

Children's sermon: July 25, 2021

"Empty nesters??"

Remember Myrtle the turtle and her husband Merle???

They are enjoying retirement. Their kids are older ----- graduated from college, have jobs, live in their own homes.

Merle says to Myrtle: "isn't it nice having our house to ourselves??"

Myrtle smiles: "It feels good ... but sometimes I miss having the kids around. They have all come "out of their shells" and live their own lives."

The other day they are taking a slow walk.

They hear a soft voice: "Hello ----- can you help me???"

They turn around ... and there is a little Ninja turtle.

He's all alone ... he looks lost.

"What are you doing here? Shouldn't you be out fighting battles and saving the world???"

"No ----- I'm just by myself. I just need a place to "be" for a while. I know Ninjas aren't supposed to be scared but I am."

Myrtle looks at Merle: "Let's invite him to stay with us."

"Please, no ... I like having our house to ourselves."

"Hey ---- remember what we talk about in church: being kind to strangers ... opening our hearts and our doors to others."

Merle kind-of smiles: "I see that love bucket stuff is getting to you."

Well ----- Fred the "little ninja" has a new home.

Fred looks at Myrtle and Merle ----- I lost my weapons ...what shall I do???

They smile back at Fred ----- the only weapon you need in our house is LOVE!!

They get home ... and Fred the little ninja asks Merle and Myrtle a question:

"Just wondering I have a "couple" friends who also need a place to stay. Any chance you have some extra room for them???"

Merle is about ready to scream.

Myrtle kisses him on his big shell: "Relax ... I'm sure we can handle this. After all ---- we have that weapon called LOVE!!"

My gosh ... at least a dozen little ninjas come running through their front door.

Hey, kids ----- let's help Myrtle and Merle!! Each of you take at least one little ninja.

Bring them home ... help them feel safe. Use your weapon called "love"!!

Myrtle smiles.

Merle is relieved.

Their house may not be as quiet as they thought ... but it's full of love.

Love buckets and love ----- they make our world a better place!!