

Lesson 2

God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

Giraffe



The long necked giraffe really stands out in a crowd. They can be three times as tall as a man. An interesting fact about the giraffe is that it has the same number of bones in its neck as most animals and human beings even though the neck is so long. While giraffes look awkward, they are very fast runners and a kick from one of their back legs can kill a lion. Giraffes have "horns" on their heads to protect them from the branches of the trees that they eat from.

What can we learn from the giraffe?

Whether we are tall or short, we should stand out in the crowd as Christians. When others see us they should see that we love Jesus and follow His teaching. When others do bad things do we go along with them or do we refuse to join them? It may not be fun to be different from the others around you but remember, Jesus is always your best friend and He loves you. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Just as the giraffe can run very fast, we too should run from sin. While sin may seem

exciting, it is very dangerous - just like a lion - and we would be foolish not to run away. Giraffes run to safety and we can run to Jesus for safety. The Bible tells us in Psalm 26:5, "I have hated the congregation of evil doers and will not sit with the wicked."

When a lion or tiger chases a giraffe and is about to attack, the giraffe kicks out with its long legs. A kick from a giraffe can kill a lion. Even if it does not kill the lion, it makes the lion go away. When Satan is chasing us and wants us to sin and turn away from Jesus, we act just like the giraffe and kick him. How do we do this? We ask Jesus to protect us from sin and to make Satan go away. Jesus will protect us with even more power than a giraffe's kick. The Bible in Psalm 139:19 says, "If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Away from me you bloodthirsty men!"

Giraffes have "horns" on their heads to protect them from the branches of the trees they feed from. If they did not have these "horns" they would get hurt. In a way, we have a type of protection just like the giraffe. We have the Bible. If we read our Bibles, we will know

what God has done for us and what He expects from us. By knowing this, we will be protected from banging our heads on sinful things.

The giraffe has such a long neck in order to eat the leaves from tall trees. Why is this important? If every animal ate the same food, soon there would not be enough food and they would starve. The giraffe eats a type of food that the other animals do not eat. We should be like the giraffe in what we "eat". When so many people around us take pleasure in doing things that are wrong, we should not do the same things they do. In other words, we should not "eat" the same sinful things that they do. We should eat something different from all the other people. We should fill ourselves with God's word which is the Bible. The people who fill themselves with sinful things will get a belly ache. If we fill ourselves with God's word, we will be strong and healthy. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled."

Jesus said, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about. My food, said Jesus, is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his

work” (John 4:32, 34). Jesus was talking about doing God the Father’s work of earning the forgiveness of sins for everyone. The food Jesus is talking about is the satisfaction of doing God’s will.

