

God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

Dog



There are few animals in the world as wonderful as the dog. Dogs are loving, loyal and forgiving. Dogs give us something called unconditional love - that means they love us even when we do not deserve to be loved. Dogs will give their lives to save their loved ones. Did you know that all dogs, big or small, long haired or short

haired, all come from the same original pair of dogs on Noah's ark?

What can we learn from the dog?

The dog teaches us about loyalty, forgiveness and love. The dog also teaches us that we are all the same family in God's sight not matter who we are or what we look like.

Dogs are loyal. A dog will give its life to protect its loved ones. Even a dog that is not treated well will often be very loyal to its owners. We should learn the lesson of loyalty from the dog. When many people deserted Jesus He asked the apostles if they also wanted to leave. They chose to remain loyal as we read in John 6:66, *"From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. 'You do not want to leave too do you?' Jesus asked the twelve. Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'*" The apostles were richly rewarded for their loyalty, not in money or fame but in the love of God.

Another show of great loyalty is seen in Thomas who was one of the apostles. Thomas knew Jesus was in great danger but was willing to stay

with Him and die with Him if necessary. We read in John 11:16, *“Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, ‘Let us also go that we may die with him (Jesus).’”*

The dog also teaches us about forgiveness and love. The dog is always willing to forgive our mistakes and love us with all of its heart. We should also be willing to forgive others and love them. The Bible teaches us that God was willing to forgive us and love us even when we did not deserve such mercy. We read in Romans 5:8, *“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* We also read in Colossians 3:12, *“As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love which binds them all together in perfect unity.”*

All dogs come from one source: the two dogs on Noah’s ark and they see each other as equals, we should also treat others as equals. No matter who we are, where we come from or what we look like, God sees us all as His children thanks to the

forgiveness of our sins earned by Jesus and His death on the cross. The Bible teaches us in Galatians 3:28, *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* We also read in Romans 3:22, *“There is no difference for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”*

All people are alike. We are sinners who have been forgiven by God through the life and death of Jesus. No one is better than another. We should remember this and act kindly towards each other. Perhaps the love you show to others will show them the way to Jesus and salvation.

