



SERIES: PROVERBS FOR KIDS

Wisdom From Animals?

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Lesson Overview

We're finishing up our series on the book of Proverbs. Over the last few weeks we've learned how important wisdom is to us. Wisdom is good advice that helps us to make good choices. The Bible and our parents give us the wisdom we need to live a life that honors God. But did you know that animals can teach us about wisdom, too? They do and you know why? Because God created all the creatures and animals just like he created each one of us. God gives all of his creation the wisdom they need to fulfill his plan for them. In the book of Proverbs, Solomon highlights the wisdom of four creatures that can be helpful to us. The ant teaches us to plan for the future, the rock badger shows us how to stay safe in a dangerous world, the locust teaches us that we need friends, and the lizard reminds us that we have a bright future.

Big Idea

We can gain wisdom from animals

Key Question

How do animals get wisdom?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 30:25| Ants-they aren't strong, but they store up food all summer.

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **PLAY: Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: What's the coolest animal you've ever seen in a zoo or in a book? Describe why it was so cool to you.** (Tip: God is so creative and it's fun to take notice of all that he has created. He has created the most beautiful flowers and the most majestic animals. And, he has created some of the oddest looking animals, too.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **God gives wisdom to his creation.** (God has created everything. He created the sun, mountains, horses, fish and us. And, God has a purpose for everything he creates. So, God provides everything he creates with the wisdom they need to fulfill their purpose)
 - **Bonus Questions:** Who gives the animals wisdom? Why do we need God's wisdom? **4-5th:** Think of some other animals. What wisdom can we learn from them?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What are some good things you can do to honor God? How does going to church help us to live to honor God?** (Answer: At home, you can obey your parents, share with your siblings, and do your chores. At school, you can help your teacher, be kind to friends, and do your homework. Going to church is important to learn more about God and to worship alongside other Christians. And, being around other Christians encourages us to live to honor God.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: PIN THE TAIL ON THE ROCK BADGER

Instructions:

- Tape the rock badger to the wall.
- Have kids line up single file and give each kid a tail and a piece of tape.
- Put a blindfold on the first kid in line and spin them around 3 times.
- Then have the kid try to place the tail on the rock badger. Continue until everyone has had a turn.

Supplies needed:

Rock badger template (page 5, pre cut, 1 per class), Tail template (page 6, pre cut, 1 per kid), Tape, Blindfolds

Bonus Activity: "Bible Hangman"

Words or phrases: Proverbs, Wisdom, Solomon

OPTION 2: PROVERBS JEOPARDY

Instructions:

- Divide the class into two teams.
- Give each team a bell or ringer.
- Read a question from below. First team to ring in gets a chance to answer. If correct, they get one point. If wrong, the other team gets a chance for a steal and a bonus point. Team with the highest points wins.

Supplies needed:

Bells or ringers.

Question:

1. The book of Proverbs is in the ___ testament. (Old)
2. Who wrote the book of Proverbs? (Solomon)
3. T or F: Wisdom is bad advice. (F)
4. What's our memory verse today? (See teacher's notes)

5. Why did Jesus die for us? (sin)
6. What book is full of God's wisdom? (Bible)
7. Wisdom helps us to make ___ choices. (good)
8. T or F: Animals can teach us wisdom. (T)
9. Who died for our sins? (Jesus)
10. What's the Big Idea today? (See teacher's notes)

Bonus Activity: "Find the Book"

Have the class get into pairs. Give each pair a Bible. Have them race to find the books below. First to find has to say if it's in the OT or NT.

Books: Proverbs, John, Revelation



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The Ant teaches us to prepare for the future

Ants are really small, and compared to humans they're not very strong. But ants know how to work hard. They know that winter will come eventually, so they start saving up food in the summer.

But why is this important to know as a kid? Because you should prepare for your future too! Some ways you can do that is by getting good grades, making good Christian friends, and learning how to make good choices.

Rock Badger teaches us how to be safe

Rock badgers might sound scary but they're actually small animals with short noses and no tail. They're not strong, in fact, they're really weak. But one thing rock badgers are really good at is staying safe. They live in little holes in the sides of cliffs to stay away from predators.

But why is this important for us to know as a kid? Because God wants us to seek safety, too. He wants us to avoid danger. So, as a kid, your safety isn't in hiding behind a rock. It's in obeying God and choosing good friends.

The Locust teaches us about strength in numbers

Locusts are basically just grasshoppers. So think about a grasshopper. Do you think that one little bug can do anything special all on it's own? It can't. But when there are a lot of locusts in one place, they can do a lot of damage.

But why is this important for us to know as a kid? Here's why. Locusts teach us that we can't do things all on our own. We need to be around people who help us to live to honor God. We need to go to church to be around other Christian kids and choose good friends to hang around with at school.

Now there's one last animal that has a lesson to teach us.

The Lizard teaches us about our bright future

Just like the rest of the animals in this lesson, there's nothing very special about lizards. In fact, lizards are slow and pretty easy to catch. But lizards can get through any crack in a building. So, they can find their way into a beautiful castle.

But why is this important for us to know as a kid? Well, as Christian kids, we crawl around here on earth like lowly lizards. But someday we'll end up in heaven – thanks to Jesus!

