



CREATION CARE TOOLKIT:
**Simple Ways to Bring
Animal Protection to
Your Faith Community**



**In Matthew 25:40,
the verse that inspired the
name “LAMBS,” Jesus says,
“Whatever you do unto the least
among my brothers and sisters,
you do as unto me.”**



As Christians, we are called upon to care for God’s creation, including *all* the animals He so lovingly created. In a world in which billions of individual animals are exploited, made to suffer, and killed every year, it’s critical that each of us answer this call to protect our fellow sentient beings and create the compassionate world that God intended.

Every day, animals are fighting for their lives. In laboratories, they’re burned, blinded, poisoned, and cut open in archaic experiments even though superior, human-relevant tests are readily available. On farms, they’re mutilated, confined to cramped cages, and killed for a fleeting taste of their flesh, yet healthy, animal-free food exists in abundance. Callous designers promote fashion made from the skin, feathers, and fur of tormented animals despite countless stylish and durable vegan alternatives. And animals are routinely exploited and abused in circuses, marine parks, and other abusive entertainment venues.

Every day, more of us are growing concerned about the fate of the Earth and its inhabitants. People of faith have a vital role in fostering responsible dominion and Godly stewardship of the planet. More than ever, the choices we make will either honor God by lovingly sustaining the majesty of His creation or disappoint Him by turning a blind eye to the suffering of countless vulnerable sentient beings.

In Matthew 25:40, the verse that inspired the name “LAMBS,” Jesus says, “Whatever you do unto the least among my brothers and sisters, you do as unto me.” In their vulnerability, animals are truly the “least” among us and need our protection from cruelty, greed, and gluttony.

Fortunately, believers like you can help prevent the suffering of animals through the actions you take in your community, in your church, and at home. This toolkit will help you make simple, meaningful changes to awaken and empower your faith community. Together, we can create the change that animals deserve.

**“It is contrary to human dignity to allow
animals to suffer or die needlessly.”**

—Pope Francis, *Laudato si’*

**“Animals are God’s creatures,
not human property, nor utilities,
nor resources, nor commodities,
but precious beings in God’s sight. ...
Christians whose eyes are fixed on the
awfulness of crucifixion are in
a special position to understand
the awfulness of innocent suffering.
The Cross of Christ is God’s absolute
identification with the weak,
the powerless, and the vulnerable,
but most of all with unprotected,
undefended, innocent suffering.”**

—Rev. Dr. Andrew Linzey



HOST ANIMAL-FRIENDLY EVENTS

Choose Creation-Friendly Vegan Options

Does your church host a seasonal festival, fundraising auction, bingo night, or raffle? Does your community enjoy fellowship over meals at picnics, retreats, or small group dinners? These festive events provide the perfect opportunity to share vegan foods. You could be the talk of the congregation by serving delicious, memorable vegan dishes. By choosing compassionate options for your events, you’ll bless your church, honor God, and set a trend for caring for all of creation.

Eating animal-derived foods supports violence and harms God’s creation. Each individual who goes vegan spares nearly 200 of God’s animals every year while also helping the planet, which is being damaged by the greenhouse gas emissions of animal agriculture. Being vegan has never been easier, thanks to hundreds of luscious vegan products, restaurants that offer vegan fare, and “accidentally vegan” foods you probably already know and love. You’ll find products from brands like Tofurky, Beyond Meat, Field Roast, and Lightlife on the shelves of many supermarkets. And be sure to order our *free* vegan starter kit and share it with your community: PETALAMBS.com/VSK.



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Reimagine Events and Prizes

Practice empathy for *all* when planning events and selecting prizes. If your church offers a retreat that involves fishing, urge participants to fish for *trash* instead. “Trash fishing” is a fun, cruelty-free activity that involves “fishing” litter out of the water rather than impaling sensitive living beings through their mouths. After fish are yanked out of the water, they suffocate in agony. Trash fishing is painless and cleans up animals’ homes,



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protecting them from becoming tangled in debris. Unlike regular fishing, which involves a lot of sitting and waiting for an unfortunate victim to bite and is both cruel and boring, trash fishing will keep you entertained without harming others. Plus, in one afternoon, you could catch 100 or more pieces of trash. Jesus and his disciples would surely approve.

