

THE PINE TREE



Take a moment to look at a pine tree. It stands straight and tall. The shape of the pine tree's branches forms an arrow that points up to the sky. The pine tree has deep roots that help it to withstand wind and harsh weather. The pine tree keeps its needles all year long and stays green even in winter. It is home to many kinds of birds and animals and its pinecones provide food for animals.

What can we learn from God's creation of the pine tree?

Unlike many other kinds of trees, the pine tree has a long and straight trunk which points only towards the sky. The pine tree seems completely focused on looking and reaching up to heaven. The lesson in this is that we too should be looking and reaching up to God for all our needs. Jesus always looked only to God the Father for all His needs even though He had great power as the Son of God and true God. Jesus knew that everything comes from God and He taught us to follow His example and to look up to God for our help. It says in Philippians

4:19, "God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

The branches of the pine tree form an arrow that points up to heaven. The lesson God teaches us here is that we too should live in such a way that our faith always points up to God. When others see how we believe and behave, they should see us serving our God in all we do. We should point the way to God as the help and salvation for all people. Jesus teaches us in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise you Father in heaven."

The pine tree has deep roots that allow it to stand up even in very bad weather. The lesson God teaches us here is that we should have deep roots in the Bible and all it teaches us. If we read our Bibles and learn its lessons, we will be able to stand firm even when bad things happen to us. If we hold tightly to our faith in Jesus' great love as we learn from the Bible, we will be able to find reasons to be thankful and sure of God's love no matter what happens in our lives. The Bible teaches us in

Jeremiah 17:7-8, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

Unlike other trees that lose their leaves in winter, the pine tree keeps its needles all year long. When all else seems dead in winter, the pine tree is alive with color. The lesson God teaches us here is that our faith in Jesus as our Savior can be seen even when bad things happen. Just as the pine tree cheers us up in the gloomy months of winter, our faith will cheer us up when everything else seems to be going wrong. Jesus loves us so much that he died to save us from our sins. Jesus' love goes beyond that. Jesus still watches over us and protects us with His great love. Jesus said in John 15:11, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." Jesus also said in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to

you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

The pine tree provides a home for many birds and animals. The pine tree also provides food for animals like the squirrel. The lesson God teaches us here is that He provides for all our needs and we should try to help others who need help. Just as God shelters us from the weather and keeps us fed, we should try to help others who need help. We should also tell others about God's great love which He showed when He sent his Son Jesus to live and die to save us from our sins and provide a home for us in heaven. The Bible teaches us in Proverbs 22:9, "A generous man will himself be blessed for he shares his food with the poor." Jesus teaches us to love and help others in Matthew 25:34-36 when He says, "The King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I

needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

