

Faith-Filled HOLIDAYS

Christmas

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Movie Night Chat

BEST USE

As a Christmas season family movie night chat

SPIRITUAL VALUE

Focusing on the value of life and the power of serving others

ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Buy/rent your favorite version of *It's a Wonderful Life*.
- Pop some popcorn and have the discussion guide on the reverse side ready.

SERVE IT UP

Be up front with your kids by explaining that you want to watch the film to discuss its themes from a Christian perspective. Don't use this as an occasion to teach, but to enter into good dialogue. You probably won't agree on everything, which is fine. Just discussing the themes can strengthen your relationship and stretch critical thinking skills.

FILM SYNOPSIS

This wonderful 1946 classic has become a Christmas season tradition for many families. Take a few moments after watching to discuss the implicit message of George Bailey's life experience. After a lifetime sacrificing his own dreams and ambitions for the sake of others, George encounters a crisis which pushes him to the end of himself. Wishing he had never been born, the angel Clarence gives him what he asks for by showing George what life for others would have been like if not for him. In the end, George realizes just how wonderful life is—all thanks to a little perspective.

DISCUSS

1. Why did George wish he had never been born?
(See "A" below)
2. What was so wonderful about George Bailey's life?
(See "B" below)
3. What is the message of this film?
(See "C" below)
4. What Bible passage does the life of George Bailey model?
(See "D" below)

THINK ABOUT IT

- A. Because he was focused on his troubles and on all the things he didn't get to do.
- B. His life became rich by serving and helping other people rather than chasing his own dream.
- C. That we have great worth, even if life doesn't turn out like we expect.
- D. **James 1:27** says "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." (NKJV)