For her final CreatureKind Fellowship project, Alyssa Moore chose to lead a discussion of the CreatureKind course modifying it for her social location. She was able to present the course to a group at the Santa Clara University’s Jesuit School of Theology (JST). This is a collection of some of the resources she used to modify the course.

If you would like access to the free CreatureKind course you may access it here:
https://www.becreaturekind.org/sixweek-church-course
Week 1
Canticle — Daniel 3:57-88, 56
Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord. 
Praise and exalt him above all forever. 
Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord. 
You heavens, bless the Lord. 
All you waters above the heavens, bless the Lord. 
All you hosts of the Lord, bless the Lord. 
Sun and moon, bless the Lord. 
Stars of heaven, bless the Lord. 

Every shower and dew, bless the Lord. 
All you winds, bless the Lord. 
Fire and heat, bless the Lord. 
Cold and chill, bless the Lord. 
Dew and rain, bless the Lord. 
Frost and chill, bless the Lord. 
Ice and snow, bless the Lord. 
Nights and days, bless the Lord. 
Light and darkness, bless the Lord. 
Lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord. 

Let the earth bless the Lord. 
Praise and exalt him above all forever. 
Mountains and hills, bless the Lord. 
Everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord. 
You springs, bless the Lord. 
Seas and rivers, bless the Lord. 
You dolphins and all water creatures, bless the Lord. 
All you birds of the air, bless the Lord. 
All you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord. 
You sons of men, bless the Lord.
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 enfold 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’
PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

GOD OF LOVE, SHOW US OUR PLACE IN THIS WORLD AS CHANNELS OF YOUR LOVE FOR ALL THE CREATURES OF THIS EARTH, FOR NOT ONE OF THEM IS FORGOTTEN IN YOUR SIGHT. ENLIGHTEN THOSE WHO POSSESS POWER AND MONEY THAT THEY MAY AVOID THE SIN OF INDIFFERENCE; THAT THEY MAY LOVE THE COMMON GOOD, ADVANCE THE WEAK, AND CARE FOR THIS WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE. THE POOR AND THE EARTH ARE CRYING OUT. O LORD, SEIZE US WITH YOUR POWER AND LIGHT, HELP US TO PROTECT ALL LIFE, TO PREPARE FOR A BETTER FUTURE, FOR THE COMING OF YOUR KINGDOM OF JUSTICE, PEACE, LOVE AND BEAUTY. PRAISE BE TO YOU!

AMEN.

FROM A CHRISTIAN PRAYER IN UNION WITH CREATION, PART OF POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL LETTER Laudato Si'
When we look upon the faces around us, we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now let us bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as People.
We are thankful to our Mother Earth, for she gives us everything we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she still continues to care for us, just as she has from the beginning of time. To our Mother, we send thanksgiving, love and respect. Now our minds are one.
We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst, for providing strength and nurturing life for all beings. We know its power in many forms — waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans, snow and ice. We are grateful that the waters are still here and meeting their responsibility to the rest of Creation. Now our minds are one.
With one mind, we honor and thank all the Food Plants we harvest from the garden, especially the Three Sisters [corn, beans and squash] who feed the people with such abundance. Since the beginning of time, grains, vegetables, beans and fruit have helped the people survive. Many other living things draw strength from them as well. We gather together in our minds all the plant foods and send them a greeting and thanks. Now our minds are one.
The Earth has many families of Trees who each have their own instructions and uses. Some provide shelter and shade, others fruit and beauty and many useful gifts. The Maple is the leader of the trees, to recognize its gift of sugar when the People need it most. Many peoples of the world recognize a Tree as a symbol of peace and strength. With one mind we greet and thank the Tree of life. Now our minds are one.
We gather our minds together to send our greetings and thanks to all the beautiful animal life of the world, who walk about with us. They have many things to teach us as people. We are grateful that they continue to share their lives with us and hope that it will always be so. Let us put our minds together as one and send our thanks to the Animals. Now our minds are one.
We put our minds together as one and thank all the Birds who move and fly about over our heads. The Creator gave them the gift of beautiful songs. Each morning they greet the day and with their songs remind us to enjoy and appreciate life. The Eagle was chosen to be their leader and to watch over the world. To all the Birds, from the smallest to the largest, we send our joyful greetings and thanks. Now our minds are one.
We are thankful for the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind we send our greetings and thanks to the Four Winds. Now our minds are one.
We now send greetings and thanks to our eldest brother, the Sun. Each day without fail he travels the sky from east to west, bringing the light of a new day. He is the source of all the fires of life. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Brother, the Sun. Now our minds are one.
We put our minds together and give thanks to our oldest Grandmother, the Moon, who lights the nighttime sky. She is the leader of women all over the world and she governs the movement of ocean tides. By her changing face we measure time, and it is the Moon who watches over the arrival of children here on Earth. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Grandmother, the Moon.
We give thanks to the Stars who are spread across the sky like jewelry. We see them at night, helping the Moon to light the darkness and bringing the dew to the gardens and growing things. When we travel at night, they guide us home. With our minds gathered as one, we send greetings and thanks to all the Stars. Now our minds are one.
We gather our minds to greet and thank the enlightened Teachers who have come to help throughout the ages. When we forget how to live in harmony, they remind us of the way we were instructed to live as people. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to these caring Teachers. Now our minds are one.
We now turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

