

God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

Starfish



The starfish is an ocean creature that uses its powerful arms to open the shells of shellfish so it can eat them. An amazing thing about the starfish is that if one of its arms is bitten off by an enemy, it can re-grow the arm.

What can we learn from the starfish?

The starfish teaches us about forgiveness of our sins and the resurrection of the dead when Jesus returns.

When we sin it is as if we lose a part of ourselves. It is like when a starfish loses an arm to an enemy. We lose a little part of ourselves each time we sin. Actually, when we sin, we really lose our chance of going to heaven and having eternal life. God the Father knew that we could not keep from sinning and in His great love for us, He sent His Son Jesus to save us from our sins. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 2:1, *“You were dead in your transgressions and sins in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Satan).”* The Bible also tells us in Ephesians 2:4, *“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”*

When Jesus lived a perfect life and then sacrificed His life on the cross, He paid for all of our sins. When we lose a part of ourselves to sin, Jesus heals us so that we are whole again. Thanks to Jesus, we do not lose our hope of going to heaven

and having eternal life. Jesus gave His life to save our lives.

For all those who believe in Jesus as their Savior there is a wonderful day ahead. When Jesus returns to take all believers to heaven, we will be resurrected. Even though a person is dead, he or she will be made alive again in Jesus and will go to heaven. Our bodies with all their weaknesses will be made into perfect bodies just as the starfish grows back a missing arm and is made whole again. Jesus tells us in John 11:23, *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”* Jesus does not mean that we will not die here on earth. What Jesus is saying is that we will not die for all eternity but rather return to life in heaven because of His great sacrifice for us.

