

God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

Hyrax or Rock Coney



The hyrax, also known as the rock coney, is a unique animal. Some of them live in trees but most live in the rocks. The feet of the hyrax are very unusual. They appear like hoofs, yet they have claws and the toes have soft skin which acts as a suction cup on slippery rocks. The hyrax is a timid animal which retreats to the safety of the rocks when frightened.

What can we learn from the hyrax?

The Bible mentions the hyrax or rock coney in Psalm 104:18 when it says, *“The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats and the rocks for the conies.”* The hyrax teaches us to put our faith in the solid rock, which is another picture name for Jesus.

In Psalm 18:2 we read, *“The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock in whom I take refuge.”* The hyrax shows us just how true this is. When hidden in the rocks, the hyrax is safe from all of its enemies. When we take refuge in Jesus, we are safe from our enemy which is Satan.

Jesus teaches us about having our faith built on the solid rock of the gospel when He gives us the example of the wise and foolish builders in Matthew 7:24-27, *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose and the winds blew and beat against*

that house and it fell with a great crash.” The hyrax does what Jesus told us to do—build our house (*faith*) on solid rock (*the gospel*).

Jesus lived and died to save us from our sins. Jesus will always be our refuge in danger and our salvation. We should run to the safety of Jesus just like the hyrax runs to the safety of the rocks.

