Noise! Noise! Noise!

Summary

Marcus and Marcella hate the noisy forest animals and the hard work in searching for food every day. Their eyes light up when a chipmunk tells them that the farm has no noise and lots of food.

In spite of being warned by Mama Beaver, they immediately move to the farm. Their dreams come true. But their dreams are shattered when the farmer and his wife come home. The chase is on. After barely escaping, they quickly return to their forest home. They discover that even with all the noise and hard work, the forest is a wonderful place to live.

Main Virtues

Tolerance/Friendship/Appreciation

Other Virtues

Caring, Cheerfulness, Citizenship, Civic Virtue, Community Service, Compassion, Cooperation, Diligence, Dignity of Labor, Friendship, Kindness, Patience, Peacefulness, Perseverance, Positive Mental Attitude, Peacefulness, Respect for Others, and Unity

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Even though Marcus and Marcella had a beautiful home in the forest, they were always miserable. But all the other animals were very happy living in the forest.

“Work! Work! Work!” complained Marcus. “I hate that every day we have to work so hard to find our food.”

“Me, too,” groaned Marcella. “I’d be so happy to live where it would be easy to find our food.”

Because Marcus and Marcella were not willing to work, they constantly complained and were miserable.

Proverbs 6:6-11
Go to the ant, you sluggard!
Consider her ways and be wise,
[7] Which, having no captain,
Overseer or ruler,
[8] Provides her supplies in the summer,
And gathers her food in the harvest.
[9] How long will you slumber, O sluggard?
When will you rise from your sleep?
[10] A little sleep, a little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to sleep—
[11] So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler,
And your need like an armed man.

Proverbs 10:4-5
He who has a slack hand becomes poor,
But the hand of the diligent makes rich.
[5] He who gathers in summer is a wise son;
He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.

Proverbs 13:4
The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing;
But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

√ Proverbs 21:25
The desire of the lazy man kills him,
For his hands refuse to labor.

Proverbs 24:30-34
I went by the field of the lazy man,
And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding;
[31] And there it was, all overgrown with thorns;
Its surface was covered with nettles;
Its stone wall was broken down.
[32] When I saw it, I considered it well;
I looked on it and received instruction:
[33] A little sleep, a little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to rest;
[34] So shall your poverty come like a prowler,
And your need like an armed man.
Hebrews 6:12
That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Additional verses: Proverbs 12:11; Proverbs 14:23; Proverbs 15:19; Proverbs 20:4; Matthew 25:26

√* The check is a recommended Scripture to teach the particular lesson.
All verses are from the New King James Version

### Complaining

One day some crows flew to the big tree by Marcus and Marcella’s house. They began to sing, “Caw! Caw! Caw!”

“The crows are making too much noise,” complained Marcella. “It’s giving me a headache. Tell the crows to quit making so much noise.”

“Quit yelling!” shouted Marcus. “You’re making too much noise.”

One of the crows flew down from the tree and explained, “We’re not yelling; we’re singing.”

“We don’t like to hear your singing,” said Marcus. “You make too much noise. Why don’t you go to the farm and sing?”

Not only did Marcus and Marcella complain about work, they also complained about the noise in the forest. They became two bitter mice.

Romans 12:18
If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

√ Philippians 2:14-15
Do all things without complaining and disputing, [15] that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

Hebrews 12:14
Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.

James 5:9
Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

1 Peter 3:10-11
For “He who would love life
And see good days,
Let him refrain his tongue from evil,
And his lips from speaking deceit.
[11] Let him turn away from evil and do good;
Let him seek peace and pursue it.

Scripture verses: Proverbs 15:17-18; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Corinthians 3:3; 1 Corinthians 10:10; 2 Corinthians 12:20; Galatians 5:15; Ephesians 4:31
Compassion

Then some chipmunks came to play tag by their favorite log.
“Chip! Chip! Chip!” yelled the happy chipmunks as they ran and jumped all over the log.
“The chipmunks are making too much noise,” complained Marcella. “Tell them to stop making so much noise.”
“Quit yelling!” screamed Marcus. “You’re making too much noise!”
“We’re not yelling,” said the happy chipmunks. “We’re playing tag.”

