need-the need to have our sins forgiven.

Those who believe in Jesus are given God the Holy Spirit to live inside them. The Holy Spirit gives believers in Jesus just what they need so they can care for others.

Father God, Thank you for caring for us, being our provider and giving us what we need. Open our eyes to see those around us who are in need and give us your heart to take care of them. Help us show the world YOUR loving care. AMEN

Use the journal page below to allow your child to respond to the Bible lesson.

Helping Together: Supplies needed: balloons (blown up) or beach ball

EXPLANATION: In the animal kingdom, the elephants do a great job of taking care of each other. Elephants who need help get it from other elephants. King David followed God's command to care for His people by helping the Israelites worship God and by helping Mephibosheth. Believers in Jesus have the Holy Spirit to give them what they need to help

others. And God Himself gave us Jesus-who died to pay for our sin-giving us the greatest help of all. Let's play a helping game to practice helping others.

You can play this game a couple of different ways:

1. Gather as a family and bat the balloon around helping one another to keep the balloon up in the air.
2. Each person in the family gets a balloon and tries to keep it in the air. If a balloon gets away from someone, another can help keep it in the air and hit it back to the one who lost it.

How Can You Help? Supplies needed: pictures found below

EXPLANATION: *EVERYONE* needs help sometime. First of all, every person needs help with sin! Sin is a problem because it keeps them from knowing and loving God. Sin is also a problem because no person can get rid of sin on his or her own. God gave us what we need for our sin problem by sending Jesus to die on the cross to pay for our sin. Then God helps believers in Jesus by sending God the Holy Spirit to live in them. With the Holy Spirit's help, believers in Jesus can then help others. Part of God's plan to give believers in Jesus the help they need is to have them take care of one another. How can you take care of a person in need? Let's look at these pictures and think of ways to help the people shown in them.

Share the pictures and discuss.

Go and Help! Supplies needed: various depending on what you choose to do - paper, cards, stamps, markers, cell phone, etc.

EXPLANATION: At one time or another, every person finds him or herself in a place where he or she needs help. We all need help with our sin problem! How did God give us His help for this? People get sick, they need things they don't have money for, or they have a need for encouragement and expressions of love from others when they are in a difficult situation. God tells believers in Jesus to take care of one another. When a Christian sees a person-and especially another Christian- in need of something, it is our responsibility, if we can, to give help. God helps believers in Jesus give help too! Do you remember how?

Let's think of some ways we might help someone in need today.

Brainstorm with your child/children ways you might give help, love and/or encouragement to someone. Some ideas include: coloring a picture/making a card and sending it to someone, calling someone and talking with them, helping someone in your own home with a chore or project, baking something and giving it to someone, and praying for any that you serve!

Eye Spy Animals (preschool & older versions) Supplies needed: worksheets & pencil