Questions:

1. *What's the coolest animal you've ever seen in a zoo or in a book? Describe why it was so cool to you?*
2. *What does the ant teach us? What about the rock badger?*
3. *Why do we need other Christians to help us? Where can we live with God in the future?*
4. *Read [Hebrews 10:24-25](#). What are some good things you can do to honor God? How does going to church help us to live for God?*

Instructions: Solve the puzzles.

ANIMALS

G E S U O M H N W R B W C W L
 X D A Q H J X O O M L T H W J
 B W S H N L H T P I C R A W M
 Y W M E F F A R I G L K D O G
 R C K R R R S Y K T H I P P O
 J T O W I E F B X X L Q R J E
 D R O T A G I L L A E B Z H X
 T H N X P I C L F C R V Z S Z
 V N H R S T H E T D R I B I Q
 N Z A C S T Y X L W I N H F L
 W U Q H K L J A E A U F A H F
 V Q Q D P O Y K N V Q Z A T V
 X M T L Q E T J Y E S Y R C H
 T A C K Q C L K M O N K E Y R
 P T S H W L Y E T D R A H T L

CAT	HIPPO	MOUSE	TIGER
DOG	SQUIRREL	MONKEY	
BIRD	GIRAFFE	ALLIGATOR	
ELEPHANT	FISH	LION	

Big Idea

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Key Question

How do animals get wisdom?

Memory Verse

*Proverbs 30:25 | _____ -
 they aren't _____, but
 they _____ up food
 all summer.*

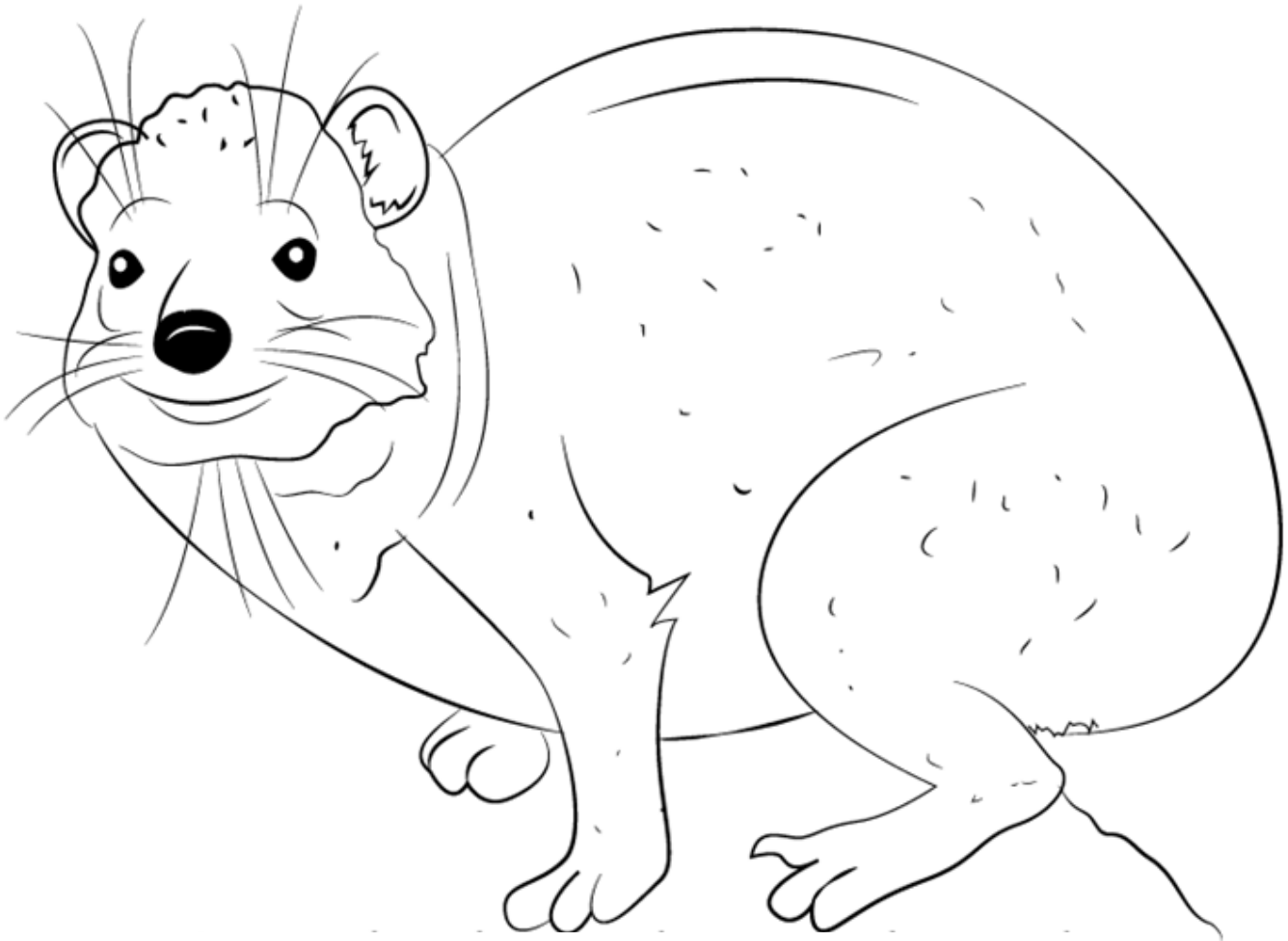


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