

God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

Skunk



The skunk is a very misunderstood animal. When people think of the skunk, they usually only think of its powerful and smelly spray which it uses for defense. The skunk is a beautiful and gentle creature which does no harm to anyone if left alone and not threatened. It will make every effort to

avoid trouble and only sprays if no other way out of harm is available.

Skunks eat a variety of things including some animals and insects we consider pests; in this way, they are a help to us. They are known to make good pets when their scent glands are removed so that they cannot spray by accident.

What can we learn from the skunk?

The skunk teaches us how to avoid danger whenever we can. Danger for us includes the danger of sin. The skunk will run away from danger or make threatening moves to scare away an enemy. We too should run away from sin or tell Satan (*or others who would try to make us sin*) to go away. This is what Jesus did when Satan tempted Him after His baptism as we read in Matthew 4:10, *“Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me Satan. For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’ Then the devil left him.”* Jesus used the power of God’s Word to scare away Satan and the sins that Satan wanted Jesus to do.

When an enemy will not leave a skunk alone and there is no other way out of danger, the skunk will spray a powerful and smelly liquid. This

powerful weapon will make even the bravest enemy run away. We too have a powerful weapon to use against an enemy. That weapon is the Word of God that is found in the Bible. The Bible tells us in Hebrews 4:12, *“The Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double edged sword it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow.”* The Bible is a very powerful gift that protects us through the power of God Himself.

The following example of a policeman will help you understand the protection of God through His words. When a policeman says to you, *“Stop”*- you will stop. The word of the policeman has the authority and power of the law and you will obey. When Satan hears the Word of God even he has to obey because all of the power of God is in His Word.

The Bible is not just a book like any other book. The Bible is a wonderful gift that God has given us so that we can learn about Him and learn what He has done for us. The Bible tells us how God wants us to believe and live. It gives us great comfort and hope. We would not know about Jesus and how He saved us from our sins if we could not read about Him in the Bible.

Just like the skunk has a powerful weapon yet is gentle, we too should treat others with kindness. The skunk does not try to use its powerful spray to hurt others. We should also not try to hurt others. The Bible tells us in Philippians 4:5, *“Let your gentleness be evident to all.”* The Bible also tells us in 1st Peter 3:15, *“In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”*

We should try to be like the skunk – gentle and yet powerful. We should reflect the beauty of Jesus and the salvation He earned for us. We can reflect God’s power when we use the word of God in our own defense.

