

God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

Rhinoceros



The rhinoceros is a truly powerful animal. The rhinoceros weighs several thousand pounds yet can run at speeds of 30 miles per hour. An angry rhinoceros can turn a car or truck over by running into it. The horn of a rhinoceros is a deadly weapon.

The skin of a rhinoceros is so thick that it can stop many kinds of bullets yet is so sensitive that insects bother it greatly. Many types of birds will ride

on the rhinoceros's back in order to eat the insects on the skin. Both animals benefit from this—the bird gets a meal and the rhinoceros gets rid of annoying insects.

The rhinoceros has good hearing but very poor eyesight. This makes a mother rhinoceros very dangerous since she will attack anything she thinks is a threat to her baby.

What can we learn from the rhinoceros?

The Bible talks about putting on the armor of God in Ephesians chapter 6, *“Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes... the belt of truth...breastplate of righteousness...shield of faith...helmet of salvation ... and sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.”* When we look at the rhinoceros we can get an idea of how powerful we can be with this armor that comes from God.

We learn from the rhinoceros that when danger is present, we should not be afraid. We should trust God and stand against sin and the devil. We should be strong in faith to Jesus and attack anything that tries to pull us away from God. The Bible tells us in James 4:7, *“Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you.”*

At the same time we are being strong, we should also be sensitive. The powerful rhinoceros is so sensitive to insect bites that it allows birds to ride on its back to pick off the bugs. We should be aware that others can help us with problems and we should work together with those who help us. There are many people in our lives who help us such as parents, teachers, and friends, and we should appreciate what they do for us. Sometimes, like a pecking bird, those who help us give us a little nip. We should remember that the lessons we learn may be hard to accept but they are for our own good.

We cannot always see everything in the same way God does. Like the rhinoceros, our eyesight is weak and we cannot see what God has planned for us. We do, however, have the Bible and we should listen to what God has to say. The Bible is God's holy word and is filled with all the wonderful things we should know about God's love and mercy. The Bible tells us in 1st Corinthians 2:9, *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."*

Like the mother rhinoceros with her baby, we should cherish the Bible and our faith in Jesus and fight against anything or anyone who would take this away from us with false ideas or by making fun of us.

The mother rhinoceros does not wait for an enemy to attack; she is always ready to defend herself and her baby. We too should always be ready to defend our faith. The Bible tells us in 1st Peter 3:15, *“Always be prepared to give and answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”*

We can learn a lot from the rhinoceros. We should be strong yet sensitive. We should be grateful for the help of others in solving our problems. We should be gentle with those trying to help us and patient with them. We should be covered in the armor of God so that we will not be hurt when our faith is rejected by others. We should always be ready to defend our faith in Jesus with all our strength. We may not be able to see everything clearly but we should always be listening to the Word of God which is the Bible.

