

Lesson 10 - Animals feel God's love

Aim

- * For children to learn about the life-cycle of frogs
- * To understand that animals have feelings and they can feel God's love through people, so we must be kind towards all animals

Materials

Picture book of frogs and tadpoles
Picture showing the life-cycle of frogs
"The Tadpoles" by Esther Tanahashi
A picture from the story to colour

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction
 2. Story & Discussion
 3. Activities - colour pictures
 4. Review aims of lesson
 5. Prayer
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1) Introduction

Show and discuss pictures of frogs and tadpoles

2) Story & Discussion

- * Tell the story "The Tadpoles"

- * Questions to discuss

Do you like finding little animals and keeping them in containers?

Who has done that?

What did you keep?

What happened to them?

Did you feed them?

Did you put them back?

Did they die?

Do you think animals are afraid or happy when you pick them up?

How can you be kind to animals? *We can stroke and pat dogs and cats. Take them for a walk.*

What do animals do to show they are happy? *Dogs wag their tails, birds sing, cats purr.*

Because God made animals they can feel our love when we are kind and feel pain when we are not kind. We must try to feel God's love for animals by caring for them. Sometimes it is better to let them stay where they, because we take them away from their home and family

3) Activities

- * Colour a picture from the story
- * Colour a picture of the life-cycle of a frog

4) Review the aims of the lesson

- * For children to learn about the life cycle of frogs
- * To understand that animals have feelings and they can feel God's love through people, so we must be kind towards all animals

5) Prayer

Say a prayer to thank God for giving us animals. Help us to be kind to all animals

The Tadpoles

By Esther Tanahashi



1) Sam was just waking up, the golden rays of the sun seemed to tell him, “Get up quickly! Everything is waiting for you outside!” It was one of those warm spring days when you hear the bees, the crickets and the birds all sing together. Frogs were croaking in the distance. Sam was listening to this amazing orchestra for some time. It made him feel happy.

2) Later that day Sam went out with a friend. “Come!” said Sam, “Let’s go to see the frogs.” There was a nice little lake not far from the farm where Sam lived. At first, the frogs’ croaking seemed to come from everywhere. When the boys came closer, everything became very quiet. They sat down near to the water to see where the frogs were hiding. For a long time they watched quietly. Then, little by little, the croaking came back. It seemed to come from everywhere. But it was hard to discover even one of the frogs in the grass or in the water.

3) When the two boys had been sitting there for some time, Sam’s friend said with surprise, “Look! The water is full of little fish!”

“Oh, now I see it! Tadpoles!” Sam exclaimed. “Let’s catch some. I want to see how they grow. I’ll make a little pond for them at home.”

It was almost evening when Sam came home with the tadpoles. His friend had already gone home.

4) Sam was watching the tadpoles in his bucket. “You are so beautiful, little baby frogs,” Sam said. “How can you swim so well just by moving your tiny little tail? Was it your mother who taught?” Then he started digging them a pond. He worked and worked, until it was completely dark outside. He had just poured his last bucket of water in the pond, when Sam’s father came to call him. Together they put the tadpoles in the pond.

5) When they had finished Sam stayed for a while, looking at the little creatures. He felt very happy to have his own tadpoles. “Good night little frogs!” Sam said. “I have to go now. Early tomorrow I’ll be back to see you.”

6) After dinner, Sam fell into a deep sleep. That night he had a dream. He dreamed that the baby frogs were hungry, very hungry. Some of them were crying, “Where is my Mummy and Daddy?” In his dream, Sam ran to the little pond he had dug. Oh no..... It was as if a knife cut through him.... Several of the tadpoles were floating on the water. “Oh, my tadpoles!” Sam exclaimed. “Why did you die? Your mother will be so sad.”

7) Early next morning Sam woke up in tears.

“Is it true ?” he asked himself. “Did my tadpoles really die?”

Before he got dressed or even combed his hair, Sam ran out to his little pond. He felt so relieved when he saw the tadpoles were all swimming.

“Are you alright?” he asked them. “Aren’t you swimming a little slower than yesterday? Maybe my dream was a warning. Maybe you are really hungry and surely, you must miss your mom and dad. After all, you are only babies.”

