



## Celebrating and Caring for God's Creatures 3

### MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO

**Equipment:** No equipment needed.

**Plan:**

-  Play a game of Monkey See, Monkey Do. It works very much like Simon says, except using gestures instead of words. Everybody in the room has to watch and copy the gestures of the 'Monkey' (clapping hands, stamping feet etc) except for one thing. When the Monkey puts his/her hands over his/her mouth, everybody else has to keep theirs by their sides. Just as with Simon says, it's very easy to get caught out, especially if the Monkey picks up speed with the gestures.

**Purpose/Teaching:**

After playing the game, explain that scientists have discovered that in the wild, animals learn from the behaviour of those around them. Not everything which they do is based on instinct. Animals can solve problems, and pass their solutions on to their friends and family.

In Japan, some researchers were studying some macaque monkeys. They gave the monkey's some sweet potatoes. However, one female in the group decided that she didn't want to eat a dirty potato, and took hers to the sea to rinse it off. Gradually, the other monkey's around her began to copy this habit. In time, the scientists also noticed that the monkey's would deliberately walk past fresh water streams to wash their potatoes in the sea. Not only did they want clean potatoes, they wanted salty potatoes as well. They were preparing their food! The female in the group must have been the Nigella Lawson of the monkey world.

Many animals are capable of thinking, feeling and learning. Christians believe in a loving Creator, God, who cares for all that he has made. It is impossible for us to imagine a loving God making animals with thoughts and feelings, and then not caring whether they were happy or sad, comfortable or in pain. We believe that the welfare of his animals is important to God, so it must be important to us all too.

Let's pray: Loving God, we thank you for the amazing animals with whom we share this beautiful world. We know that you watch over them all. Teach us to watch them too. Inspire us to take delight in care for all that you have made. Amen.

