



Mole Music

written and illustrated by David McPhail



READS

Reading and Activity Guide

BEFORE READING

- + Do you know what a mole is? Do you know where they live? Enjoy this quick, interesting video!
- + If you lived underground, it might get very boring, what is something you would do for fun?

DURING READING

- + After hearing beautiful music from a violin, Mole decided that he wants to learn how to play the violin. *What is a new skill that you want to learn?*
- + *Why does Mole have joy when he plays the violin? What is something you do that brings you joy or brings joy to someone else?*
- + *As Mole played his violin, what happened to the anger and sadness of the people who were fighting? Ask the children if they think Mole is only imagining people hearing his music or if he actually is changing the world above him.*

AFTER READING

- + Music is something that Mole shared with those around them to cause their anger and sadness to disappear. Mole's music brought peace. *What is something you can share with people around you that would make peace in the world?*
- + Mole is one animal who made a huge impact. So much greater than a mole (as wonderful as they are), YOU are a dearly loved child of God, created to serve others. *What is something you can do to serve somebody else?*
- + *What is something big or small that someone has done for you that made a big impact?*

Springboard Activities:

Activity #1: Make Waves - Fill a bowl with water. Drop a rock into it. *Do you notice the ripples?* Let this rock represent big acts of service you might do, like volunteering at a nursing home or bringing food to the homeless. Now drop a marshmallow into the water. *Do you notice the ripples?* Let this marshmallow represent smaller acts of service, like cleaning up without being told or helping a friend with homework. Next, drop a toothpick into the water. *Do you notice the ripples?* Let this toothpick represent an even smaller, more simple act of service, like giving a friend a compliment. Lastly, drop a tiny sprinkle into the water. *Do you notice the ripples?* Let this sprinkle represent the smallest act of kindness, like holding the door open for somebody or smiling at somebody who looks sad. Never underestimate how much an act of kindness, no matter how small, can impact somebody's day. They all create ripples. The Lord uses you to bless others. For this activity, encourage children to brainstorm acts of service at each level.

Activity #2: List Your Gifts - Read 1 Peter 4:10 together. *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* What gifts has God blessed you with that you can use to bless others? Mole used the gift of music to calm many angry people. Come up with a list of the gifts God has given you; how many ideas can you think of? Keep adding to your list, and ask God to keep shining through you. If you have more than one child, ask them to list gifts about the other people in the room. Children need affirmation, just like adults, that they matter and make a difference in the world.



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