



INSPIRED BY THE AMAZING
TRUE STORY OF WINTER

HARRY CONNICK, JR. ASHLEY JUDD KRIS KRISTOFFERSON and MORGAN FREEMAN

Dolphin Tale
IN 3D

Youth Activity Booklet

Read This First!

You've grown up watching movies. You've seen them in theaters, in classrooms, in your living room, and maybe even in your family's car. You've memorized the lines of your favorite films. You dressed up as movie characters for Halloween. There's no doubt about it, movies are a big part of your life!

But you might not have ever seen a movie in the way you're gonna see *Dolphin Tale*!

Dolphin Tale may pop your eyes out of your head with amazing special effects, or blow out your eardrums with massive explosions – those aren't what make this movie so cool. What will make seeing *Dolphin Tale* a new experience for you is...

...YOUR BRAIN.

When you see *Dolphin Tale*, you'll use your brain instead of just your eyes and ears. You see – movies are more than what you see on the screen and hear through the sound system. Movies have *messages* – ideas and viewpoints that they want you to understand and experience. Now that



you're old enough to figure these things out for yourself, you'll start noticing the messages in movies more and more.

That's where this booklet comes in.

When you do the activities included here, you'll know what to look for in the movie, and you'll be better equipped to process the film after seeing it. You'll go see *Dolphin Tale* with some insider info that will help you recognize the messages in the film. This material is kind of like one of those "secret decoder rings" you played with as a young kid – but more fun!



When you use your brain while watching a movie, you get a whole lot more out of the experience. Using your brain while watching a movie is like raising your hands in the air while riding a gnarly rollercoaster. The experience and thrills go to a whole new level!

So, plan on going to see *Dolphin Tale* with some friends – our talk your church leader into bringing your entire group! Before you go, read through this booklet and do the different activities. You'll have more fun if you do the activities with a couple of friends. Or even better – make your parents wonder what's gone wrong with you by asking them to go through these activities with you!

You'll have a blast!

Do These BEFORE Seeing Dolphin Tale!

These three activities will prepare you to get the most out of watching the movie!

THE NEW KID

You've seen them. Maybe you've actually been one of them – more than once. There's something about them that immediately clues you in on their newness. Maybe it's something about the way that they dress. Or those scared, where-do-I-find-my-next-class looks on their faces. Whatever it is, you can usually spot a New Kid from across the schoolyard.

The real problem faced by a new kid isn't finding the right classroom. It's finding friends. Kids at your age have pretty much grouped themselves into friend clusters. Some people call them *cliques* (pronounced "clicks"). You can almost chart the cliques in your school by identifying where the different groups sit at lunchtime. In

fact, that's your first activity in preparation of seeing *Dolphin Tale* – chart where the different friendship clusters sit during lunch at your school. In the box below, draw your cafeteria or lunch area, and label which cliques sit where.

Now read these Scripture passages (quoted from *The Message* paraphrase of the Bible) and answer the questions:

Romans 12:16 – *Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.*

Philippians 2:3-4 – *Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourself long enough to lend a helping hand.*

- What makes befriending “nobodies” and new kids difficult?
- This seems to be a big deal to God. Why do you think the Bible is so clear about reaching out to kids who don’t have any friends?
- What will you do the next time you’re going to lunch and you notice one of those left-out kids at your school?



CARING FOR CREATION

One of the awesome responsibilities that God has given us is to take care of what He’s made. Amazingly enough, God handed the keys of Earth to us – people – and gave us the job of making His creation work. Here’s how *The Message* paraphrase puts it:

Genesis 1:27-28 – *God created human beings; He created them godlike, reflecting His nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air; for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.”*

Maybe that’s why most of us are fascinated with animals. We are SUPPOSED to be! There’s just something inside of us that makes us need to appreciate them, care for them, and help them out.

That’s part of caring for God’s creation.

This idea is especially apparent when we encounter hurt animals. When you see the movie, you’ll meet a dolphin that needs help, and watch the courageous efforts of a bunch of people – for a *dolphin*. Why? Because we are SUPPOSED to be responsible for EVERY LIVING THING that moves on the face of the earth, that’s why.