And now our minds are one.
“The moral covenant of reciprocity calls us to honor our responsibilities for all we have been given, for all that we have taken. It’s our turn now, long overdue. Let us hold a giveaway for Mother Earth, spread our blankets out for her and pile them high with gifts of our own making. ... Gifts of mind, hands, heart, voice, and vision, all offered up on behalf of the earth. Whatever our gift, we are called to give it and to dance for the renewal of the world.

“In return for the privilege of breath.”

- Robin Wall Kimmerer
Only For a Short While

Oh, only for so short a while you have loaned us to each other, because we take form in your act of drawing us, and we take life in your painting us, and we breathe in your singing us.

But only for so short a while have you loaned us to each other. Because even a drawing cut in obsidian fades, and the green feathers, the crown feathers, of the Quetzal bird lose their color, and even the sounds of the waterfall die out in the dry season.

So, we too, because only for a short while have you loaned us to each other.

- Aztec Indian Prayer
The garden is rich with diversity
With plants of a hundred families
In the space between the trees
With all the colours and fragrances.
Basil, mint and lavender,
Great Mystery keep my remembrance pure,
Raspberry, Apple, Rose,
Great Mystery fill my heart with love,
Dill, anise, tansy,
Holy winds blow in me.
Rhododendron, zinnia,
May my prayer be beautiful
May my remembrance O Great Mystery
Be as incense to thee
In the sacred grove of eternity
As I smell and remember
The ancient forests of earth.

- Chinook Psalter
Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, your creatures.
We pray especially for all that are suffering in any way:
for the overworked and underfed, the hunted, lost or hungry;
for all in captivity or ill-treated, and for those that must be put to death.
For those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion,
gentle hands, and kindly words.
Make us all true friends to animals and worthy followers of our merciful Savior,
Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers)
Psalm 145
The Greatness and the Goodness of God
(Praise of David)

I will extol you, my God,
    and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you,
    and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
    God’s greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall laud your works to another,
    and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
    and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
    and I will declare your greatness.
They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
    and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
The LORD is good to all,  
and God’s compassion is over all that God has made.  
All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
and all your faithful shall bless you.  
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,  
and tell of your power,  
to make known to all people your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.  
God is faithful in all God’s words,  
and gracious in all God’s deeds.\[[c]\]  
\[14\] The LORD upholds all who are falling,  
and raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.
God is just in all God’s ways,
and kind in all God’s doings.
God is near to all who call God’s name,
to all who call on God in truth.
God fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
God also hears their cry, and saves them.
The Lord watches over all who love God,
but all the wicked God will destroy.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless God’s holy name forever and ever.
Food

2013 estimates of animals killed for human consumption globally:
Cattle & buffalo: 324 million (+ 330 million dairy herd)
Sheep & goats: 975 million (+ 420 million dairy herd)
Rabbits: 1.2 billion
Pigs: 1.5 billion
Chickens: 61 billion (+7 billion for eggs)
Fish: 2.5–6.8 trillion
Impact on Animals

• In the US, animals often kept in horrific conditions; most never see sunlight or grass, are kept in such tight conditions that they cannot stand or move, causing sores and pain

• Often subjected to body modification (e.g. debeaking, neutering without anaesthetic) to keep them from moving or interacting with others; kept on constant antibiotic dose as well as growth hormones

• Horrific, prolonged slaughter methods that only worsen as process becomes more industrialized; constant instances of deliberate abuse

• Killed at a fraction of their natural lifespan; many separated from parents or killed at birth/hatching depending on sex
Environmental & Human Impacts

Grazing and fodder crop production takes 78% of all agricultural land
1/3 of global cereal production is fed to farmed animals
Livestock consumes 8% of human water use and causes 15% of water depletion (numbers much higher in the US)
Livestock are responsible for at least 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions, which is more than transportation
In the US, livestock account for 55% of erosion and sediment, 37% of pesticide use, 50% of antibiotic use, and 1/3 of nitrogen and phosphorous loading of water supplies
Environmental & Human Impacts Cont.

