

God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

Lion



The lion is a very social animal with a very definite territory. It hunts and eats according to the traditions passed down from its parents and grandparents. The lion welcomes members of its group (*called a pride*) with a ritual greeting which involves rubbing of heads and sides while making friendly noises. If any stranger tries to invade the group or threaten it, the lion will strongly defend its territory. When hungry, the lion is a very dangerous hunter.

What can we learn from the lion?

Let's think of our faith in Jesus and the forgiveness of sins Jesus earned for us as our "territory" as we learn from the lion. We should learn all we can by reading the Bible so that we can defend our "territory" against any who would pull us away from Jesus. The Bible tells us in 2nd Timothy 2:26, "*Escape from the trap of the devil.*"

We can learn much from our parents and grandparents about faith. We also need to keep learning from the Bible so that we know what God is teaching us.

Just as the lion welcomes members of its group, we should welcome those who are part of God's family as if they were our family. Unlike the lion, we should not reject strangers but should welcome them also. Only if someone tries to teach us anything that goes against the Bible's teachings should we reject them and defend our faith against them.

Just as a hungry lion walks around looking for something to eat, we should always be hungry for God's word and righteousness which comes only from Jesus. We should read our Bibles just like a

lion hunting food so that we can be filled with all of the good things God has given us through His Son Jesus. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:6, *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.”*

The lion is so focused on his desires that the Bible compares Satan to a lion in 1st Peter 5:8, *“Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”* We should be like a roaring lion in different way: prowling around looking for someone to tell the story of Jesus and His love.

