

## Bible chat week starting 9 10 22

### Read Genesis 7: 1 - 5

7: 1 The Lord then said to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. 2 Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, 3 and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. 4 Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.' 5 And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.

1. To what extent do you suppose we should take this as an historical account? What other type of story might it be? What messages does it give us about people? What message does it give about animals?
2. Why do you think animals matter to us? Do they matter to God? If so, why?
3. Britains regard themselves as a nation of animal lovers. Is this a title we deserve? What in our society suggests we do love animals? What suggests that we don't?
4. To what degree do you think that animal farming practices in the United Kingdom are humane?
5. What value do animals bring to you personally? Have you learnt lessons from animals? Why do they matter to you?
6. Human life on earth is tied up with the lives of animals and plants. Could people survive on Mars without other creatures? Do you picture heaven with or without animals? Why?

### Read 1 Corinthians 13

13: 1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.

When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Discuss: Can animals love?