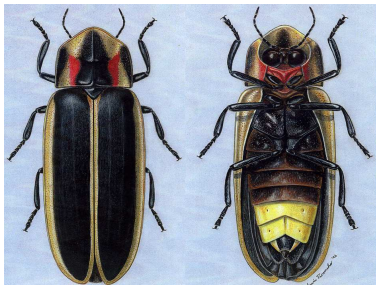


## Spiritual Lessons from Nature's World Part V

Well it has been a while since we have had a trip to the zoo but I would like for us to visit again for a couple of Sundays and then later on we will try and visit again.

Today's visit involves some interesting creatures that have been given us by a God who enjoys great variety. Today lets begin with a trip to the insect collection at the zoo.

Now as we look at these there may be a couple that you would gladly recommend to the Orkin man but there are still some lessons to consider so lets look at them. First lets look at



### I. The Firefly

We have seen them and probably even caught some of them when we were younger. Fireflies have long been a source of fascination to us and especially to scientists because even with all our technology we still don't know for sure what all happens when they make that little light.

The chemicals that fireflies have in their bodies are quite interesting. There are two basic chemicals which they have found. One is called Luciferase and the other is called Luciferin

**Thought:** This is interesting because if you look at these names you will see Lucifer in both. In II Cor. 11:14 we read, *for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*

**Note:** In the spiritual realm from this verse we realize that every firefly is not always up to good or honorable things

But lets think about us as fireflies and some lessons

*Mt. 5:16 says "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*

**First,** They don't care who happens to see their light and we should be the same way. We are to be on display and we should be happy for any who see our testimony.

**Secondly,** They don't stay in one spot either. The lesson here is that we need to be involved in many different venues such as at work, at school, on the golf course, at home cooking out with the neighbors, or wherever we can let the Lord shine through us.

**Thirdly,** They don't care if it is a scientist who sees them, a professor at Harvard or Yale, or a child from kindergarten. We need to shine our light before the up and outers, as well as the down and outers.

**Next,** notice that they don't try and dazzle one another. They just shine in their little way and that is what we need to do. Don't try and think you have to be something big for people to see you.

Just be who God created you to be. That is what the firefly does. He doesn't try to be a big search light. Just this little guy doing his job on a dusky evening

Finally notice that when you put several of them into a jar they supplement each other. One shines while the other pauses and then another and so forth.

That is the way it should be in churches. We should supplement one another by shining and then resting while another shines and then we go back to our turn again

So when it comes to the firefly **Remember**, there isn't enough darkness in the whole world to put out a single candle so keep your light shining - God will place it where it will do the most good.



## II. The Flea

THE flea is a tiny, about 1/16 to 1/8-inch long, almost invisible, wingless parasite that causes great discomfort to both animals and humans.

How about these facts I found concerning fleas to get us started with this little insect

A flea can pull up to 160,000 times its own weight. A flea can jump over 150 times its own size. When jumping, the flea accelerates 50 times faster than the space shuttle. A flea can jump 30,000 times without a break.

In the way of spiritual lessons from the flea, I think a lot of it revolves around what I call "little things"

A. Be aware of little sins and desires

**Remember**, just as little fleas are extremely plentiful to bite the unsuspecting, so are little sins and personal desires that wait to bite us, so a little sin can be a big problem to overcome. As someone noted, A big fall begins with a little stumble.

B. Be aware of letting little things irritate you and steal your joy

C. Don't let little things spread the plague of discord among the sheep flock

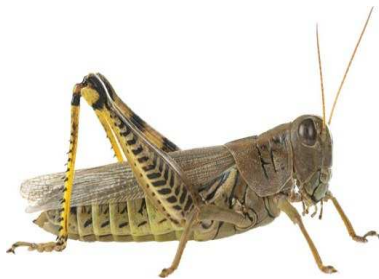
A lot of times when we don't get our way in some little thing, we get upset in a big way. Remember carefully the words of Prov. 6:16-19 *These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.*

- Don't let some little gripes cause a big problem of others

D. Don't let little things spread the plague of discouragement

John Bunyan wrote in *Pilgrim's Progress* There was a castle called Doubting Castle, the owner whereof was *Giant Despair*. This is a wonderful description of discouragement. Doubt and despair

The lesson to remember, A little discouragement draws our spiritual life blood as quickly as a flea fills up on a new puppy. Well, we don't like them but they do leave us some spiritual lessons



### III. The Grasshopper

There are around **ten thousand** different species of grasshoppers in our world. Migrating grasshoppers are also known as locusts, and a few of them are serious pests.

Swarms of locusts containing many thousands of the insects can quickly do great damage to crops. They have even been known to chew up laundry hung outside to dry.

Some grasshoppers actually spit a dark liquid when alarmed to frighten a predator and aid their escape.

Just as locusts attack a field in their search for food, so Satan will attack us. James 4:7 says, "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*"

Warren Wiersbe writes this however. Before we can stand before Satan, we must bow before God. Peter resisted the Lord and ended up submitting to Satan!

### **Some spiritual thoughts from the grasshopper**

Just as grasshoppers spit a dark liquid from their mouth to protect themselves, we need to watch what comes out of our mouth in trying to protect ourselves.

As kids we called it tobacco juice but either way, our mouth can give off some pretty nasty things in dealing with other people.

Instead lets seek to follow Eph. 4:29 *Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

Another thing to remember is One little grasshopper seems insignificant as it leaps across the lawn; but when it joins forces with other grasshoppers, watch out! The resulting swarm can soon devour all the vegetation in its path.

That's because grasshoppers demonstrate the power of community. What they cannot do by themselves, they can accomplish together.

We can also learn a valuable lesson from these small creatures. Individual believers are part of a bigger community. The world's Christians

Because of this we can make far greater advances for Christ's cause when we act and pray together than they could ever make alone.

When Christians are united in serving the Lord, they can become a mighty force for God. Sticking together as believers we can do great things for the Lord

Although the New Testament urges us to possess a personal faith in Simply put: we need other believers, and other believers need us.

In Hebrews 10:25, Paul urges us "*not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together*"; therefore, we should regularly attend church to help build each other up and meet each others needs.

**Remember:** There are no Lone Rangers in the kingdom of heaven. We as Christians, must use teamwork and offer our time, talent, and treasure whenever it is needed.

The locusts are all considered equal; this is also true with Christians. No Christian is better than another Christian. God is no respecter of persons

Locusts stick together and move in unison even without an obvious leader. Two Christians are better than one -- **when they're, worshipping, working, and witnessing as one.**

Lets learn and practice the style of the grasshopper. Lets stick together and do great things for the Lord in the world in which we live.

In closing: When it comes to your forever be sure not to let a little flea cause a big problem for you and keep you from finding eternal; life thorough the only one who can give it to you, Jesus.

Here is the key to that Good News,  
Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23  
Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Romans 6:23a  
Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12  
Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them). Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life. You can reach us at [lapeerchurch@gmail.com](mailto:lapeerchurch@gmail.com) Subject line: (Salvation)