

Word of the Night: Anger

Character: The Rhinoceros

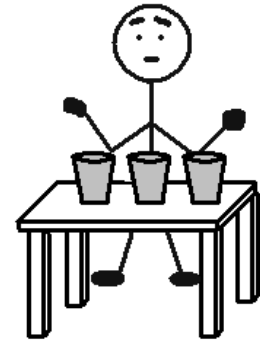
Key Verse: Ecclesiastes 7:9

Theme: Keeping your temper under control

Lesson Summary: This lesson reminds us that there are times when people will do mean things to us or treat us unfairly. Instead of responding in anger, the Christian should choose to the path of forgiveness.

OBJECT LESSON

Bubbling Over – Choose three children from the audience to come up to the front. Have three cups of liquid (numbered 1, 2 and 3 on the outside) sitting on a table. Cover each cup with a piece of paper so that the children cannot see what is inside. Allow each child to point to and pick one of the cups on the table. Explain that you are going to do a science experiment and dump something into all three cups. Two of the cups won't react or do anything, but one of the cups will have a big reaction. Do the experiment for the children (for further instructions and ingredients for this demonstration, please refer to page 124 in appendix B). Give the child who chose the cup that overflowed a prize for picking the right one.



LESSON OUTLINE

Ecclesiastes 7:9 - Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

Have you ever been to the zoo or saw a picture of the large animal that is gray and has two horns on its nose? It's a rhinoceros! Did you know that one kind of rhinoceros lives in India? I would like to tell you some pretty interesting things about rhinos today that you might not know. There is also something important that Christians can learn from the rhinoceros. Many people think of rhinoceroses as angry animals because they seem to charge at everything that moves. The reason they charge however has to do with their poor eye sight. Just like that foam in our object lesson, anger can swell up inside us and cause a big mess when it gets out. Let's learn some more about the rhinoceros and why it charges at everything so easily.

(Explain the Game) – Throughout the lesson I will talk about a number of interesting things about rhinos and I will also ask 4 questions about them. Before I ask each question, I will pick out two people who are sitting quietly. Both of them get to take a guess at the answer. The one that is closest to the right answer gets a prize (if both are right give both a prize, if neither are even close then no prizes are given).

- **The Picture** – Here are some interesting facts about the rhinoceros that you may not know:
 - **(Question #1) – How much do rhinos weigh? (Answer) Rhinos usually weigh about 4,400 pounds, which is as much as much as 25 adult humans.** They are about 6 feet tall at their shoulder and usually live to be about 40-50 years old. Newborn rhinos weigh about 150 pounds.
 - Rhinos are vegetarians. In fact, some rhinos can eat plants that are deadly to other animals. Rhinos can live up to five days without water during a drought. Many rhinos can use their special lips like a set of fingers to pick up tiny twigs and plants, or can use it to open gates or even car doors.
 - **(Question #2) – Rhino horns are made of the same thing as what part of the human body? (Answer) Rhino horns are made of keratin which is found in human fingernails and hair.** Just like our fingernails grow back, a rhino's horn will grow back if it is cut or broken off.
 - Rhinos can sleep either standing up or lying down.

- Rhinos communicate with each other by wiggling their ears, flaring their nostrils, standing in a certain way, and above all by exhaling their breath loudly in patterns (kind of like Morse Code).
- **(Question #3) – What is a group of rhinos called? (Answer) A group of rhinos is called a crash.**
- Rhinos look like they have armor on, but actually have very sensitive skin. They roll in the mud and let the mud dry on their skin to act as sunscreen and to help them keep the bugs and ticks off.
- **(Question #4) – How fast can rhinos run? (Answer) They can move at 40 mph.** Humans can only run about 20 mph, so a rhino can run about twice as fast as you can.
- Rhinos are very gentle animals, but they cannot see very well at all. Because they can hardly see, many harmless movements will actually frighten them. When they think they are in danger, the rhino will charge at whatever scared it. This had led many people to think rhinos have bad tempers.
- Because they cannot see well, some rhinos allow birds live on their backs. The birds let them know if danger is nearby. Rhinos can hear and smell very well to help make up for their poor eyesight.