8) While Sam put the tadpoles in the bucket to to bring them back to the lake, he said to them, “Of course you couldn’t be happy in this little pond of mine. You belong in the lake with all the other frogs. There you have to grow and learn from your parents. I would really like to keep you and watch you grow every day, ” Sam continued. “However, I know you will be much happier in the lake. How can I be happy if you are not?” Sam put the little frogs back in the lake. He had tears in his eyes. “Your mum and dad will be so happy when they see you coming back. They must be worried about you,” Sam whispered.

9) Sam often went to the lake to listen to the frogs croaking. One day he went there with his daddy. He held Sam by the hand, saying, “They must have grown into big frogs now. Only because you took care of them so well. Do you know Sam? Those tadpoles must have been very happy when you took them home with you. I too was happy to see you taking such care of them.”

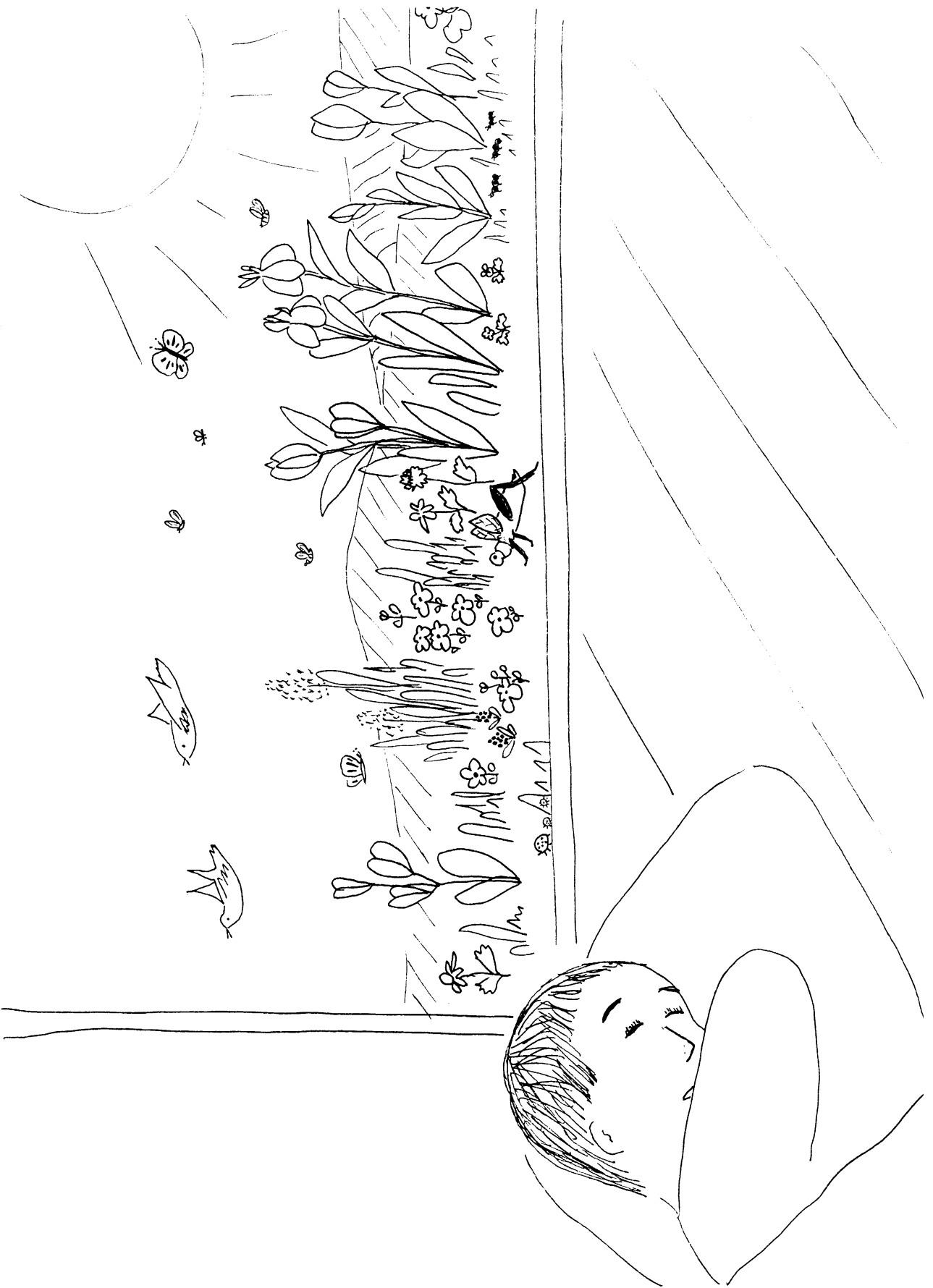
“Really?” Sam answered with surprise. “I love to study animals and insects. I want to look at them all the time. But do they really like it too?” Sam asked his father.