• Small farms disappearing rapidly as large agricultural corporations take control

• Slaughterhouse workers subjected to some of the most horrific workplace safety violations and illegal labor practices; often targeted by ICE raids

• High rates of infection during the COVID-19 pandemic

• Political concerns re. silencing of free speech, punishment of whistleblowers, hold on the markets by large agri-businesses
Clothing & textiles

Leather as by-product of meat production; wool from sheep
71 million mink raised or trapped for fur annually, 9 million foxes
Mass slaughter of animals raised for fur during COVID pandemic; similar mass kill-offs due to fears of related diseases such as swine flu, bird flu, and mad cow disease
Labour

400 million animals used for draught labour
Research experimentation

100 million animals (from mice and rats to dogs and chimpanzees) used for research & safety testing annually, for nonessentials such as cosmetics as well as health-related studies

Human applications of such research often limited; involves extreme suffering
Sport and entertainment

Horse & greyhound racing, circuses, safari parks & zoos

High mortality of racehorses, including here in Berkeley

Abuse of circus animals, roadside attraction animals, and some zoo animals; often kept on tranquilizers to ensure “good behavior”

Safari park connections to canned hunting ranches, e.g. at Safari West in Northern California
Companion animals

Domestic pets often raised commercially (“backyard breeding”), inbred and raised under cruel conditions

Left uncontrolled, deplete native bird populations and have other negative effects on local ecosystems (often tied to colonization)
Wild animals

Habitat destruction widespread, often for pastureland, resources such as timber and palm oil

Trophy hunting both in the United States (e.g. recent mass slaughter of wolves in the Midwest before hunting permits expired) and as a form of tourism
For Courage to Do Justice

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others
Open my ears that I may hear their cries;
Open my heart so that they need not be without succor;
Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger
of the strong,
Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.
Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,
And use me to bring them to those places.
And so open my eyes and my ears
That I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace
for thee.

- Alan Paton
Realize You Are the Earth

“You carry Mother Earth within you. She is not outside of you. Mother Earth is not just your environment. In that insight of inter-being, it is possible to have real communication with the Earth, which is the highest form of prayer. In that kind of relationship you have enough love, strength and awakening in order to change your life.

Fear, separation, hate and anger come from the wrong view that you and the Earth are two separate entities, that the Earth is only the environment. That is a dualistic way of seeing.
So to breathe in and be aware of your body and look deeply into it, realise you are the Earth and your consciousness is also the consciousness of the Earth. Not to cut the tree, not to pollute the water, that is not enough.

We need a real awakening, enlightenment, encounter, to change our way of thinking and seeing things. When we recognise the virtues, the talent, the beauty of Mother Earth, of Creation, something is born in us, some kind of connection, love is born. That is the meaning of love, to be at one.

Many people suffer deeply and they do not know they suffer. They try to cover up the suffering by being busy. Many people get sick today because they get alienated from Mother Earth.

The practice of mindfulness and prayer helps us to touch Mother Earth, the community of creation, inside of the body and this practice can help heal people. So the healing of the people should go together with the healing of the Earth. This is the insight and it is possible for anyone to practice.
We have constructed a system we can’t control. It imposes itself on us, and we become its slaves and victims. We have created a society in which the rich become richer and the poor become poorer, and in which we are so caught up in our own immediate problems that we cannot afford to be aware of what is going on with the rest of the human family or our planet Earth.

Activists have to have a spiritual practice in order to help them to suffer less, to nourish the happiness and to handle the suffering so they will be effective in helping the world. With anger and frustration you cannot do much.
If we are able to touch deeply the historical and holy dimension – through a leaf, a flower, a pebble, a beam of light, a mountain, a river, a bird, or our own body – we touch at the same time the ultimate dimension. The ultimate dimension cannot be described as personal or impersonal, material or spiritual, object or subject of cognition – we say only that it is always shining, and shining on itself. God is always smiling, and smiling on Godself and God’s works.