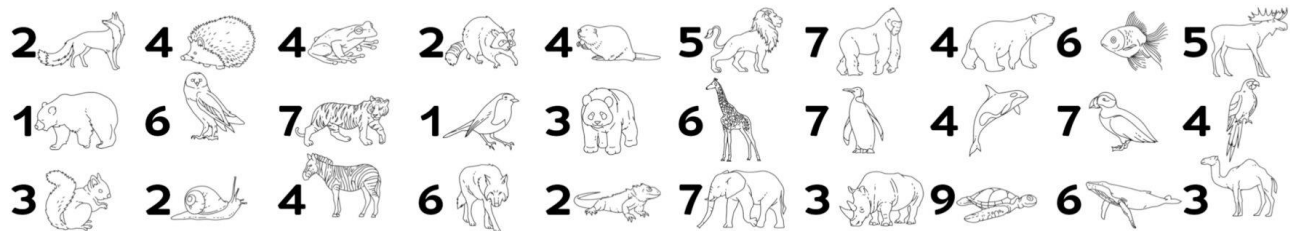
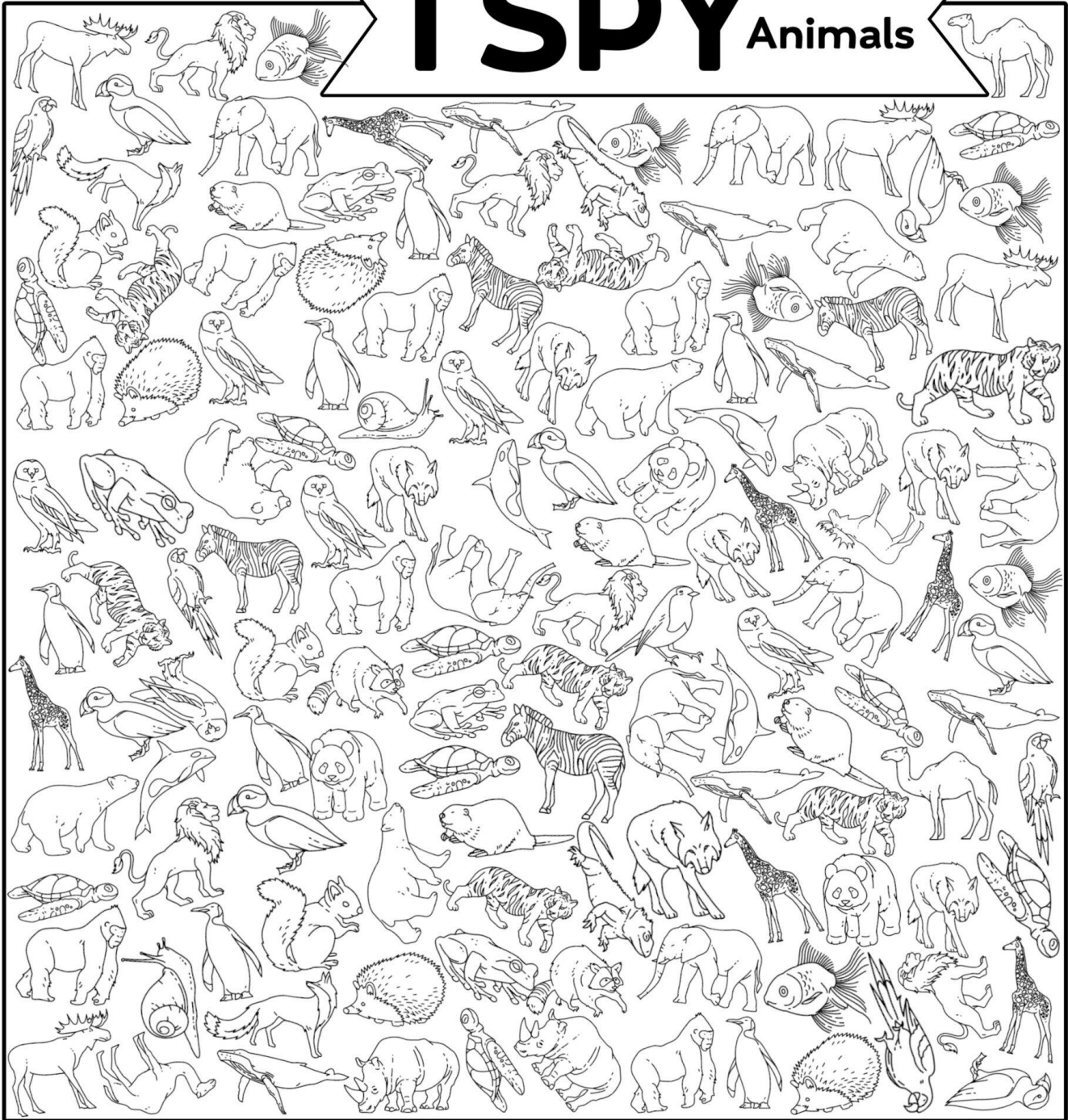
EXPLANATION: God gave Adam the job of taking care of the animals when he was in the garden of Eden. People take care of animals in different ways today as well. We protect animals that are endangered. We care for our pets. Zookeepers care for animals in the zoo. God's care for us is on display when we care for animals of all kinds.

Use the Eye Spy pages to do the activity.





I SPY Animals



Elephant+

Time With God Journal

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:35

God asks and gives power to believers in Jesus to care for each other. Who do you know that needs to be taken care of? Draw a picture of at least one person or write his/her name here.

How could you help take care of this person? Draw or write about it here.