

Small Group Ministry Session Thirty-Five: Pets

OPENING WORDS

“We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals. Remote from universal nature, and living by complicated artifice, man in civilization surveys the creature through the glass of his knowledge and sees thereby a feather magnified and the whole image in distortion. We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours they moved finished and attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth.”

The Outermost House Henry Benston

CHECK IN

Current state of physical or spiritual health

Joys or concerns about loved ones

Concerns/excitement about what is happening in our lives

REVIEW COVENANT

REVIEW PROGRESS OF THE CIRCLE

DISCUSSION

Having and loving pets is vitally important to many people. A life without a dog, cat, guinea pig, or even a fish in a bowl, is unthinkable. Pets bring unconditional love, they depend on us for affection and forgiveness.

1. What is your pet history?
2. What have pets meant to your life?
3. If you do not have pets now, why?

4. If you have pets now, why?

CHECK OUT

What did you like about this meeting? What do you wish had been different?

CLOSING WORDS

“Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals. Especially for animals who are suffering; for many that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry; for all that must be put to death. We entreat for them all the mercy and pity; and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to the animals and to share the blessings of the merciful.”

Dr. Albert Schweitzer