

Celebrating Family Pets

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Figure 1 <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

Sometimes when a child enters the family, pets take a bit of a backseat for awhile. We can be inspired to celebrate the animals in our lives through the story of Saint Francis of Assisi. The feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi is October 4; it is a time of remembrance for his work of blessing and caring for all of God's creatures. Follow his example and celebrate the pet in your home!

For
Young Families

Season

Fall

Needed

Your pet's favorite treats, photos of your pet, plain paper, crayons, pencils, copy of All about Our Pet worksheet (see last page)

Prepare in Advance

If you don't have a pet, you might ask to celebrate the pet of a friend or family member who has one. If you have more than one pet, celebrate each one on a different day.

Activity Plan

1. Gather the family and look at photos of your pet. Work together to answer the questions on the All about Our Pet worksheet. If younger children want to write, print the answers lightly in pencil for them to trace. Attach a photo of your pet to the worksheet or have a child draw a picture of himself or herself with the pet.
2. Invite family members to draw pictures of your pet and display them near your pet's favorite place to rest or eat.
3. Help younger family members arrange some favorite pet treats in a pattern or path on the floor or a vinyl placemat. Then let your pet gobble them up.
4. Sit together with your pet in a calm space. Pray the following blessing for your pet:

Lord of all life, bless (pet name) and (his, her) life and play with us. Bless our work and play as we take care of the animals in your world. Thank you for bringing (pet name) into our lives. Amen.

5. You may continue with a prayer of thanks for unique things about your pet ("Thank you for Kirby's faithfulness to us ..." or "Thank you for Ranger's recovery from ..."). Invite family members to add intercessions.
6. Take some time to play with your pet!

All about Our Pet

Our pet is a _____.

Our pet's name is _____.

We show our pet love by _____.

Our pet shows us love by _____.

Funny things about our pet: _____

Nicknames for our pet: _____

Our pet's favorite toy is _____.

Our pet's favorite treat is _____.

Our pet really likes to play _____.

Here is a picture of our pet:

