

THE POLAR EXPRESS

FAMILY MOVIE

NIGHT CHAT



FILM SYNOPSIS

The movie focuses on a child, about 9 or 10, who is struggling with belief in Santa Claus. On Christmas Eve, the boy skeptically goes to bed knowing that Santa will not show up at his house though he wants to believe that he will. The rest of the movie centers on this child's ride on the Polar Express and his inability to hear the ringing of sleigh bells. As he is staring at the reindeer wanting to hear the sleigh bells ring, one falls off and rolls to his feet. He picks up the bell and shakes it next to his ear still unable to hear it. He then begins shouting that he wants to believe and ultimately winds up hearing the sleigh bell.

TALK IT OVER

What word was punched on the boy's ticket? (Believe)

How do you think this movie teaches us about believing in Jesus?

When did the boy hear the bell? Before or after belief? (The music of the bell followed the decision of his heart.)

We call this a leap of faith. We ride the train of exploration. We ponder the questions of fellow travelers. We hear the convictions of those who believe. But, at some point, we have to choose for ourselves.

In the dream, the boy did. In life, we do. Only we don't choose for, or against, Santa's Bell. We choose for or against the Son of God. Jesus, according to the Bible, is always inviting us into faith in Him.

READ: "Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends." (Rev. 3:20)

The math is simple. We open the door; He comes in. We believe in His perfect life to save us from sin and we experience Him just like the boy experienced Santa's bell!

HAVE FUN TOGETHER!

Jump, I'll Catch You

To demonstrate faith, ask your child to do a simple thing and come through for him/her. (For example: Stand at the bottom of the stairs and ask him/her to jump into your arms from a few steps up or stand at the end of the bed and ask him/her to jump into your arms.)

- **Why did you jump? Did you believe I would catch you?** (Of course!)
- **What does it mean to have faith in someone?** (To believe that he will do what he says)

To have faith in God means that we believe in Him and what He has said.