

Theme: The Holy Spirit helps us



'The Snail and the Whale' by Julia Donaldson is a story about a restless young snail who wants to travel the world. The other snails think she should stay put, but she puts out a call, "Lift wanted around the world." Eventually her call is answered by a great big grey-blue humpback whale! She sets off with him across the seas. They discover towering icebergs and far-off lands, fiery mountains and golden sands.

Biblical Reference:

Romans 8:26

'In the same way the Spirit also comes to help us, weak as we are.'

Next month's book is:

'Amazing Daddy' by Rachel Bright

Inspiration ...

If you do not have this book, you could borrow it from the library or watch a re-telling of the story on YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/EmMnaSkeKqQ>

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Theme exploration:

The Bible talks about God the Holy Spirit, who helps the people here on earth to follow Jesus' example. In the Bible, we read that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help his followers do seemingly impossible things. John 14:26 'But the helper, the Holy Spirit, will be sent in my name, who will teach you all things and remind you of everything I (Jesus) have said to you.'

In the story, the whale gets confused by noisy motorboats zooming around on the surface. The whale loses his way and it's down to the tiny snail to save him. The snail, however, feels that she is weak and not capable of helping the whale, yet she is the only one who can save him. There is no way that the snail can help the whale on her own, instead she has to go and ask for help. This is what we believe the Holy Spirit does for us.

The Holy Spirit helps us to do the right thing, filling us with joy, peace and empowerment, giving us courage and strength to take on tasks that would be impossible on our own. The Holy Spirit comes to help us, when we ask.

Things for you to try this month:

- Complete a task at home without being asked.
- Watch a trailer for the snail and the whale film here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jw_dLlwL4FQ
You can probably watch the whole film on BBC iPlayer.
- List the tasks you need help with. Note who could you ask to help and then ask them for help.
- Thank somebody when you notice they have helped you.



We believe in the power of prayer

A prayer to pray for your family:

Dear God, we thank You that You send Your Holy Spirit to guide us. Help us to know when to ask for your guidance. Amen.

A prayer we pray for you as parents:

Lord God, thank You that you send your Holy Spirit to help us. We ask that you will help these parents to know when to ask for help and that your Holy Spirit will fill them with courage and strength to be great parents. Amen.