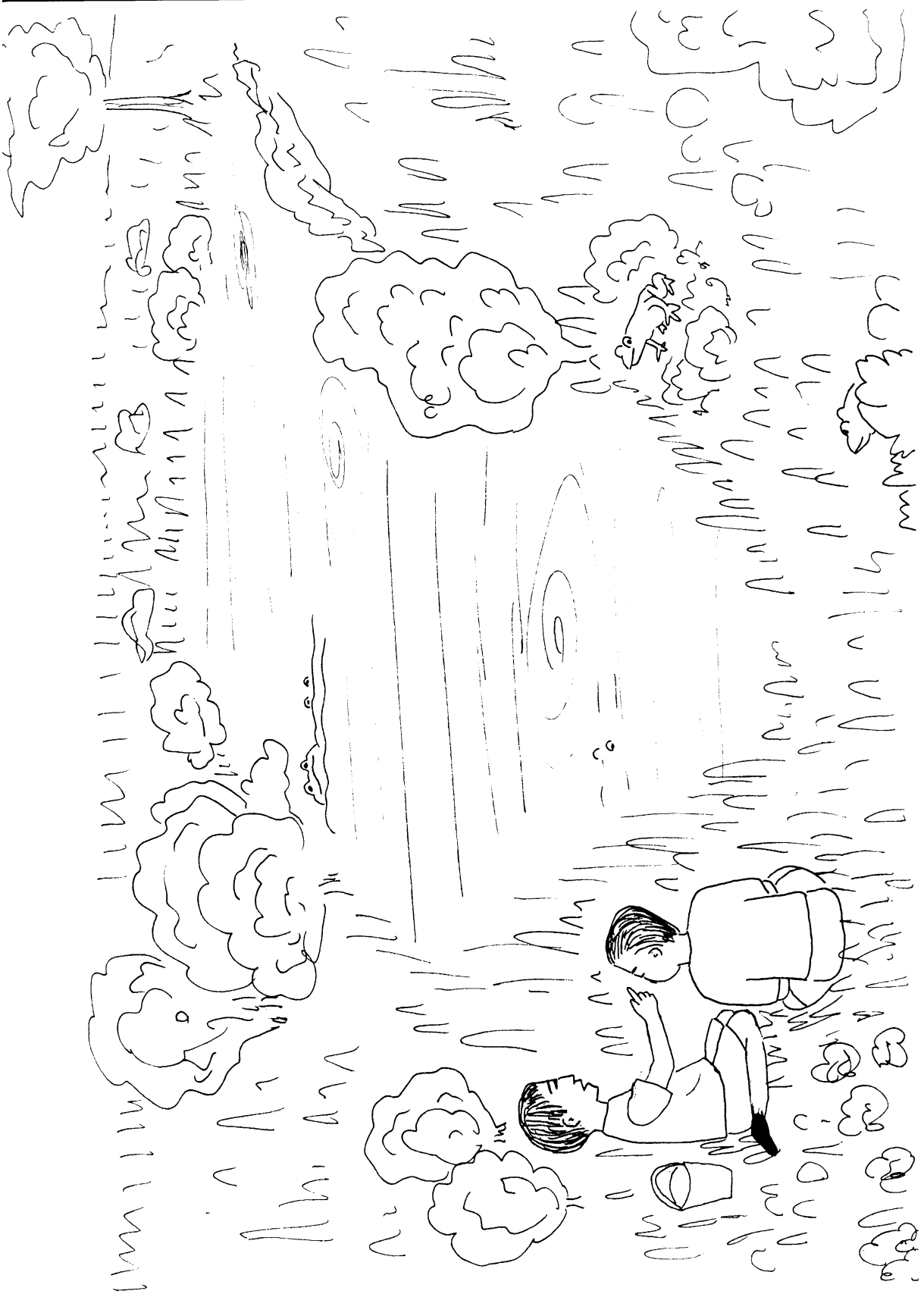
10) “Of course, the most important thing for animals are their young,” Sam’s father said. “Birds build their nests very carefully to protect their babies. Beavers, elephants, and many other animals take a long time to train their young. Yet more important for animals, plants, and all nature, is to feel that you really care about them,” Sam’s father said. “You can study animals as much as you like, but never forget that it is only through people, like you and I, that they can feel God’s love.”