Unfortunately, people haven’t done a great job of fulfilling God’s blessing. Every day we lose more forest, animal species, and other resources that the Earth has – all because we forgot that our job is to manage and care for creation. Instead, people have focused on making “progress” – building cities, making money, or even just wanting nice things.

Don’t get the wrong idea – that’s not all bad. The problem comes when “making progress” becomes more important than “caring for creation.” We need to manage and care for God’s creation so that we can continue to make progress – and that generations to come can do the same.

Before you go to see *Dolphin Tale*, make a list of what you see in your town that shows how people have not cared for God’s creation. Your list can include such things as “trash in the creek bed,” “big trees cut down for another shopping center,” “weeds growing in playground,” and so on. You can even list “dog chained to a post all day,” “kittens abandoned,” or “ducks can’t make it across the street safely.”



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A lot of kids your age don't realize how effective they can be in making a difference around them. "I'm just a kid," they think. "I can't drive – all I have is my bike/skateboard," they explain. But when you see *Dolphin Tale*, you'll see two kids (and a bunch of adults) who prove that people your age CAN make a difference. And, they do it with ultimate coolness!

The key is to realize what you have as a kid that adults often can't offer. Here are a few "for instances" of what someone your age can use that adults usually can't:

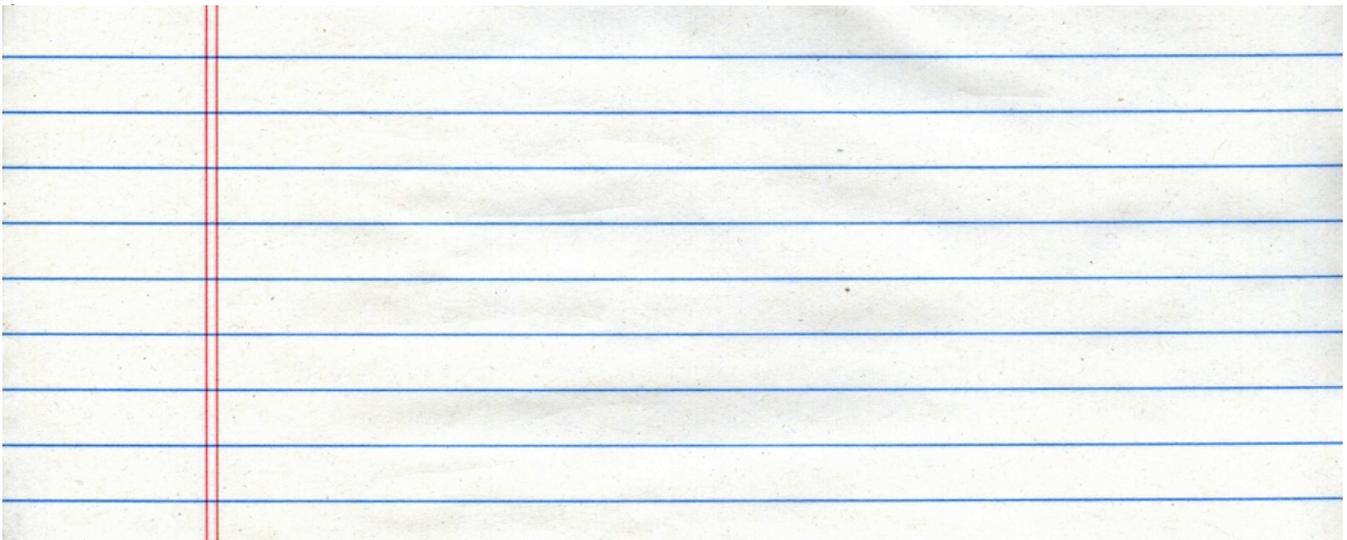
- *Energy* – You have more energy than a vanload of adults. The way you ride your bike would make an adult collapse in a pile of sweat. You can channel that energy in a bunch of creative ways to make a difference in your world.
- *Creativity* – Adults are often stuck in a "we've always done it this way" mode. You, on the other hand, can think of LOADS of different ways to accomplish a goal.
- *Courage* – As a kid, you don't worry about losing your job or making the boss mad at you. Therefore, you can do things that no adult would dare attempt.

