


the Venues
Go Deep
A Venues Christmas at the Movies
A Christmas Story
11.26.17

What was your “Red Ryder B-B Gun” when you were a kid - the one thing you wanted for Christmas more than anything else?

1. Kids are programmed to want.

Read Luke 12:15 and consider these questions:

Why does Jesus think we need to be protected from greed? What harm does greed do?

What are the characteristics of a greedy person?

What does it mean to be “rich toward God” (Luke 12:21)?

Read Luke 19:9. *What caused Zacchaeus to move from greed?*

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-18. *List the things God tells the rich to do.*

Interpret 1 Timothy 6:19.

2. Kids have to prove themselves.

Do you remember the kid in the movie who got his tongue stuck on the flag pole? All because of the “triple-dog dare!”

When have you done something not so smart just to prove yourself? Why is there such a driving need to prove ourselves? What do you know to be true about God’s feelings toward you?

How does our culture perpetuate lies about our self-worth?

Is there a difference between accepting someone and approving of what they do?

Read Matthew 3:17. *What did Jesus do to earn the Father’s acceptance? Does God treat us the same way?*

Read Psalm 27:10. This verse contrasts God as Father and Mother with our actual father and mother.

Have you ever experienced the situation of Psalm 27:10?

3. Kids pick on others.

When it comes to bullying, were you ever on the receiving end? The giving end?

Respond to this quotes from “Wonder:” “Courage. Kindness. Friendship. Character. These are the qualities that define us as human beings, and propel us, on occasion, to greatness.” “Whenever given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind.”

___ Truer words were never spoken.

___ Those are just words from a book/movie. Not applicable to real life.

___ I would really like to believe and behave like that.

___ Other

Compare the above quote from “Wonder” with Ephesians 4:29-32. *Develop of philosophy of life based on these statements.*

4. Kids are watching.

Ralphie learned to cuss by listening to his dad.

What did you learn from your parents? What are you teaching your kids?

Timothy hasn’t gotten much respect from his church because he’s so young. Paul tells him how to get that respect in 1 Timothy 4:12. *What are the lessons we learn from Paul’s advice?*

What would happen to us individually and us a community if we actually followed this advice?