

2: SUSTAINER AND REDEEMER: GOD'S CARE FOR CREATION – Activity 5

Loving God and Animal Feelings

Equipment:

- 🐾 Bag or box, straw or shredded paper and a variety of objects which are interesting to feel and produce different sensations. It really doesn't matter which objects you use, but here are a few suggestions: a cold tea-spoon which has been in the fridge, a warm bean-bag zapped in the microwave, a prickly nail-brush, a soft silky scarf and a wet squidgy sponge (but not sopping so that it soaks everything around it).
- 🐾 Saucers/ramekins, tea-spoons or teeny chunks of bread and a variety of foods with strong and interesting tastes and smells e.g. honey, chilli oil, vinegar, smelly cheese. Again it doesn't really matter what you use, just be careful not to cause real distress! Be sure to check for any food allergies.

Activity: Let everyone put their hand into the box/bag, and feel the different objects inside. Then let everyone taste the foods, either on spoons or bread.

Purpose/teaching: Animals share our ability to feel and explore their environment. We all know what it is like to have different physical experiences, some of which cause us pain and some of which cause us pleasure. We believe in a loving and compassionate God (e.g. 1 John 4). Can we really imagine that a caring God would create beings capable of suffering or being happy, and then not mind whether or they led full lives? If we believe that God cares about animals then surely we should care as well.

