

Lesson 8

God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

Hyena



Hyenas have both awful and wonderful characteristics. Hyenas are very strong animals with very powerful jaws. They will attack and kill animals larger than themselves especially when they hunt in groups. Hyenas will try to eat far more than they are able to and will throw up food they cannot hold. They will eat every part of an animal they kill including the hide, hooves and bones. Hyenas will store food in hiding places when they cannot eat or

carry all of it home. They will share their food with the youngsters in the group that are not their own children.

What can we learn from the hyena?

Hyenas seem to show us what we are like when we follow sinful ways. When we are excited about the sinfulness of the world, it is as though we are eating everything that we see, including things we should not eat. We are not careful about what we fill ourselves with and this can lead us away from God. When we act like this, we can poison ourselves with sinful things. We should rather fill ourselves with good things such as the things we find in the Bible.

The hyena teaches us that working together, we can all benefit. When the hyena hunts in groups that work together, everyone gets food to eat.

Hyenas also teach us about sharing. Even though they will try to eat more than they can, they will bring home food for the young. Hyenas share their wealth with those who cannot take care of themselves.

Hyenas also teach us not to waste God's gifts. When there is more food than the hyena can carry,

it hides what it cannot eat and returns later to bring it back to the group. It does not leave it to waste. We should always be grateful for all of God's blessings and not waste them.