Note from the author:

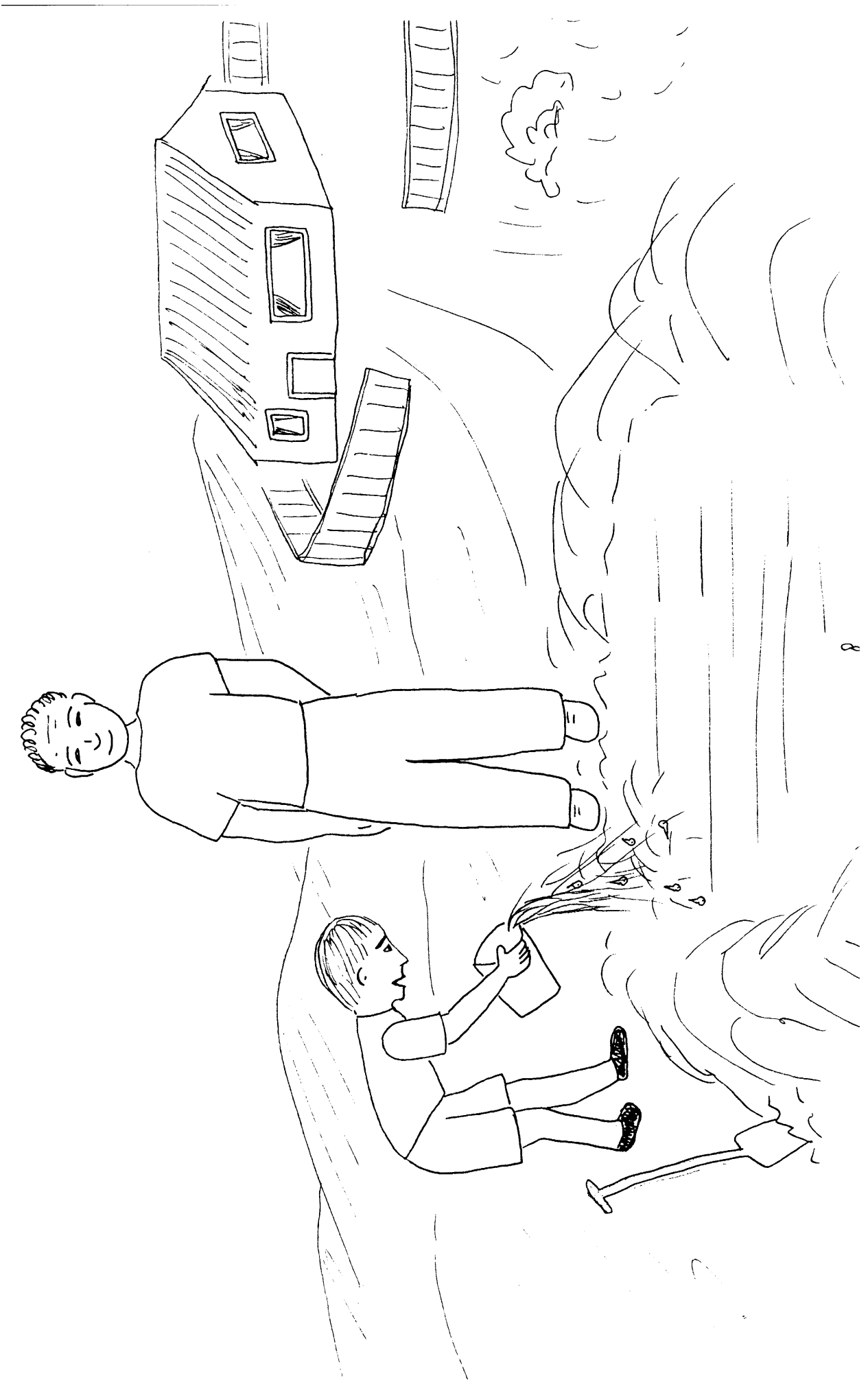
I was inspired to write this story after reading about Father’s experience with nature. Father really loved nature and carefully studied birds and often caught frogs and tadpoles. He made a pond for them near his home. Sometimes some of the tadpoles had died by the next morning. Father felt so sad for their parents who would be worried about their young. It was moving for me to see that Father, even as a young boy, had so much compassion and concern over the mother frog when he saw the dead tadpoles in his pond.