You can knock your church's bingo night, auction, or raffle out of the park with PETA LAMBS' guide to creating an epic church fundraiser gift basket, which can be found at PETALAMBS.com/Basket. By including cruelty-free products and tasty vegan treats, you'll be encouraging compassion in a thoughtful new way.

With these small changes, you could eventually convert your whole church community into an animal-friendly worship group!

Arrange to Screen an Animal-Friendly Documentary

We've curated the following list of eye-opening documentaries that are appropriate for a church group. You'll find inspiring messages of compassion that will help your faith community take the next step in showing consideration for all of God's creatures.

- *Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home*, directed by Jenny Stein, is a powerful documentary that follows individuals on their journey from participating in traditional farming practices to understanding the complex, sensitive nature of animals who are exploited for profit. This film is an honest look at the perspectives of diverse individuals who seek to live ethically and in harmony with animals.
- *Called to Rescue: Redefining Our Barnyard Story*, codirected by Loghan and Naomi Sophia Call, focuses on love, inclusiveness, respect, joy, and all the fundamental tenets of faith. It explores the ways in which animal agriculture is driving climate change and a loss of biodiversity, and its thesis could be summed up



by this excerpt: "It's not enough just to feel badly about what's happening You actually need to take action because feeling sorry for these animals does absolutely nothing to help them."

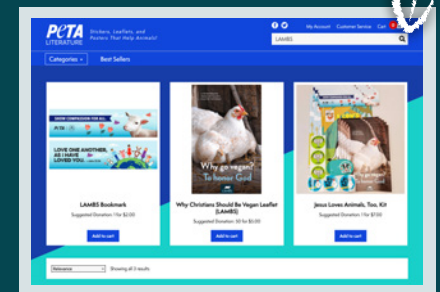
- *Speciesism: The Movie*, directed by Mark Devries, delivers the message that humans have been given dominion over animals in order to protect them. Looking at factory farming and its impact on local and global communities, this film is ideal for anyone interested in social justice, animal rights, or philosophy and will leave them questioning their own views, values, and actions.
- *A Prayer for Compassion*, directed by Thomas Wade Jackson, takes viewers on a trip around the world to meet spiritual leaders from many religions, including Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and Hinduism, who present compelling reasons why people of faith must reject violence toward animals in order to practice the most important tenets of any religion: mercy, compassion, and love.

Organize a Sharing Library or a Church Book Club to Discuss Critical Topics

We've also curated the following list of thought-provoking books perfect for a church book club or small group meeting. You'll find biblical messages of compassion that will enrich your faith community's understanding of how best to honor all of God's creatures.

Order and Share Free Literature From PETA

We proudly offer free informative literature and encourage you to order pamphlets for your community, such as PETA LAMBS' "Show Compassion for All" bookmark, our "Why Go Vegan? To Honor God" leaflet, PETA's vegan starter kit, and stickers for all ages. Visit PETA.org/Literature to place your order today.



- *Vegangelical: How Caring for Animals Can Shape Your Faith* by Sarah Withrow King is practical, restrained in its conclusions, and grounded in a broader theology of Christian compassion. Readers are called to a greater attentiveness to one of the primary relationships in God's created order: that of humans with other animals.
- *Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy* by Matthew Scully begins with the recognition that God granted humans dominion over other animals. But with this privilege comes the grave responsibility to respect life and treat animals with dignity and compassion. Somewhere along the way, something went wrong.
- *Animalkind: Remarkable Discoveries About Animals and Revolutionary New Ways to Show Them Compassion* by PETA President Ingrid Newkirk and bestselling author Gene Stone explores the wonders of animal life and offers tools for behaving more kindly toward them.
- *For Love of Animals: Christian Ethics, Consistent Action* by Charles Camosy, a theologian and an associate professor of bioethics at Fordham University, thoroughly reviews the basis for the Catholic obligation to protect animals: Scripture and Catholic social teaching. Practical advice about living with compassion is included.

