

God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

Otter



The river otter is a fun loving and playful animal. It spends a lot of time playing in ponds and streams. The otter is also at home on land and loves to slide down snow banks. Otters build their homes in the banks of rivers or lakes with entrances both above and below water. Otters are great swimmers and also fast runners on land. Fish make up most of their diet.

What can we learn from the otter?

The otter teaches us the joy of our baptism and life in Jesus.

When we were baptized, we were washed clean of all our sins through the blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross for us. Being forgiven for our sins, we can be full of joy that we are at peace with God. Just as the otter rejoices in its watery home, we can rejoice in the water of our baptism. God has called us to be His children and gives us eternal life as a gift. Jesus tells us in Mark 16:16, *“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.”* What can be more wonderful and cause us to rejoice?

Being saved from our sins and looking forward to eternal life in heaven, our joy overflows. No matter what happens in our lifetime, we have our Savior as a friend, we have our heavenly Father to turn to and we have the Holy Spirit to guide us. All of this love and help from God makes us very blessed and happy even in the bad times. The Bible tells us in Psalm 118:24, *“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”*

God makes every day special for us and He tells us to rejoice and be glad because He loves us. This does not mean that we will always be *“happy”*. There are times when we are sick or sad but that

does not mean that God does not care. A gift may be wrapped in paper so that we cannot see what is inside. Just because we do not see the gift, it does not mean that there is no gift for us. Just because we do not feel happy some days, it does not mean that we do not still have the gift of salvation. Like the otter, let us be happy and rejoice in God's love.

