



Disc 18 ~ Episode 2 Africa ~ Wildlife



Video Summary

South Africa continues as our backdrop for our lighthearted look at creation, life, animals and the African outback. The word Safari has its origins in the Arabic word “Safara” meaning travel.

As Chad begins his journey into the African bush he gains a greater understanding of God’s detailed plan of creation and that His involvement in creation is obvious to anyone who chooses to look with the eyes of faith. It is within this colorful panorama, that we can glean truths from some very unexpected scenarios. From the foolish monkey, to the majestic white Rhino, God affords us the opportunity to learn more about Him and ourselves by the often-ignored examples found in nature.



Icebreaker

Bonding Time

A Vermont native found himself in a difficult position while touring the Eagle’s Rock African Safari Zoo with a group of thespians (teenage theatre students) from St. Petersburg, Russia. Ronald went to extremes to demonstrate the power of Crazy Glue, one of America’s many marvels, to the Russians.

To prove the effectiveness of Crazy Glue, he rubbed several ounces of the adhesive onto the palms of his hands and jokingly placed them on the buttocks of a passing rhino.

The rhinoceros, a resident of the zoo for the thirteen years, was not initially startled, as it has been part of the petting exhibit since its arrival as a baby. However, once it became aware of being involuntarily stuck to Ronald, it began to panic and charge wildly about the petting area with Ronald as an unwitting passenger.

“Sally the Rhino hadn’t been feeling well. She was constipated, and had just been given a laxative when the American played his juvenile prank,” said caretaker James Douglass.

During Sally’s tirade, a shed wall was gored, two fences destroyed, and a number of small animals escaped. Three pygmy goats and one duck were stomped to death. During the stampede and subsequent capture, Sally began to feel the effects of the laxative, showering Ronald repeatedly with over 30 gallons of rhinoceros diarrhea.



Primary Lesson

The Bible states that God is the author and creator of all life on earth and that this orchestrated design was a deliberate act of love. Our society has all but eliminated God from nature and its diversity, and has credited the origins of life to mere chance. This idea is absurd, especially when you begin to view the complexities of life through the eyes of faith.

God is not an absentee landlord, who set the world in motion then walked away; on the contrary, His Word declares that He is daily maintaining this perfect balance through the power of His Word. Each encounter that we experience on this “safari” called life, gives us an opportunity to learn valuable lessons that can be applied in all areas of our lives. If we are willing to acknowledge Him and look for his fingerprints, which are evident on everything He has made, we will gain a greater understanding of who He is and who He desires us to become.



Facts, Figures & Illustrations

Safari Animal Facts

Established in 1895, Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve is the oldest game park in Africa and is the only under formal conservation in KwaZulu Natal, where the Big 5 occur. Set in the heart of Zululand, the game reserve offers visitor activities - from self-guided walks, auto-trails, game drives, to picnic sites. Viewing hides overlook pans and waterholes enabling visitors to see animals at close range.

The Park covers some 237,000 acres and contains an immense diversity of fauna and flora. It became world renowned for its white rhino conservation.

Vervet monkeys living near areas inhabited by people can become pests, stealing food and other items and raiding crops. Good climbers, jumpers and swimmers, they often elude capture.

Vervet monkeys have been known to destroy crops in Kenya and are classified as vermin in South Africa, where they can be shot without previously obtaining a permit.

Adult hippos can't actually swim and are not generally buoyant. When in deep water, they usually propel themselves by leaps, pushing off from the bottom. They move at speeds up to 8 km/h (5 mph) in water.

An Elephant's ears are also used in certain displays of aggression and during the males' mating period. If an elephant wants to intimidate a predator or rival, it will spread its ears out wide to make itself look more massive and imposing.

Elephants communicate over long distances by producing and receiving low-frequency sound (infrasound), a sub-sonic rumbling, which can travel through the ground farther than sound travels through the air. This can be felt by the sensitive skin of an elephant's feet and trunk, which pick up the resonant vibrations much as the flat skin on the head of a drum. To listen attentively, every member of the herd will lift one foreleg from the ground, and face the source of the sound, or often lay its trunk on the ground.

A popular theory of the origins of the name White Rhinoceros is a mistranslation from Dutch into Afrikaans and English. The Afrikaans word "wit", meaning "white" in English is said to have been derived by mistranslation of the Dutch word "wijd", which means "wide" in English and is spelled "wyd" in Afrikaans.

A rhinoceros can sleep either standing or lying down.

The average weight of a rhinoceros is over three to four thousand pounds.

A rhinoceros can run at 30-40 MPH.



Key Scriptures

(From New King James Version, unless otherwise noted)

Colossians 1:16 ~ *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

Genesis 1:1 ~ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

James 1:14 ~ *But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.*

Genesis 2:18 ~ *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone."*

Lamentations 3:22-23 ~ *...because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.*

Psalms 30:5 ~ *For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.*

Song of Solomon 2:15 ~ *The little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines have tender grapes.*

Genesis 4:7 ~ *But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.*

Genesis 2:15 ~ *The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*

Proverbs 4:23 ~ *Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life*

1 Peter 1:7 ~ *that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*

Jeremiah 29:11 ~ *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Luke 1:50 ~ *His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.*

Romans 1:23 ~ *They exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.*



Complimentary Story

Zoo Job

One day an out of work mime is visiting the zoo and attempts to earn some money as a street performer. As soon as he starts to draw a crowd, a zoo keeper grabs him and drags him into his office. The zoo keeper explains to the mime that the zoo's most popular attraction, a gorilla, has died suddenly and the keeper fears that attendance at the zoo will fall off.

He offers the mime a job to dress up as the gorilla until they can get another one. The mime accepts.

So the next morning the mime puts on the gorilla suit and enters the cage before the crowd comes. He discovers that it's a great job. He can sleep all he wants, play and make fun of people and he draws bigger crowds than he ever did as a mime. However, eventually the crowds tire of him and he tires of just swinging on tires. He begins to notice that the people are paying more attention to the lion in the cage next to his. Not wanting to lose the attention of his audience, he climbs to the top of his cage, crawls across a partition, and dangles from the top to the lion's cage. Of course, this makes the lion furious, but the crowd loves it.

At the end of the day the zoo keeper comes and gives the mime a raise for being such a good attraction. Well, this goes on for some time, the mime keeps taunting the lion, the crowds grow larger, and his salary keeps going

up. Then one terrible day when he is dangling over the furious lion he slips and falls. The mime is terrified.

The lion gathers itself and prepares to pounce. The mime is so scared that he begins to run round and round the cage with the lion close behind. Finally, the mime starts screaming and yelling, "Help me, help me!"; but the lion is quick and pounces. The mime soon finds himself flat on his back looking up at the angry lion and the lion says, "Shut up you idiot! Do you want to get us both fired?"

Source: <http://www.onlyfunnystories.com/ZooJob.asp>



Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the issues concerning creation versus evolution. God is very clear that the earth and fullness there of belongs to Him. What are the problems we encounter when we don't acknowledge Him in the most obvious display of His love and Power: Creation?
2. Discuss the issues of isolation and separation. What does Jesus say about being alone and what are the dangers of being separated from a loving, nurturing group. (Hint: Matthew 18:12)
3. Look at the idea of conservation and its application in your life. As we have proper stewardship principles in place in our natural lives, why shouldn't we apply this discipline to our spiritual lives. Should we protect the "endangered" aspects of our lives ?
4. Discuss the story of Jacob and Esau in Genesis 25: 32-34. How did Esau's desire for temporary pleasure effect him? What do we do in our lives that are similar to this Biblical example? Are we trading our eternal reward for a moment of temporal satisfaction?