Screen Videos From PETA's Virtual Animal Rights Conference

We're pleased to offer free access to the video recordings from PETA's virtual animal rights conference. Each session is about 15 to 30 minutes in length.

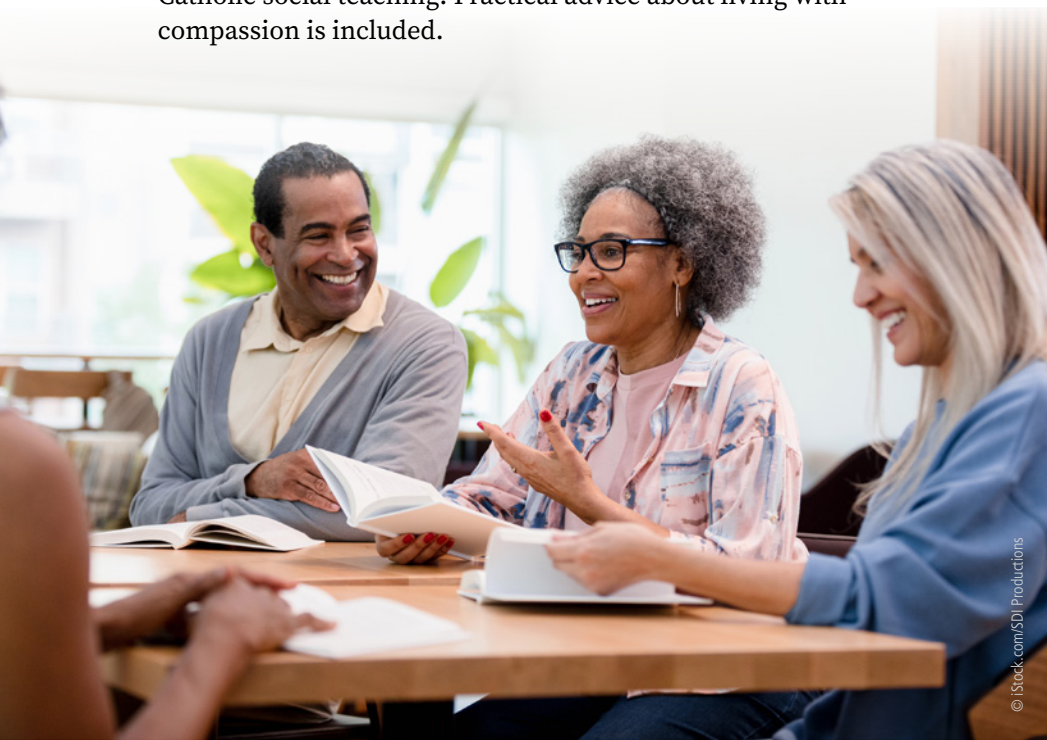
- "Parents, Teachers, and Students: Revolutionary Teaching Tools You Will Demand"
- "Manly vs. Macho: How Men Are Sold a Bill of Goods"
- "The Extraordinary Life of Sea Animals"
- "Beyond Meat Remix: Cooking Class With Jane Velez-Mitchell"

To access the videos, simply visit PETA.org/Conference and use access code [VARCPETA21](https://PETA.org/Conference). You can also take advantage of the other helpful conference resources on that page.

Present Community Speakers or a Short-Video Series

By launching a time-limited speaker series, you can engage other members of your community in learning and leadership as they research and share important facts about the issues affecting animals. Each week, a different community member can research a topic and then report back to the group. We'd be happy to provide input or support as you get this off the ground. Here are a few ideas for session titles.

