

## God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

# *Warthog*



The warthog is a funny looking animal. It is smaller than our farmyard pigs and has large tusks. When the warthog feeds on roots, it walks around in a funny way. It stands upright on its hind legs but kneels down and moves about on its front knees.

The warthog has very sensitive lips that help it eat seeds from ripe grasses. It also has a snout like a pig that helps it dig around for root vegetables. Between seeds and roots, the warthog eats a good diet and can live where other animals could not.

Warthogs make good mothers and will often raise families together with their sisters.

What can we learn from the warthog?

Warthogs look different from other animals yet they can survive where other animals would starve. We should remember that there is a place in God's kingdom for everyone no matter what they look like. Tall or short, fat or thin, good looking or ugly, God loves each of us the same and Jesus died for all of us. If someone looks different that just makes them more interesting. The Bible tells us in Romans 12:5, *"In Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others."* We are all part of God's kingdom if we believe in Jesus as our Savior.

Warthogs act differently from other animals and they live very well when other animals do not. We should try to act differently also. We should try to act as the Bible teaches us. Others may think we are different and may even make fun of us for this but while they are acting badly and getting into trouble, we will be acting the right way and staying out of trouble. Jesus, the Son of God, acted as His Father in heaven wanted Him to and we are all blessed because of the way Jesus acted. If Jesus was afraid to be different and did not act as His Father wanted Him

to, we would all still be sinners who had no one to save us.

Warthogs walk around on their knees as they eat root vegetables. It is almost like they were praying all the time. We can learn from this. God feeds us and takes care of us all the time. We should take the time to pray and thank God for all He has done for us. We can also pray for forgiveness from our sins and also to ask God for whatever we need. The Bible tells us in Hebrews 4:16, *“Let us then approach the throne of grace (God) with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

The warthog eats the right food and that keeps it healthy in a place that does not have much food. The warthog is very careful about what it eats. It finds the best seeds and roots and avoids harmful or poisonous plants. We too should eat the right “food” which is the Word of God - the Bible. If we fill ourselves with the sinful things of the world, we will be sick. If we fill ourselves with the good things of the Bible, we will be healthy and much happier. An example of the difference between the sinful things of the world and the good things of the Bible is this. Suppose you ate nothing but what looked good, such as candy. Candy may seem good but you would get sick if that was all you ate. Now suppose you ate foods that were good

for you even if they did not look as exciting as candy. You would not get sick from this food and would be healthy. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 30:8, *“Feed me with food convenient (good) for me.”*

Turning away from the sins of the world does not give us less fun. Being a Christian does not mean that we do not have fun - we just do not have fun by doing what is bad, that is, sinning.

Warthogs work together to raise their young. We should learn to work together so that everyone is able to grow up healthy and strong. When we help others, we are doing what Jesus wants us to. We all have many things we do well and we can share these talents with others. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 22:6, *“Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.”*

