



Who was here? – animal tracks walk

AT A GLANCE



Place

Outdoors in the woods, a park or a meadow



Key idea

Discovering animal tracks and marvelling that God takes care of every animal



Effort

Materials 10 min · Preparation 15 min



60 minutes



6-12 children



3-6 years



with picture cards



Materials

- ☐ picture cards with tracks of deer, fox, hare, squirrel and bird
- ☐ a basket for finds (cones, feathers, nutshells)
- ☐ bug viewers (magnifying pots)
- ☐ water and soap or wet wipes
- ☐ modelling clay and small animal figures for making prints



Schedule

0-5'	Arrival – We creep off as quietly as foxes: who can walk most quietly?
5-30'	Track hunt – Search together: nibbled cones, feathers, holes in the ground, prints in the mud. Compare with the picture cards.
30-42'	Making prints – Press animal figures into clay and guess: which animal was it?
42-52'	Devotion – Matthew 6:26: Jesus says God takes care of the birds – and of you even more.
52-60'	Closing – Look at the finds, wash hands and say thank you.



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How it works – simply explained

- 1 First show a picture card and ask: what does the track look like? Big or small?
- 2 Walk slowly and look at the ground, at trees and at cones.
- 3 Whoever finds something calls quietly: “Someone was here!” – and everyone comes to look.
- 4 Compare with the cards: does the track match an animal?
- 5 Finds like feathers and cones can go in the basket; we leave the animals themselves in peace.

 **Example:** “Look, this cone has been nibbled all over! I bet that was a squirrel. God gave it food in the woods.”



Safety

- Children stay within sight; set a clear boundary for the area beforehand.
- Only look at animal droppings, dead animals and mushrooms, do not touch them; wash hands afterwards.
- After being in the woods check for ticks and remind parents to do so.



Variations

- Make a plaster cast of a real track (with a leader).
- Animal track memory game with home-made cards.



Something to think about

Which animal did God make especially beautiful?