- "Animals Used in Experimentation: The State of the Industry and Modern Solutions" (PETA's Research Modernization Deal provides a roadmap for reducing and eliminating animal experimentation, and major medical associations and experienced scientists endorse it.)
- "Farmed Animals: Who They Are, How They Suffer, and What You Can Do to Help Them"
- "Animal-Free Fashions: Cactus Leather, Alternatives to Wool, and Other Materials That Spare Animals' Lives"
- "Animals Used for Entertainment, From SeaWorld to the Iditarod to Roadside Zoos: Ways to Advocate for Them"
- "Animals Used in Entertainment: New Alternatives, From CGI to Animatronics"
- "Animals Considered to Be 'Pests': Learn About Their Sentience, Key Traits, Humane Ways to Deter Them, and Why We Should Never Use Glue Traps"



- “Companion Animal Issues: Keeping Cats and Dogs Outdoors, Tethering Dogs”
- “Bird-Friendly Living: How Bird-Friendly Glass, Native Plant Gardens, and Lights-Out Efforts Can Protect Millions of Birds”
- “Local Animal Issues: An Interview With a Local Open-Admission Shelter About the Importance of Adopting Instead of Buying Animal Companions”

INVEST IN COMPASSIONATE, CREATION-FRIENDLY CHOICES: A SHOPPING CHECKLIST

Pope Francis advised the world’s top financial advisors to be more humane and put concern for justice and creation before profit. He drew attention to worsening environmental conditions and the distressing living conditions of many people who lack access to nutrition, health care, and education, writing, “While our human family is globalized and interconnected, poverty, injustice, and inequalities remain.” As we individually invest in products for our faith communities, we should also pay special attention to stewarding our planet. Rather than funding cruel, exploitative industries, you can set an example for others by putting your dollars into supporting compassionate businesses. Here are a few things to keep in mind.



- **Food:** Look for vegan options. *All* meat comes from animals who were cruelly slaughtered, 99% of them after having been mutilated and confined to filthy, cramped enclosures on factory farms. And all animals used for food (including for eggs and milk) eventually end up in the slaughterhouse. This cruelty is simply unacceptable.
- **Candles:** Seek out soy, paraffin, or coconut wax. Animals are slaughtered in part to manufacture many traditional candles. The stearic acid and tallow used in stearin candles are derived from rendering the carcasses of cows, sheep, pigs, and even dogs and cats into purified fats. Beeswax candles require the

suffocation of bees. Animal-free options are available and listed on PETA’s website.

- **Shoes and accessories:** Leather comes from cows, pigs, goats, and sheep as well as exotic animals such as alligators, ostriches, and kangaroos—and sometimes even dogs and cats are slaughtered for their skin. When purchasing shoes, belts, wallets, jackets, bags, and other accessories, be mindful and choose items made of materials that aren’t a product of suffering.
- **Native plants:** It’s easy to create a garden that’s a beautiful, peaceful, and much-needed haven for birds, bees, and other pollinators whose natural habitats are rapidly being lost to development. Many birds like to eat thistle and tend to nest in climbing vines or plants such as clematis, ivy, or honeysuckle. Small trees such as holly and ivy are easy to plant and grow berries that birds can eat in the winter.
- **Bird-friendly glass:** Every year in the U.S. alone, nearly 1 billion birds die after colliding with glass windows, doorways, or other barriers. Fortunately, there are lots of ways to help keep birds from striking windows, and we encourage you to minimize the reflectivity and transparency of glass windows and doors by applying inexpensive decals. Urge your community to turn home and office lights off at night to make the spring and fall migration less perilous for birds.
- **Humane animal control:** Remove glue traps from your shopping list and home immediately. Rodents and other animals trapped by these vile devices suffer immeasurably during the days it takes for them to die of starvation, dehydration, or shock. Patches of their skin, fur, and feathers are torn off as they struggle to escape, and many even chew their own limbs off trying to get free. Humane alternatives include removing food and water sources, sealing entry points, and using safe and natural substances.



We're here to support you in your efforts to encourage caring
for all of God's creation in your faith community.

Animals suffer needlessly in the name of profit and need
all of us to be their defenders. Please help us build our community
by sharing your feedback about this toolkit. We would especially
love to hear which suggestions you've implemented.

Contact Christian Outreach and Engagement Coordinator
Candice Kelsey at CandiceK@petaf.org or 310-384-5132.



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