

Christmas at the Movies

Faith in the Polar Express

Faith is believing that God is who He says He is, and that He will do what He says He will do (Hebrews 11:1-3). Like in the movie *The Polar Express*, the presence of doubt is real and affects everyone, especially when it comes to the birth of Jesus and who He is. We struggle to believe fully in Jesus because of skepticism, pain, and disappointment. But when we do believe, it pleases God and positions us for blessing and reward. When we embrace genuine faith in Jesus, our lives are transformed, our faith begins to produce action, and God shows up and moves in powerful ways.

GET THINGS STARTED

What do you think is the difference between casually believing in something (or someone) versus having a deeply held conviction? How are convictions of belief developed and reinforced (right or wrong)? What would others say your strong convictions are when it comes to sports, politics, family, holidays, church, etc.?

GO DEEPER

1. From Matthew 1:18-21, what parts of the birth of Jesus are the most amazing and perhaps difficult to believe? What do we do with doubt, especially when it comes to who God is and what He says? Why do you think so many are afraid to be honest about their doubt?
2. According to Hebrews 11:1-6, what is faith, what is it not, and what does it produce or accomplish?
3. In James 2:17-18, what is the connection between our faith and our actions? What does the lack of action say about our faith?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. How have you experienced (or are experiencing) doubt in who God is and what He says? In what ways have skepticism, pain, and disappointment fueled that doubt?
2. What might it look like for you to feed your faith, to sow seeds that reap a harvest of strengthened or renewed faith? What single action of faith can you take this week that positions you to see God work and move powerfully?
3. Who is one person in your sphere of influence that walks or lives with great faith in Jesus? How can you encourage and learn from them this week? What needs to shift in your schedule or routines so that you are around more men or women of great faith?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to pray together for an increased measure of faith in Jesus. Ask Him to help you with any measure of doubt you may be carrying concerning who He is and what He says He will do. And ask Him to give you courage to take steps of faith in your actions where you are relying on Him to show up and move in power.