



**MIND
ACTIVITY**

FRANCIS & FRIENDS

CIRCLE OF LIFE

written by Carol Peterson

Activity Instructions

One of the ways to help children to think and talk about death is to place it in the context of the circle of life. Helping them to think about the birth, life, death, renewal cycle of nature can be a useful approach.

Find a natural location close to you that you can take the child/children to, such as a beach, the mountains, a woods, a creek, etc.

Think about what examples of the birth, life, death, renewal cycle you might encounter there (empty shells, a decomposing tree, butterflies, tadpoles, trees with falling leaves, spring flowers, dead insects, bones, etc.). You might wish to visit the site in advance to look for examples.

Prior to the nature walk, talk with the child/children about the natural life cycles we see in nature (spring, summer, fall, winter). Give them other examples and see if they can come up with some.

Go on your nature walk and ask the children to look for any examples of the stages of birth, life, death, renewal they might see. You might want to visit this same site again later during a different time of the year and ask them to look for changes.

from Ecclesiastes 3

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

Discussion Questions

1. Do you see similar things happen in the lives of plants, animals and people as time goes by (birth, life, death)?
2. Why do you think God made spring, summer, fall and winter?
3. Have you ever had a pet, grandparent, or other loved one die? How did you feel at the time?
4. What do you think would happen to our world if no one and no thing ever died?

Supply List

None



Prayer

Loving God. We thank you for your wonderful creation that we see around us every day - plants, animals and people. Help us to know that you love and care for all of your creation and each and every one of us. Help us to see and understand you in new ways as we look at the world around us. Amen.