

God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

*Chipmunk and Squirrel*



The chipmunk and the squirrel are very similar. They live in trees or in burrows in the ground. Both store food in advance so that they will not starve in the winter. Both are very agile either on the ground or in the trees. Chipmunks and squirrels live in groups (*especially those who live in the ground*), and can be easily upset by neighbors who approach their nests. Chipmunks and squirrels can be very

friendly to people and can easily become frequent visitors to our homes if we feed them. When chipmunks and squirrels see danger, they warn their neighbors and then run for cover.

What can we learn from chipmunks and squirrels?

Chipmunks and squirrels teach us to appreciate and store up our blessings so that they will not be wasted. Chipmunks and squirrels know that life can be hard at times and they try to prepare for those hard times. Christians can do the same thing. We should always think about the blessings God has given us and appreciate them. Our every need is provided for by God. Jesus died on the cross to give us the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. We should store these blessings up in our hearts and remember them when we go through difficult times. We should remember that God has always taken care of us and always will.

Just as the chipmunk and squirrel store up food for the winter, we should store up the treasure of our faith and what God has done for us. Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:19-21, *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But*

*store up for yourselves treasures in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" We should keep our eyes and hearts on Jesus and live as He would want us to. In this way, we store up treasures in heaven rather than forgetting God and storing up treasure on earth.

Chipmunks and squirrels also teach us that we should live in peace with our neighbors and do what we can to help them. The chipmunk and squirrel warn their neighbors of danger before thinking of themselves. Jesus tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves and the chipmunk and squirrel seem to show us how this is done.

As a good neighbor, we should respect the property of others. Chipmunks and squirrels live together peacefully but will chase away those who come into their nests without being asked.

Chipmunks and squirrels act in a friendly way towards those who help them. They appreciate the kindness of others and we can learn a lesson from them. We should always appreciate the kind things others do for us. At home, do we always appreciate that our meals are cooked, the house cleaned and

our clothes washed? Do we appreciate how much effort it takes to earn the money to support us? Just as God provides for our needs and deserves our appreciation and love, our parents also deserve this. When others do kind things for us we should thank them and appreciate what they have done for us. Do we appreciate how hard our teachers work to teach us the things we need to know in this world? Do we appreciate our friends? Do we appreciate our church? These are all blessings God has given us and we should, like the chipmunk and squirrel, store them up and enjoy them.

