

Redeeming a Movie

Christmas break means time off work and out of school and of course lots of new releases at the movie theater. Kids love movies ... so what if you were able to use a movie as an opportunity to impress upon your child a love for God (Deut. 6:4-8)? Before you say "No way!", let me tell you about a few websites designed to help you pull off this redemptive task.

Two of my favorites are www.planetwisdom.com and www.pluggedinonline.com. Both of these websites are Christian resources that will give you a review of the movie, an overview of the story line, an explanation of the movie's worldview, list questionable material as well as positive elements, and even give you a few discussion questions. With that information you will be equipped to have a spiritual conversation with your child using the movie as the front door.



I encourage you to try it this holiday season. You may want to start with an easy one like *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and ask questions like these taken from planetwisdom's website:

- Which of the four children do you most relate to? Why?
- If you were Edmond, do you think Aslan would have taken your place on the Stone Table?
- What would that sacrifice mean to you?
- How is that like what Jesus did for all of us on the cross?

Give it a shot and enjoy the movie.

Book Review

A Year With Your Children in the Bible by Jim Cromarty

As you begin a new year why don't you consider starting a new tradition with your family? *A Year With Your Children in the Bible* is an excellent guide for family devotions. Each day's reading covers an Old and New Testament text and provides theological insights, questions for discussion, and a guide for prayer. The book is ideal for its ease of use and adaptability for children of various ages. Highly recommended! You can order this resource from www.christianbook.com.



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Family Connection

⁵Love GOD, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got! ⁶Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you ⁷and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. ⁸Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; Deut. 6:5-8

Over the past year God has been burdening the hearts of the MEBC staff concerning the way we minister to our families. In recent decades church programs have taken a more dominant role in the discipleship of children and youth. Certainly the church can and should provide opportunities for the spiritual growth for our young ones. However, often times our good intentions can end up doing more to separate families than bring them together.

We have also been asking ourselves what we are doing to equip parents to disciple their kids. It is clear in Scripture that God has given to parents the primary responsibility to disciple their children. Therefore, we want every MEBC parent with kids at home to be regularly encouraged and equipped to lead their children to greater Christ-likeness. We aim to do this by ...

- Carefully coordinating our children's and youth ministries so they work in concert.
- Thorough communication with and encouragement to parents through regularly scheduled Parent Gatherings and *The Family Connection* that will be a part of our monthly newsletter.
- Not over-burdening our families with a rush of constant and competing activities.
- Providing sound biblical instruction to children and youth.
- Providing excellent resources for parents to use for personal growth and family devotions.
- Continuing on with sound biblical instruction from the pulpit, Bible Study Fellowships, and small groups so parents are thoroughly equipped to teach the Scriptures to their children.

The Family Connection is a monthly resource that we trust will be helpful to the parents of Metro East as they seek to lead their children to follow Christ. Our goal is to provide you with helpful articles, resource reviews, and ideas for family activities.