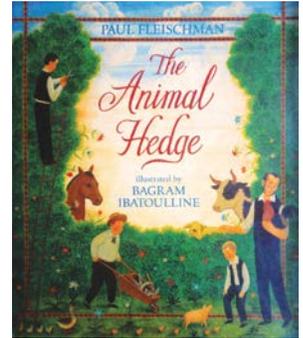


TRY THIS AT HOME!

A THEOLOGY OF THE BODY LESSON FOR THE HOME



1. Read *The Animal Hedge* by Paul Fleischman.
2. Ask your child a few questions about the story. Here are a few suggestions:
 - Why do you think the farmer loves his animals so much? What actions show that the farmer really cares for his animals?
 - What do you think the farmer likes about his work? Compare/contrast his work with that of another profession.
 - Should the farmer have tried to keep his animals? What were his reasons for selling his animals to market?
 - Is a good rain enough to make the farmer happy? Why or why not?
 - Who in this story makes a gift-of-self? How is the gift good for other people in the story?
 - Who makes hard choices in this story?
 - Should the boys have stayed on the farm to work alongside their father?
3. At the end of the story, choose one of the following activities:



Discuss your work with your child. Explain what you do and how it is a way for you to offer your life back to God. If possible, invite your child to be part of your workday.

Notice the farmer's facial expressions throughout the story. What can we understand about the farmer through his body language?

Go on a nature walk and discuss the names of the creatures you see. Highlight our uniqueness as human beings.

Visit a farm or petting zoo and discuss our role in caring for creation.

Do chores together as a family while singing a song or playing music. Discuss the importance of daily tasks that help the family.

4. Pray the Lord's Prayer with your child or read Matthew 13:3-8 and discuss the Parable of the Sower.

HOW DOES THIS STORY TEACH THEOLOGY OF THE BODY?



Theology of the Body highlights that each person is unique and unrepeatable. Each person is brought into existence by God and reveals something about God that no other person can reveal. God has a personal love for every human being that he creates; our response to receiving this love is to love in return. Through our work and care of creation, we receive all life as a gift from our loving Father and offer him praise.