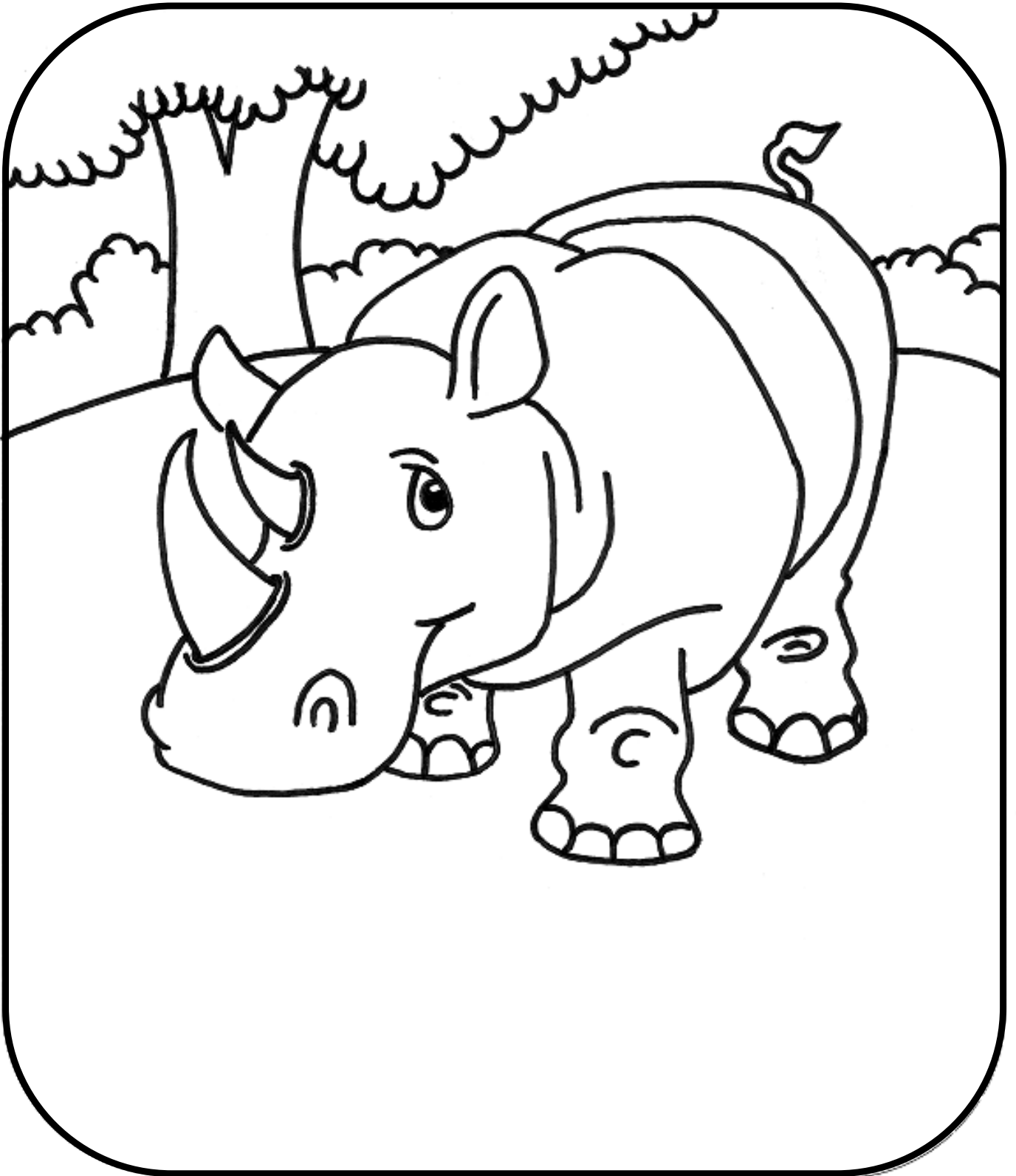
PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- **The Practice** – The Indian Rhinoceros reminds Christians to control their temper!
 - (1.) Be controlled – Wait to hear the whole story before getting angry!
 - For many years, people thought rhinos were aggressive animals with really bad tempers. Because of their poor eyesight, rhinos tend to charge first and then see if it was something to worry about later. If they could see better, rhinos would realize that they charge at a lot of silly things. Do you know people like that? Christians can be tempted at times to let their anger control them. Instead of getting angry quickly and saying or doing things you might regret later, remember to stop and listen to the whole story before getting angry. Many times listening to whole story will help us understand why someone did something and keep us from getting angry. Learn from the rhino, listen to the whole story before getting angry and attacking others (James 1:19-20, Prov. 14:17, Prov. 16:32, Eph. 4:26).
 - (2.) Be controlled – Responding in anger leads to words and actions that we will regret later.
 - A group of rhinos charging 40 mph at something is going to leave a lot of damage behind. Sadly, rhinos will only find out after they charged if they made a mistake, but by then they've made a huge mess. When someone has been mean to us, not given us something we deserve, or treated us unfairly, we sometimes want to respond in anger. Remember though that we will always regret things we say or do when we let our anger control us. Just like a bomb, anger will leave a big mess behind that can take a long time to fix. Remember that Jesus was treated unfairly because of the sins that you did. Jesus didn't respond in anger towards you though, He chose to forgive. The easiest way to keep you anger under control is to start by forgiving those who have hurt us (Matt. 6:14-15, Rom. 12:19, Eph. 4:32).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Which can run faster a human or a rhinoceros?**
 - *A rhino can move at 40 mph, but a human can only run at 20 mph.*
- **Why does a rhinoceros charge at things?**
 - *Rhinos cannot see very well and if they are startled or scared, they will charge at what scared them.*
- **How should Christians respond when they are tempted to be angry?**
 - *Christians should listen to the whole story and chose to forgive others (Jas. 1:19-20, Matt. 6:14-15).*

ANGER



Because the rhinoceros is quick to charge at things, it often makes a big mess out of things.