



SPf: Say Prayers frequently god's creation - day 6 - insects, land animals, & humans

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day. –Genesis 1:24-31

On the sixth day God made all the creatures that live on land. Every creepy-crawly bug, every forest critter, every type of dog, cat, jungle animal, farm animal, or safari dweller – came forth from the earth when God told them to! God gave each one its own beauty and purpose for the good of this world. Even if sometimes spiders or snakes may scare us, we can be sure that God has a purpose for them!

When God made all the different land animals, He also formed His most amazing creation of all - the first man and woman - Adam and Eve. Like the other animals, man was formed from the earth. But unlike the other animals, God made people even more special because He made us like Himself... This is what Holy Scripture tells us:

God said, “*Let Us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*” (Gen 1:26)

And...

The “*Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*” (Gen 2:7)

No other creature received God's very own “breath,” and no other plant, insect, bird or animal was made in the image of the Holy Trinity. He gave that honor to humans alone. He let Adam name all the animals and living things He had made. He put Adam and Eve and all the people that came after them, in charge of everything in His creation. God gave all the animals and humans plants to eat for their food. Adam and Eve lived in harmony with all the animals and weren't afraid of them at all. The animals weren't afraid of them either.

Holy Scripture tells us that “*God is Love*” (1John1:4), and because He made us in His image we are made to love like He does. Treating His creatures with care and seeing how special they are, is part of loving them. When we *thank* God for all He gives us and for all He has made, it helps us live our lives in loving ways.

One word the Church uses for the Divine Liturgy is “Eucharist.” This Greek word means “Thanksgiving.” In Liturgy we offer gratitude to God for all the good gifts He has made for us, and for all He does to give us Life. At one point just before we ask for the bread and wine to become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the priest lifts up these holy gifts very high in the air facing the altar and prays to the Lord:

“Your own of Your own we offer to You, on behalf of all and for all.”

Bread and wine are not the only things we offer to God in this prayer. We are offering the best of everything He has given us, back to Him – even our own lives! It can really help us to pray these words all the time - before we eat, drink, sleep, do school work, talk, or play. Before we use anything, before we throw anything away – we can say this simple prayer “*Your own of Your own we offer to You, on behalf of all and for all*” – to help remind us Who gave us everything in our life, and the special job we have to take good care of it all.

Now read and discuss the following, adapting as needed depending on the age of your child(ren):

- **How are human beings different from other animals?**
- **Why do you think the first animals and humans were not afraid of one another?**
- **What are ways we can show care for all the creatures God has made?**

dive in: honor god's creation

Animal Loving Saints

Learn about animal-loving Saints! Many Saints of the church are known for their special friendships with wild animals. Saint Seraphim of Sarov lived in a hut in the forests of Russia, and befriended a wild bear. He used to feed it bread crumbs and he named him Misha. Just like Adam and Eve once lived happily with all creatures, he and the bear had no fear of each other.

St. Paisios loved animals so much that he used to paint red crosses on the antlers of wild deer to protect them from being hunted. On one day, St. Paisios had visitors, and a snake came toward them all. He stopped the visitors from harming the snake, gave it water to drink and told it to leave, since he had other company now. The snake drank the water and left, just as St. Paisios had requested.

Most people aren't so full of God's energy that wild animals won't fear us. So, we shouldn't try to feed or touch them. But, we can learn more about the Saints lives, and imitate the holy way they prayed to God and carefully used every created thing with thanksgiving. They became so full of Jesus' love that people and wild creatures felt that love. We are called to be holy too, and we can grow more and more like God every day!

Honoring God's Creation: Less Is More!

Monks and nuns try to live how God made things when He first created Adam and Eve and gave them only plants to eat. They mostly eat fruits and vegetables, and have fish on special feast days.

Following Church guidelines for fasting as a good start in eating less. Eating only plant foods on Wednesdays and Fridays and during other fast periods will help our bodies and souls work better. Over-eating harms our bodies and animals' too. It pushes farmers to raise more and bigger plants and animals to feed us, and this causes problems in how they care for them.

Vitamin d: Creating with God

Creating with God

Paper Plate Days of Creation Series: People & Animals Craft:
<https://ithappensinablink.com/creation-day-6/>.

Calling All Artists & Scientists!

Use modeling clay in various colors and let children create their favorite animals out of the clay. Remind them that God formed animals and humans out of clay too!

Make a construction paper lion or create Jungle Dioramas out of tissue boxes. Think about all the ways each person is special by making facial profile outlines and listing their unique qualities inside the tracing: <https://www.trueaimeducation.com/creation-story-for-kids-day-6-animals-man/>.

Pray for Your Pets

http://members.tripod.com/~Near_to_God/ATprayerfor.html

<https://frted.wordpress.com/2013/12/04/prayer-for-a-sick-animal/>

