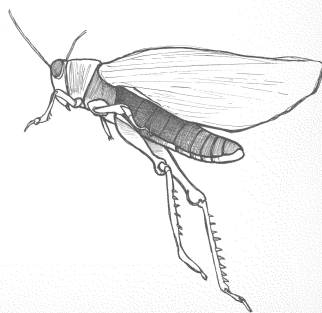




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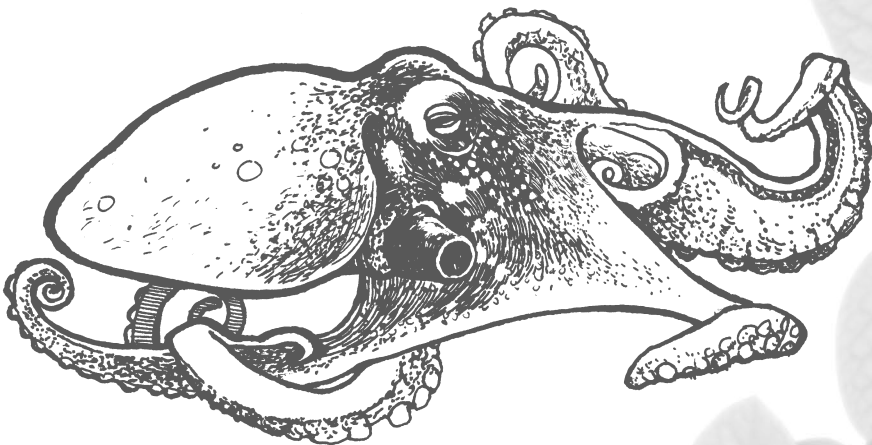
FOLLOW A GOOD EXAMPLE

For its size of body, the octopus has the largest brain of all animals without backbones. It is very intelligent and learns quickly. If trainers work with one octopus and teach it to do something, other octopuses will learn simply by watching. Some captive octopuses have even figured out how to escape from their tanks!

The octopus also has the best eyesight of all animals without backbones. When it searches for food, an octopus is a good judge of distance. If several crabs swim nearby, the octopus always makes the best choice and grabs the nearest crab with its muscular “arms,” or tentacles.

An octopus, which is actually very shy, moves around the rocks and in the sand by crawling with its eight arms. The suction disks on their “arms” hang onto rocks.

The octopus can also swim with jet propulsion by forcing water out of a special funnel called a siphon. (That is like blowing up a balloon and letting it loose under water!)



IN THE BIBLE . . .

Jesus' disciples learned by following Him. When Jesus first began his ministry, He told 12 men, "Come, follow me." And they did. They listened to Jesus teach. They watched Him heal many sick people. Then Jesus sent them out to do the same work of teaching and healing that He had done.

The night before Jesus was crucified, He washed His disciples' feet. He said, "I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you" (John 13:14–15; NIV).

HOW ABOUT YOU?

How do you, like an octopus, learn by following? In what ways do you follow the good examples of your parents or teachers?

Are you willing to follow Jesus? Remember how Jesus treated other people? He took time for them. He helped them with their problems. He loved them. Think of one way you will follow Jesus' example today.

MEMORY VERSE:

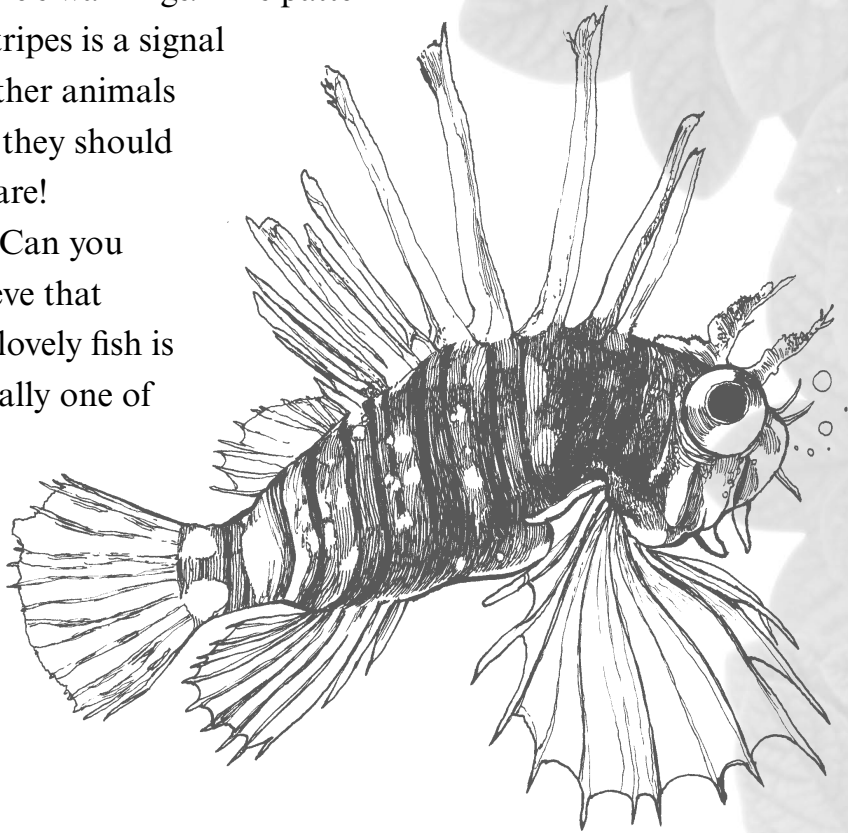
*Jesus said, "For I have given you an example,
that you should do as I have done to you."
(John 13:15)*

DEADLY BEAUTY

This is a beautiful fish with its shades of gold and reddish-brown colors. It is called by many names: the lionfish, devilfish, firefish, or zebrafish.

Although this lionfish looks almost angelic, its outward beauty is deceptive. The red and dark brown stripes on its lacy fins are one of nature's warnings. This pattern of stripes is a signal to other animals that they should beware!

Can you believe that this lovely fish is actually one of



the most poisonous creatures in the sea? Each of the 18 spines that stick out of its body contains a poison gland in its long groove. The spines can cause painful wounds, which disable any fish that attack it. The lionfish's poison can also be fatal to humans.

IN THE BIBLE . . .

Read the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis 2 and 3. God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed in the Garden of Eden. But God warned them, “You can eat the fruit of any tree that is in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you can be sure that you will die” (Genesis 2:16-17; NIV).

Why did Eve want to eat the fruit of “deadly beauty?” Why did she believe the serpent instead of God? What difference did her deadly choice make?

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Have you ever thought that something “looked” good, but you knew God didn’t want you to do it? When has the devil tempted you to disobey God’s laws? Don’t fall into his deadly trap! Don’t be deceived. Don’t believe that you will enjoy something you shoplift or steal. More money will *not* make you happy. You don’t have to smoke, do drugs, or join a gang in order to find friends.

Whenever you disobey God’s laws, you are falling into the devil’s trap of lies that lead to death.

MEMORY VERSE:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.
(1 Peter 5:8–9)