Touching the ultimate dimension, we feel happy and comfortable, like the birds enjoying the blue sky, or the deer enjoying the green fields. We know that we do not have to look for the ultimate outside of ourselves – it is available within us, in this very moment.”
- Thich Nhat Hanh
Helpful Information/Infographic here:

https://www.businessinsider.com/10-companies-control-the-food-industry-2016-9
For vegan and animal cruelty-free products:

For cosmetics, personal care products, etc.: look for some variation on a bunny/rabbit or direct references to animal testing
For food products: look for some variation on the letter V or VG; many products will have bolded information stating whether they contain milk, fish, meat, or sometimes egg products
For fair-trade products:

These links have helpful information on different certifying organizations, what their labels look like, and what their goals/certification process look like:  
[https://www.fairtradewinds.net/guide-fair-trade-labels/](https://www.fairtradewinds.net/guide-fair-trade-labels/)  
[https://afairtradeplace.wordpress.com/show-me-your-label-a-guide-to-fair-trade-labels/](https://afairtradeplace.wordpress.com/show-me-your-label-a-guide-to-fair-trade-labels/)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant/Catering Company</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Menu</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oak Harvest Kitchen</td>
<td>Vegan; sustainable menu featuring local farmers' market produce</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sean@oakharvestkitchen.com">sean@oakharvestkitchen.com</a>, <a href="mailto:info@oakharvestkitchen.com">info@oakharvestkitchen.com</a>; (510) 555-5555</td>
<td>Nonprofit; job training and placement for the recently incarcerated (formerly justice involved); OFFERS CATERING;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt's Burgers</td>
<td>Vegan burgers and fries</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dlrecipes@mattburgers.com">dlrecipes@mattburgers.com</a>; <a href="mailto:jhernandez@mattburgers.com">jhernandez@mattburgers.com</a>; (510) 740-4302</td>
<td>Health-focused</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaffo Ethiopian Cuisine</td>
<td>Vegan and gluten-free Ethiopian food</td>
<td>Berkeley</td>
<td>3333 Monterey St Berkeley, CA 94704; (510) 555-5555</td>
<td>Hours a little confusing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solana &amp; Salo</td>
<td>Vegan soul food/Cajun</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>301 Broadway, Oakland CA 94607; (510) 922-3451</td>
<td>HEALTH-FOCUSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skooly Vegan</td>
<td>Vegan Louisiana Creole food since 2006</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>Tony Garcia &amp; Associates, 501 Lake Park Ave, Oakland; <a href="mailto:info@skoolyvegan.com">info@skoolyvegan.com</a>; (510) 922-3451</td>
<td>DOES CATERING; Health conscious</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegan Mob</td>
<td>Vegan BBQ and soul food</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:healingkitchensf@gmail.com">healingkitchensf@gmail.com</a>, (510) 356-7866</td>
<td>Includes catering!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healing Kitchen</td>
<td>Afro-vegan plant-based cuisine</td>
<td>Oakland/Berkeley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:healingkitchensf@gmail.com">healingkitchensf@gmail.com</a>, (510) 356-7866</td>
<td>Includes catering!</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Veg Hub</td>
<td>Healthy plant-based</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hello@grandeurkitchen.com">hello@grandeurkitchen.com</a>; (510) 879-7568; 364 B Grand Ave, Oakland 94602</td>
<td>Nonprofit and Seventh Day Adventist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grandeur</td>
<td>NOT fully plant-based; mix of halal or non-meat food and vegan</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:healingkitchen@gmail.com">healingkitchen@gmail.com</a>, (510) 356-7866</td>
<td>Includes catering!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prickly Organic Cafe</td>
<td>All-organic, vegan Tibetan/Indian food</td>
<td>Berkeley/Albany</td>
<td><a href="mailto:healingkitchen@gmail.com">healingkitchen@gmail.com</a>, (510) 356-7866</td>
<td>Includes catering!</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>J+L Yoga/Ciao Dance Cafe</td>
<td>Vegan Singaporean/Teochew/Chinese food</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:healingkitchen@gmail.com">healingkitchen@gmail.com</a>, (510) 356-7866</td>
<td>Includes catering!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Juiced</td>
<td>Organic fresh pressed juices</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:healingkitchen@gmail.com">healingkitchen@gmail.com</a>, (510) 356-7866</td>
<td>Food justice = racial justice; organic produce as a right; 1st organic pressed juice bar in Oakland; does smoothie catering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Modal Vegan Kitchen</td>
<td>Vegan; variety of menu.</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:healingkitchen@gmail.com">healingkitchen@gmail.com</a>, (510) 356-7866</td>
<td>Includes catering with sample menus!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Lotus Vegetarian Restaurant</td>
<td>Vegan Asian fusion</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:healingkitchen@gmail.com">healingkitchen@gmail.com</a>, (510) 356-7866</td>
<td>Sustainability focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wahajapah's Kitchen Catering</td>
<td>NOT vegan/veg but has plant-based options</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:healingkitchen@gmail.com">healingkitchen@gmail.com</a>, (510) 356-7866</td>
<td>CLOSED for COVID; holistic food</td>
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What the labels on animal products really mean—and what they don’t

