

God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

Pig



The pig is a very talented animal. It is known that pigs are very smart. Pigs eat almost anything that is available, including snakes. The thick layer of fat that pigs have makes them very resistant to the poisonous bite of snakes.

Pigs have a wonderful sense of smell and use their snouts as shovels to root up food that is buried underground. Man has used pigs to find certain scarce mushrooms. Lately, it has been found that pigs can smell and avoid explosive devices both on and below the ground. Pigs are helping mankind by being trained to sniff out land mines so that they can be safely removed.

What can we learn from the pig?

Pigs eat a variety of things but seem to know what is not good for them to eat. We can learn to be careful of what we take into ourselves from the pig. Worldly wisdom may seem good but many times it is sinful and foolish. The Bible tells us in **1st Corinthians 3:19**, *“Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age he should become a “fool” so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight.”* We should make sure that what we “eat” in our beliefs is really good for us just as the pig makes sure that what it eats is good.

Pigs can be bitten by poisonous snakes without lasting harm. Thanks to the protection that God gives us, we can be bitten by the poisonous serpent (*Satan and sin*), yet not be harmed for all eternity.

Thanks to the salvation that Jesus earned for us by His death on the cross, our sins are forgiven and we will not suffer eternal punishment. Jesus tells us in Mark 16:16, "*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe...they will pick up snakes with their hands and when they drink deadly poison it will not hurt them.*" It is very important to understand that Jesus does not tell us to pick up snakes or drink poison. What this means is that Christians will often find themselves in situations where they can be harmed by the sinfulness and "*poison*" of this world and its unbelief and yet God will protect them from danger. This is the same lesson that Jesus teaches when He talks about the false teachings of the world and calls it the "*yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees*" which is dangerous because it can change our true faith into a false religion. The Christian who puts his trust in Jesus and asks for help against sin and false religion will be kept from harm.

Just as the pig can smell good things which it will root up and eat and dangerous things that it will avoid, we should learn how to do the same. By reading our Bibles often we will learn what is good

and what is harmful. The Bible teaches us God's wisdom and His rules. We should learn the lessons the Bible teaches us and make them a part of our lives every day. In this way we will eat the good things God gives us and avoid the bad things that God wants us to stay away from. As others see how we live, they may become curious and want to know more about God and the salvation He has given us through His Son Jesus. We can be of great help to others by the example we set.