Marcus and Marcella became so bitter that even chipmunks happily playing on a log disturbed them. We should be considerate and have compassion for others. Those who are self-centered are miserable.

Matthew 14:14
And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

2 Corinthians 1:3
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

Ephesians 4:32
And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Colossians 3:12
Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.

1 Peter 3:8
Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous.

Additional verses: Matthew 9:36; Matthew 15:32; Matthew 20:34; Mark 1:41;

Hasty Decisions

One of the chipmunks heard them speaking. He came over and said, “At the farmhouse they have lots of good food and no noise.”
“They do?” asked a surprised Marcella.
“Yes, they do,” said the chipmunk.
“Thank you!” said Marcus. “We’re moving right away from this noisy place.”
“Oh good!” said Marcella, beaming from ear to ear. “I’m so glad we finally found a place to live where we can eat all the food we want without having to search for it every day.”
“And no noise!” added Marcus.
“Ohhhhh!” said Marcella. “That would be so, so wonderful! I know I will be the happiest mouse in the whole world! Let’s leave right away!”

Marcus and Marcella made hasty decisions. The wise do not make hasty decisions, they think carefully before they act.

Proverbs 14:29
He who is slow to wrath has great understanding,
But he who is impulsive exalts folly.
Proverbs 19:2
Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge,
And he sins who hastens with his feet.

√ Proverbs 21:5
The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty,
But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.

Proverbs 29:20
Do you see a man hasty in his words?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Scripture verses: Proverbs 25:8; Ecclesiastes 5:2; 1 Timothy 3:6, 5:22; Titus 1:7-8

Listening to Correction

“Living on the farm can be very dangerous,” warned Mama Beaver. “If the farmer...”
“Thank you for your advice,” said Marcella. She did not want to hear what Mama Beaver had to say. Then Marcella said, “We know that if the farm has no noise and lots of food we’ll be the happiest mice in the whole world!”
“That’s right,” said Marcus. “We’re moving today!”
The wise listen to correction and rebuke, but the proud listen only to themselves.

Proverbs 9:8
Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you;
Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.

Proverbs 13:1
A wise son heeds his father’s instruction,
But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Proverbs 15:12
A scoffer does not love one who corrects him,
Nor will he go to the wise.

√ Proverbs 15:31
The ear that hears the rebukes of life
Will abide among the wise.

Proverbs 27:5-6
Open rebuke is better
Than love carefully concealed.
[6] Faithful are the wounds of a friend,
But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Revelation 3:19
As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

Additional verses: James 1:19; Proverbs 12:1; Proverbs 13:18; Proverbs 15:5, 10; Proverbs 17:10; Proverbs 25:12; Proverbs 26:12
Persecution Brings Wisdom

When Marcus and Marcella came back, the forest animals came to visit them. “Did the farm have lots of food?” asked a crow.

“The farm had lots of good food,” said Marcus.

“Did the farm have lots of noise?” asked Papa Beaver.

“No,” said Marcella. “It was really quiet.”

“Then why did you leave the farm?” asked a puzzled chipmunk.

“It wasn’t as we thought,” explained Marcus. “It was scary. We didn’t realize how good we had it living here in the forest. Now we appreciate it.”

Then Marcella said, “You can sing and make all the noise you want. Now we like living in the forest.”

Instead of listening to others and thinking carefully what they were going to do, Marcus and Marcella experienced trouble and persecution. But through their troubles and persecution, they finally learned to appreciate what they had.

√ Psalm 119:67

Before I was afflicted I went astray,
But now I keep Your word.

Psalm 119:71

It is good for me that I have been afflicted,
That I may learn Your statutes.

Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,
Nor detest His correction;
[12] For whom the Lord loves He corrects,
Just as a father the son in whom he delights.

Hebrews 12:5-11

And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; [6] for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.”

