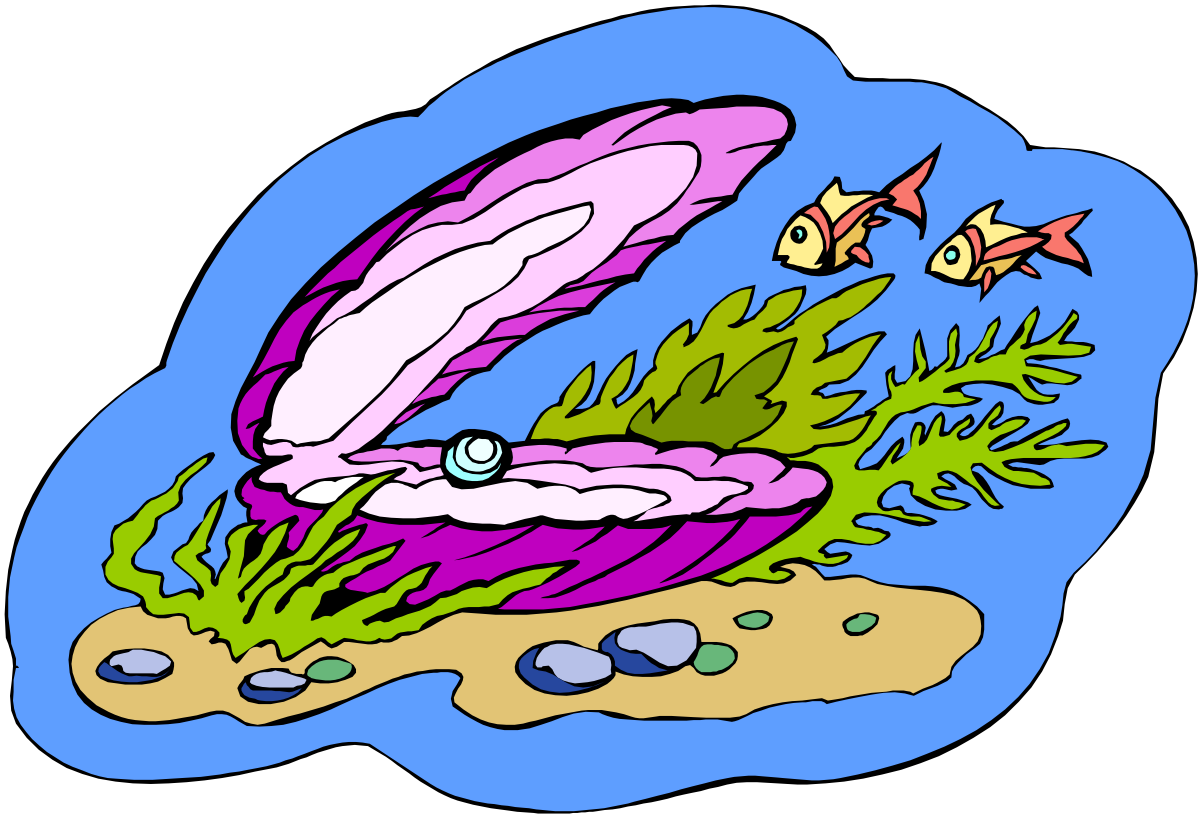


## God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

# *Oyster*



The oyster is a shellfish with a remarkable ability. When a grain of sand gets into the shell and works its way into the tissues of the oyster, the animal responds by coating the grain of sand with a fluid to stop it from being irritating. As time goes by, the oyster keeps coating the grain of sand with more layers of fluid. In time, a pearl is formed as a result of this continual coating of the grain of sand.

## What can we learn from the oyster?

The oyster teaches us patience in times of difficulty and the way in which God uses difficulties to produce wonderful things in us.

The oyster is irritated by the grain of sand. To relieve the discomfort it coats the grain of sand with a fluid which hardens. We can learn to do the same with irritating situations. When things happen that cause us to become uncomfortable, we should turn to God for help. God will show us the way to ease our troubled hearts. The Bible tells us in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:3-4, *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”* Even though we are sinners, God still loves us and wants to heal and comfort us as it says in Isaiah 57:18-19, *“I have seen his ways but I will heal him; I will guide him and restore comfort to him creating praise on the lips of the mourners in Israel. Peace, peace to those far and near says the Lord, and I will heal them.”*

Like the oyster, we must be patient and wait for God to bring comfort and healing to us. The Bible

tells us in Romans 12:12, *“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”*

God often uses difficult times to help us to grow in our faith. We learn to trust God and depend on Him through difficult times when our own efforts cannot solve the problem. Like the pearl that the oyster produces out of an irritating grain of sand, we can produce beautiful acts of faith from the difficult times we go through. In the Bible passages above, we see that the comfort we receive is to be passed along to others who are in trouble. The gifts we receive from God only grow bigger when they are given away and shared with others. We see in the passages above that even though we are sinners, God is willing to forgive and comfort us. This produces thanksgiving and praise from us as we honor God for His love and mercy. Lastly, the difficult times produce joy, patience and faith in us as we see God lead us from trouble to peace day after day.

Not only do we receive comfort in our troubles, but our faith grows stronger as we see God’s wonderful and mighty hand working in our lives. No matter what is bothering us, God is able to heal us or help us to overcome our problems. We must be

patient as we wait for God to work in our lives. Sometimes He helps us quickly and sometimes He makes us wait for His help so that we can learn to trust Him. If we spend time reading our Bibles and praying, we will grow in our faith and live a more joyful life. Faith, joy and hope last forever while bad times do not last. One day in heaven, we will never know difficult or troubled times ever again. The things which cause us pain in this life will strengthen our faith and lead us to eternal joy. Doesn't that make the bad times precious just like the oyster's pearl?

