

## God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

# *Tortoise and Turtle*



The tortoise lives on land and the turtle lives in the water but otherwise they are very much alike. Both have large shells into which they can pull themselves to escape harm from an enemy. Both have very powerful legs for walking or swimming. Their diet usually consists of plants but there are some sea turtles that eat poisonous animals such as the toxic coral, sea urchins, Portuguese man-of-war and jellyfish as well as other fish. Both tortoises

and turtles can live to very old age if they can survive childhood which is a very dangerous time for these animals.

What can we learn from the tortoise and the turtle?

God has provided these animals with a very special form of protection - the shell. The shell keeps the tortoise and turtle safe from enemies as well as heat and cold. When threatened, the tortoise and turtle can pull their heads and legs into the shell and remain safe until the danger is past.

God also provides us with a very special form of protection. In the Bible, we are told to put on the armor of God (*which is like the tortoise's and turtle's armored shell*). The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6:11, 14-17, *"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes....Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of*

*salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.”*

Like some of the sea turtles, we are protected from the poisons around us. Sin is like a poison that can kill the soul. God protects us from sin if we pray and ask Him for forgiveness. Thanks to Jesus, who died on the cross, everyone is saved from their sins.

Just like the tortoise and turtle, we are in the most danger when young. Satan is always looking for people he can steal from God. Children are in danger because they may not know good from evil. This is why it is important to read the Bible and go to Sunday school classes. With faith in Jesus as your Savior, you will have a very long life. If you believe in Jesus then no matter how long you live on earth, you will live for all eternity with God in heaven. That is a long life, indeed!