Here are some of the most common terms and what they mean for animal welfare

**CERTIFIED HUMANE**  The standards required under this program provide meaningful improvements over factory farms for how much space animals must be provided, as well as the quality of bedding material and enrichments. Animals are never confined in cages or crates and are free to display natural behaviors. They are not given growth hormones or antibiotics.

**GLOBAL ANIMAL PARTNERSHIP**  This multiple-tier animal welfare program reflects stricter standards as the level number rises on a scale of 1 to 5. All levels prohibit the caging of animals and the use of growth hormones or antibiotics, and levels 2-5 require environmental enrichments such as perches for egg-laying hens. The higher the number, the better the living conditions are for the animals.

**USDA ORGANIC**  Animals are provided with outdoor access, are raised in slightly more space than typical factory farms, eat organic feed and are not given hormones or unnecessary antibiotics. This seal does not tell a consumer anything about certain welfare concerns such as routine mutilations (castration, etc.) without pain relief.

**USDA CERTIFIED GRASS FED**  Animals have unlimited outdoor access during the growing season and can only eat grass and forage, with the exception of milk before weaning. This term does not provide guidelines for other aspects of animal welfare, such as confinement outside of the growing season or the use of antibiotics and hormones.

**PASTURE-RAISED**  Animals have continuous free access to the outdoors for a minimum of 120 days a year. The term does not define any standards for how much space each animal should be provided, nor the quality of the land accessible to the animals.

**FREE-RANGE**  Animals are given access to the outdoors. The term does not define any standards for how much space per animal, frequency or duration of how much outdoor access must be provided, nor the quality of the land accessible to the animals.

**CAGE-FREE**  On eggs, this term means chickens can move freely indoors with unlimited access to food and water during their production cycle. It does not define how much space each bird is provided unless accompanied by a third-party seal such as Certified Humane.

**HUMANELY RAISED**  The USDA does not define this term, so it has little relevance unless accompanied by a seal from a third-party program.

**NATURAL AND NATURALLY RAISED**  These label terms are not regulated and do not accurately convey anything about animal welfare.

**VEGETARIAN-FED**  This term does not convey anything about animal welfare.

**HORMONE-FREE, RBGH-FREE, RBST-FREE AND NO HORMONES ADDED**  These labels on dairy products mean the cows were not given artificial hormones to increase milk production. These practices do not have significant relevance to the animals’ living conditions, and they are not relevant for chicken, eggs or pork, as producers are not legally allowed to use hormones.

How you can help

- Add more plant-based meals to your diet to help reduce the demand for animal products.
- As you’re reducing your meat consumption, make sure any animal products you do purchase come from companies or local farmers who use higher welfare practices.
- Share this article with others to help spread awareness about farm animal welfare.
- Support our work by using the envelope tucked inside this issue or donate at humane society.org/keepfighting.
Session 6:
How should Christians treat animals?
For Leaders:

Session 6 Overview:
How should Christians treat animals?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>0 m</td>
<td>Opening Prayer</td>
<td>2 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 m</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
<td>3 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 m</td>
<td>Meal</td>
<td>25 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 m</td>
<td>Video: Course recap and a practical question</td>
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<td>40 m</td>
<td>Reactions</td>
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<td>Bible Study</td>
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<td>65 m</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>95 m</td>
<td>Experience evaluations and feedback</td>
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<td>105 m</td>
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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)
Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with each statement:

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<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Definitely Agree</th>
<th>Mostly Agree</th>
<th>Neither Agree or Disagree</th>
<th>Mostly Disagree</th>
<th>Definitely Disagree</th>
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<tr>
<td>I enjoyed participating in the course</td>
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<td>I would recommend the course to friends</td>
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<td>I gained new understanding about Christianity &amp; animals</td>
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<td>The course has made a difference in my attitudes towards animals</td>
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<td>The course will make a difference for my food choices, or other practical steps</td>
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What did you most appreciate about the course? [short answer]

What aspects of the course did you find least helpful? [short answer]

Were there topics you would like to have discussed that we didn’t get to? [short answer]

How do you think the course could be improved in the future? [short answer]

Do you have any other comments? [short answer]