[7] If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? [8] But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. [9] Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? [10] For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. [11] Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Additional verses: Deuteronomy 8:5; Psalm 119:75; Jeremiah 31:18-19; 1 Corinthians 11:30-32
Appreciation

“Caw!  Caw!  Caw!” went the happy crows as they began to sing.
“Chop!  Chop!  Chop!” went the busy beavers as they began to work.
“Chip!  Chip!  Chip!” yelled the playful chipmunks as they raced around the log.

Then Marcus turned to Marcella and said, “Even with all the noise and hard work, I’m so happy to be living in the forest.  We surely were foolish for not appreciating what we had.”

“I agree!” said Marcella, beaming from ear to ear.  “The forest is a wonderful place to live.”

We should be thankful and appreciate the things we have.  When we look at others in the world we have been truly blessed of the Lord.

Psalm 103:1-4
Bless the Lord, O my soul;
And all that is within me, bless His holy name!
[2] Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:
[3] Who forgives all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases,
[4] Who redeems your life from destruction,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

Psalm 107:1
Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.

Ephesians 5:18-20
Be filled with the Spirit, [19] speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, [20] giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:15-17
And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. [16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. [17] And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Additional verses: Psalm 30:4; Psalm 95:2; Psalm 100:4; Luke 17:11-19; Romans 1:21; Philippians 4:6; Hebrews 12:28; Hebrews 13:15
World’s Problems

Have students make a list of some of the world’s problems.

- Broken homes
- Lack of shelter
- Loneliness
- Persecution
- No schools
- Floods
- Storms
- Starvation
- Wars
- Diseases

Things to be Thankful For

Have students make a list of things to be thankful for.

- Loving Parents
- Comfortable Home
- Brothers and sisters
- Friends
- Teachers
- Place of worship
- School
- The country you live in
- Good Health
- Plentiful Food

Questions

1. What kind of home did Marcus and Marcella have in the forest?
   Marcus and Marcella had a beautiful home in the forest.

2. Even though Marcus and Marcella had a beautiful home in the forest, how did they feel?
   Marcus and Marcella were always miserable

3. What did Marcus say he hated to do every day?
   Marcus said, “I hate that every day we have to work so hard to find our food.”
   Because Marcus and Marcella were not willing to work, they constantly complained and were miserable. The Bible says, “The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor” (Proverbs 21:25).

4. What did the crows do when they flew to the big tree by Marcus and Marcella’s house?
   The crows began to sing, “Caw! Caw! Caw!”
5. What did Marcella say to Marcus when she heard the crows singing?
Marcella said, “The crows are making too much noise. It’s giving me a headache.”

Not only did Marcus and Marcella complain about work, they also complained about noise in the forest. They became two bitter mice. The Bible says, “Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:14-15).

6. What did Marcus shout to the crows?
Marcus shouted, “Quit yelling! You’re making too much noise.”

7. What did one of the crows say?
One of the crows said, “We’re not yelling, we’re singing.”

8. What did Marcella wish she could find?
Marcella wished she could find a place to live that has lots of food and no noise.

9. What did the two beavers say why they needed to chop down trees?
The beavers said, “We need to cut down trees to build a house for our family.”

10. What did Marcella complain and wish as the beavers went back to work?
Marcella complained, “Noise! Noise! Noise! I wish we could find a place to live without so much noise.”

11. What did some chipmunks begin to do?
Some chipmunks came to play tag by their favorite log.

12. What did Marcella tell Marcus about the chipmunks?
Marcella said, “The chipmunks are making too much noise. Tell them to stop making so much noise.”

13. When Marcus told the chipmunks to stop yelling, what did one of the chipmunks say they were doing?
The chipmunks said, “We’re not yelling. We’re playing tag.”

Marcus and Marcella became so bitter that even chipmunks happily playing on a log disturbed them. We should be considerate and show compassion. Those who are self-centered do not have lasting happiness. The Bible says, “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).

14. What did the chipmunk say to Marcus and Marcella that made them so happy?
The chipmunk said, “At the farmhouse they have lots of good food and no noise.”

