

## God's Animal Kingdom Classroom

# *Squirrel*



If you have ever watched a squirrel, you have probably been amazed at this charming little animal. Life seems to be just a game to the acrobatic squirrel. The squirrel can run both up and down any rough surface (*many animals can only climb upward and have a great deal of trouble climbing down*) with amazing speed and agility. The squirrel's nimble paws can do a wide range of tasks

with ease. The squirrel is equipped with great intelligence and can work out very complicated problems when there is food as a reward. Nothing seems to stop the squirrel once it sets its mind on a goal.

**What can we learn from the squirrel?**

The squirrel teaches us not to let any obstacle stop us from spreading the gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ. We also learn not to let any obstacle stop our faith from being a living part of us.

When the squirrel sees something it wants, usually food, it lets nothing stop it from finding a way to get it. Recent studies have shown the remarkable problem solving abilities of the squirrel. The squirrel will use every skill it has to think through a problem and then climb over, around and through complicated obstacles to achieve its goal. This is how we should treat the obstacles in our lives. When something seems to be in the way of our telling others about our wonderful Savior, we should find a way to keep spreading the gospel. The Bible tells us in **Philippians 3:13**, *“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”* The Bible also tells us in **2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 12:20**, *“Turn not aside from*

*following the Lord but serve the Lord with all your heart.” We should not let anything stop us from sharing our faith, hope and joy in Jesus with others.*

We also must not let obstacles stop our faith from growing and living within us every day. There will always be something in our lives to challenge us. Many of these things are gifts from God to strengthen our faith. There is a beautiful statement of faith in Romans 8:37, *“In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

We have God’s promise that nothing can take us away from His love. With that comfort, we should not let any obstacle or difficulty stop us from believing in our Savior Jesus and the hope of eternal life that we have through Him. When we face difficult times and obstacles, we should turn to God for help. We should read our Bibles for advice and wisdom and we should pray for guidance from God. The apostle Paul gives us a good picture of how to

keep your faith strong when difficulties arise. As Paul tells us in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:12, *“And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed because I know whom I have believed and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.”*

Like the squirrel works through every problem, difficulty and obstacle, we too should bravely move ahead every day with all the grace and strength God gives us. Like the squirrel that gets the food reward by not giving up, we will have eternal life as our reward if we do not give up.