The Bible has a cool verse that's just for you. It's 1 Timothy 4:12, and *The Message* paraphrase puts it this way:

Don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity.

That's saying a lot! Think through how you can use your youthfulness to make a difference by answering these questions:

- How could what you SAY make a difference?
- The way you act – your "demeanor" – says a lot about who you are, what you're like, and what you think is important. What do you think your "demeanor" is saying?
- When this verse mentions "love" it does not mean "gooshy feelings" but rather "sacrifice for the benefit of others." Think over your past couple of days and identify when and what you have sacrificed for the benefit of others.
- When you try to do something that is impossible unless God helps, that's living by faith. How have you shown your faith recently?
- When a person does what is right even though nobody may notice, that's integrity. In *Dolphin Tale* you'll see several examples of integrity, but right now you should think of a couple of incidents when you could have done the wrong thing and gotten away with it, but instead did the right thing. Write out those situations here:



Inspired by the amazing true story of Winter



Do These AFTER Seeing Dolphin Tale!

Don't do these three activities until you've seen the film – they won't make much sense before watching *Dolphin Tale*, and you don't wanna spoil anything!

CROSSING THE LINE

Sawyer was faced with a dilemma. He had stumbled onto a serious situation at the beach, and wanted to do something to help the dolphin at the Clearwater Marine Hospital. However, Sawyer had to go to summer school. So, he started skipping class. But, he was caught.

So, he showed his mom what he had been doing. She was impressed, and tried to convince the teacher to let Sawyer use his efforts with the dolphin as schoolwork instead of going to class. However, the teacher refused.



So, what can YOU do when faced with doing something that is good, but isn't condoned by others? How do you "cross the line" and make a difference, without becoming an evil person? Can you really create change in your world?

A similar situation happened way back at the beginning of Christianity. Peter and boys were telling everyone about Jesus – which really ticked off the ruling religious elite, who had previously ordered Peter and his guys to not talk about Jesus. When Peter and the others continued to tell people about Jesus, they were arrested and

thrown in jail. But during the night an angel let them escape, and the next day they were back at it – telling anyone who would listen about Jesus.

By now the ruling religious dudes were fit to be tied. They had Peter and his cohorts hauled in. This is what the Bible says happened next (Acts 5:28-29)...

The Chief Priest said, "Didn't we give you strict orders not to teach in Jesus' name? And here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are trying your best to blame us for the death of this man."

Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

Whoa! That took some guts!

Think through this issue a little deeper by answering these four thought-provoking questions:

- When is going against the rules okay?
- How can you tell you're not just doing what "feels" right?
- When is going against the rules NOT an okay thing to do?
- Give an example of when you defied what was expected in order to do a greater good.



HURT, BUT NOT BROKEN

You know how you can tell a lot about a person by how he or she reacts to getting hurt? Some people holler and scream at the slightest injury, while others will be bleeding and not notice. And even more telling are those who have to handle a severe injury or disease. Some people will rise to the challenge of an injury. They'll use their pain to motivate them to be the best they can. Others will sink into the misery of an injury. They'll use their pain as an excuse to not even try.



In the *Dolphin Tale* film, you saw an example of both. Winter, of course, would not be hampered or limited by her injury. In fact, she became a source of hope and encouragement for others with disabilities such as hers. On the other hand, Sawyer's cousin, Kyle, who was wounded overseas, wasn't dealing with his hurt like Winter was. He wanted to be left alone so that he could sink into the misery of his injury. Thankfully, he was able to break through that depression and see his injury as a benefit.

One of the key figures in Christianity back when it was getting started was a guy called Paul. You might have heard of him. He kind of wrote a bunch of the New Testament of the Bible. He was a pretty impressive dude. He was a brainiac – educated beyond what most highly educated people achieved. He was a stud – enduring beatings, shipwrecks, snakebites, and more.

But, he had a problem – a physical limitation that bugged him to no end. He couldn't function at the

level he wanted to because of his problem. Every step he took, every time he wanted to write a letter, every crowd he faced, his limitation hindered him.

