

God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

Badger



The badger is an interesting animal which is a great help to mankind. The badger hunts and eats many animals which are considered to be pests. It also eats rattlesnakes, which are dangerous to man, and is immune to the bite of the snake. The badger gets its name from the badge-like markings on its forehead.

Badgers are terrific diggers and can dig faster than a person with a shovel. When in danger, the

badger prefers to run away. If it is cornered, it will dig a hole to hide in and throw the dirt in the face of its enemy. If the badger's enemy does not go away, it will defend itself with ferocious teeth and claws.

What can we learn from the badger?

The badger teaches us to help others, how to deal with danger (*sin*) and how to build the best fortress for safety (*spiritual welfare*).

The badger is a great help to mankind. It eats many animals that we consider as pests or dangerous. In our daily lives we can say more about our Savior Jesus by what we do than by what we say. An act of kindness or helpfulness is a great way to show God's love to others.

The badger teaches us how to deal with the dangers of sin. The badger runs from danger and tries to avoid it by burrowing. We should run away from those things which are sinful. When the badger has no choice, it fights ferociously against its enemy. When we cannot run from sin, we should fight against it with all our strength and use the Bible as our guide and with prayer get help from God. The Bible tells us in 2nd Samuel 22:31, "*As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is*

flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.” Just as we should love God with all our heart and strength, we should hate Satan with all our heart and strength and fight sin ferociously.

The badger is not harmed by the poison of the rattlesnake. If we devote ourselves to God, we too will be safe from the poison of sin. The badger may still be hurt, but will not be killed by the snake. Likewise, we may be hurt, but not killed by sin. Thanks to Jesus and His death on the cross we are saved from our sins and eternal death that comes from sin. We are reminded of the story of Paul who, surviving a shipwreck, was bitten by a poisonous snake on the beach. Instead of dying from the snakebite, Paul suffered no harm as it says in Acts 28:5, *“Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects.”* God protects us as we walk in His ways.

The badger also teaches us how to build a fortress for our spiritual welfare. If we *“burrow”* into our Bibles to learn about God, we will build a strong fortress for our souls. The Bible tells us in Psalm 32:7, *“You (God) are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.”* Just as the badger burrows

into the ground for protection and a safe place to sleep, we can burrow into God's Word and find comfort and safety.

When people first saw the badger, they named it for the markings on its head which looked like a badge. When people see us, it would be wonderful if they could see our faith in Jesus like a badge that is easily seen. We do not have to wear a badge because our actions will show us for what we are. Jesus tells us in John 13:35, "*By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*" Faith shows itself like a badge by all you say and do just as sin shows itself in what you say and do.