15. What did Marcus say to the chipmunk when he heard him say, “At the farmhouse they have lots of good food and no noise”?
Marcus said, “We’re moving right away from this noisy place.”

Marcus and Marcella made hasty decisions. Those who are wise do not make hasty decisions. The Bible says, “The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty” (Proverbs 21:5).

16. What did Marcus tell the beavers and crows what they were doing and what they could do?
Marcus said, “We’re moving there today! Now you can make all the noise you want.”
17. What did Papa Beaver say they needed to do?
_Papa Beaver said, “You need to appreciate what you have.”_

18. What did Marcus say when Papa Beaver said, “You need to appreciate what you have”?
_Marcus said, “We hate searching for food every day. It’s too much work.”_

19. What did Marcella say when Papa Beaver said, “You need to appreciate what you have”?
_Marcella said, “All the noise in the forest gives me a headache. We’re moving today!”_

20. What did Mama Beaver warn Marcus and Marcella?
_Mama Beaver warned Marcus and Marcella, “Living on the farm can be very dangerous.”_

21. What was Marcella’s reaction to Mama Beaver’s warning?
_Marcella did not want to hear what Mama Beaver had to say.

   The wise listen to correction and rebuke, but the proud listen only to themselves. The Bible says, “The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise” (Proverbs 15:31).

22. What did Marcella tell Mama Beaver?
_Marcella said, “We know that if the farm has no noise and lots of food we’ll be the happiest mice in the whole world!”_

23. Who did Marcus and Marcella see when they were walking towards the farmer’s house?
_Marcus and Marcella saw the farmer and his wife.

24. What did Marcus and Marcella do when they saw the farmer and his wife?
_Marcus and Marcella ran towards the shed.

25. What did Marcus and Marcella do when they saw the delicious food?
_Marcus and Marcella ate and ate and ate. They filled their tummies until they could hold no more.

26. What did Marcella say after she filled her tummy until it could hold no more?
_Marcella said, “This is so, so wonderful! It can’t get any better. I’m the happiest mouse in the whole world!”

27. What immediately happened when Marcella said, “This is so, so wonderful! It can’t get any better. I’m the happiest mouse in the whole world”?
_Just then the door opened, and the farmer and his wife walked into the house.

28. Where did Marcus try to hide?
_Marcus tried to hide under a rag.

29. What did the farmer’s wife say she would not have in her house?
_The farmer’s wife said, “I will not have a mouse in my house!”

30. What did Marcella say about living in the farmhouse?
_Marcella said, “Living in the farmhouse is terrible.
31. What did Marcus say when the chipmunk asked, “Why did you leave the farm”?
Marcus said, “It wasn’t as we thought. It was scary. We didn’t realize how good we had it living here in the forest. Now we appreciate it.”

After experiencing trouble and persecution, Marcus and Marcella learned to appreciate what they had. Sometimes the Lord in His wisdom allows his children to experience difficulties to teach them valuable lessons. The Bible says, “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word” (Psalm 119:67).

32. What did Marcus say to Marcella when the crows began to sing, the beavers began to work, and the chipmunks began to play?
Marcus said, “Even with all the noise and hard work, I’m so happy to be living in the forest. We surely were foolish for not appreciating what we had.”

We should be thankful and appreciative for the things we have. When we look at others in the world, we have been truly blessed of the Lord. The Bible tells us, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

33. What did Marcella say when Marcus told her, “Even with all the noise and hard work, I’m so happy to be living in the forest. We surely were foolish for not appreciating what we had”?
Marcella said, “I agree! The forest is a wonderful place to live.”

34. List some of the world’s problems.
- Broken homes
- Lack of shelter
- Loneliness
- Persecution
- No schools
- Floods
- Storms
- Starvation
- Wars
- Diseases

35. List some of the things we should be thankful for.
- Loving Parents
- Comfortable Home
- Brothers and sisters
- Friends
- Teachers
- Place of worship
- School
- The country you live in
- Good Health
- Plentiful Food