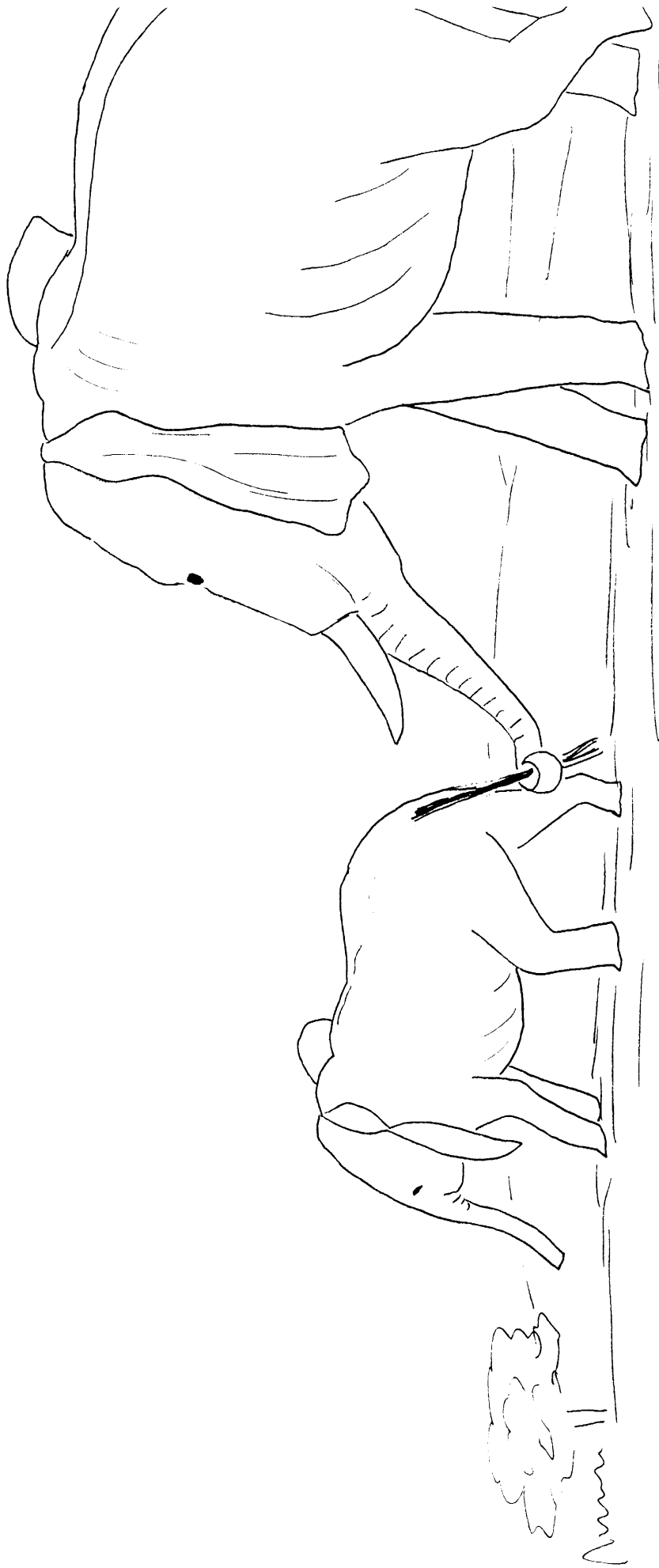




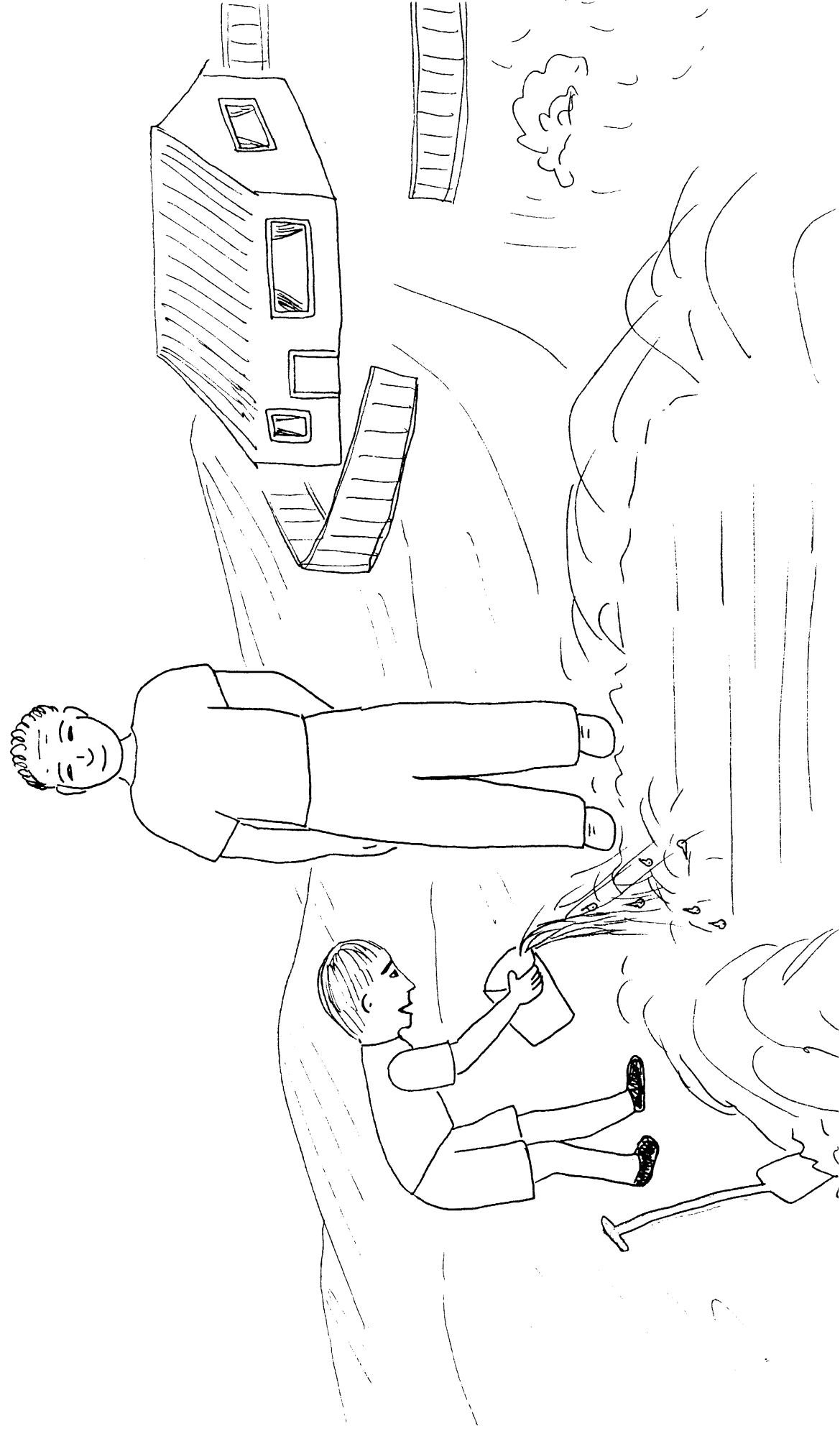








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Animals feel God's love