So, he asked God to heal him. Here's what he wrote about the situation (it's 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 from *The Message* paraphrase):

“Because of the extravagance of those revelations, and so I wouldn't get a big head, I was given the gift of a handicap to keep me in constant touch with my limitations. Satan's angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees. No danger then of walking around high and mighty! At first I didn't think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, and then he told me, ‘My grace is enough; it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness.’ Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size—abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.

Notice especially that last sentence: “...the weaker I get, the stronger I become.” That's the kind of perspective you need to have when you get hurt. God can use your difficult situations to create something way cooler than otherwise possible!



Here are three activities you can do to make sure that when you're hurt, you're not broken:

1. *Visit someone in the hospital.* To most kids, hospitals are scary places. They're big, busy, and kinda smelly. Weird medical machinery seems to be everywhere and the walls are painted colors guaranteed to make you feel sick. So, yeah, this activity might be a bit intimidating. But, you're up for it, aren't you? When you visit someone in the hospital, bring this booklet with you and read the 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 verses to the patient. Then, volunteer to pray for him or her. You can do this!



2. *Eat lunch with a disabled student.* You probably have some kids in wheelchairs at your school, or maybe there's a special group of students who can't quite keep up mentally with the rest. So, sometime this week, take your lunch over there and enjoy sharing a meal together. Remember, they may be "hurt" but they aren't "broken"!
3. *Memorize 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.* You'll be amazed at how often God will bring those two verses to your mind *if* you have them memorized. Work with a friend to get this Scripture in your brain – maybe make a game out of it by taking turns saying the next phrase.

GETTING INVOLVED

When Sawyer rode his bike to the beach, he didn't plan on getting involved with a dolphin, let alone becoming best friends with a perky girl and helping to save a struggling marine hospital. He wasn't looking for a cause to champion. Sawyer just wanted to get out of summer school.

His curiosity led him to a deep friendship with Hazel Haskett and her family. Together, they helped Winter the dolphin to regain her strength, and took advantage of Winter's popularity to save the Marine Hospital from being torn down to build a fancy hotel.

Who is your best friend? What can the two of you do together to make your neighborhood, school, church, or town a better place for all of God's creatures to live in?

Here's a four-step project for you and your friend to do that might get you started:

1. *Do some research* and discover what needs exist in your community. You might have "vernal pools" that need protecting. You might discover that people dump oil, paint, and other harmful chemicals into the storm drains in your neighborhood – drains that feed into local creeks and rivers, polluting them. You might find out that your local businesses and residents need encouragement to recycle more. With your friend, research and identify ONE project that you can do to make a difference and care for God's creation.



2. *Get it in writing.* Make sure you have your facts straight about the situation you want to highlight. Then, write a persuasive letter or essay – for your school newspaper, the editor of your local paper, or the appropriate government official. Explain why this issue is important to you and to your readers. Make specific suggestions about ways to address this problem.
3. *Get more people involved.* Create a petition – a legal document used to communicate “the will of the people” to elected officials. A petition includes a brief summary of an issue and tells the position that a person is taking by signing the petition. Gather as many signatures as you can, and send your petition papers to your elected officials.
4. *Take action!* Sometimes, you just have to DO something about a situation – lawfully, of course. The action you take will be determined by the kind of project you’ve undertaken.

Remember, we have been given the responsibility to take care of what God has created. Every living thing is here for a purpose. You’ll be doing God’s work when you help make a difference in the environment where you live!

Here’s a Bible verse, 2 Corinthians 9:2, that will encourage you as you get involved in your community:

I know you’re on board and ready to go. I’ve been bragging about you all through Macedonia province, telling them, “Achaia province has been ready to go on this since last year.” Your enthusiasm by now has spread to most of them.

You probably noticed that Paul was bragging about the people of Achaia, telling of their enthusiastic willingness to help – so that they encouraged others to get involved. You can be just like those people! Your youthful enthusiasm will be infectious, and you’ll be amazed at what God will do through you.



Thanks for getting involved! You CAN make a difference, and be the kind of risk-taking, creation-caring, line-crossing person that God needs in today’s world!

