



'The Rabbit Listened' by Cori Doerrfeld is a sweet and simple story that reminds both children and adults that sometimes the best way to help someone is to just listen. Taylor builds an incredible block fortress but it suddenly, unexpectedly comes crashing down. Taylor is completely distraught and a small army of animals come through one by one, each giving lots of advice on the best way to deal with Taylor's loss. Then Rabbit comes along and Rabbit just listens, which turns out to be exactly what Taylor needs.

Theme: God is always listening

Biblical Reference:

Jeremiah 29:12

"(God said) "Then you will call to me. You will come and pray to me, and I will answer you".

Theme exploration:

The Bible tells us that God is always listening to us. It says don't be anxious about anything but in your prayers ask God for what you need. He doesn't want us to worry about things in our families, or school, or in the world. God tells us to pray to Him and let Him know what's bothering us, he is always listening to us.

In this story Taylor was so cross because the crows had knocked his tower down. He talked, shouted, wanted to hide, throw it all away or ruin things for someone else to make himself feel better. The Rabbit just sat close to him and listened. The Rabbit couldn't make the tower better and couldn't fix the way Taylor felt but that wasn't what Taylor needed - he needed someone to listen.

We believe that God is like Rabbit, being close and always listening to us. Like Taylor we can always talk to Him. Talking to God is called praying which we can do at anytime not just at bedtime or in church, and He will always hear us.

Next month's book is:

'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister

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/rHPoj53dy8o>

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Things for you to try this month:

- Play Chinese whispers as a family. Make sure you listen carefully.
- Use 2 plastic cups and some string to make telephones.
- Listen or dance to some music, freeze when the music stops
- Describe a scene and ask other members of your family to listen carefully to everything you say and draw it.



We believe in the power of prayer

A prayer to pray for your family:

Lord God, thank You that You are always listening to us. Help us to know that wherever we are and whatever we are doing we can always talk to you. Amen.

A prayer we pray for you as parents:

Thank You that You are always there for us. Help these parents to listen to their children and know that sometimes the best thing they can do for them is just be there, listening. Amen.