



# 1 Youth Ministry

March 23, 2014

## Lesson:

This week, we reviewed some of the characters in the movie, "God's NOT Dead".

We started with discussing some of our favorite scenes/characters, our least favorite and talked about why.

One of the favorite scenes discussed was toward the end when Amy, an aggressive blog reporter who was recently diagnosed with cancer, ambushed the Newsboys backstage specifically to attack their faith. Instead of being angry with her, they allowed the Holy Spirit to guide the conversation and brought her to Jesus to give her hope and a future knowing she was not alone.

One of the characters we discussed was Josh's girlfriend. We noted she was only in 3 very small scenes but she played a big role. Since they met at a Church youth group event and had been dating for 6 years, she was clearly in his "inner circle" of friends. Josh trusted her and went to her first for support on his decision to defend his faith and God. Unfortunately, his girlfriend did nothing but try to distract and stop him from doing what God wanted him to do. Luckily, Josh's faith was strong enough for him to see the enemy trying to stop him and let her go from his life instead of letting her change his mind. We were reminded of when Paul told the Corinthians to be aware of who their friends are and where they are leading us. We also talked about how the first thing Josh did when he was trying to decide what to do was go to Church, pray and speak to the Pastor. We said that anytime we have doubts about something God has called us to do we are told in Proverbs 3:6 (NLT) to seek HIS counsel and HIS wisdom.

Another character we talked about was Mark, the mean, successful, businessman who left his girlfriend, Amy the reporter, when she told him she had cancer. In this scene, he is visiting his elderly mother who has dementia and he tells her that she was nothing but good and prayed her whole life and she has dementia while he is the meanest person he knows and his life is perfect. He then tells her, "explain that to me". Surprisingly, she very cleverly tells him "Sometimes the devil allows people to live a life free of trouble because he doesn't want them turning to God," she tells her shocked son. "Their sin is like a jail cell, except it is all nice and comfy and there doesn't seem to be any reason to leave. The door's wide open. Till one day, time runs out, and the cell door slams shut, and suddenly it's too late." We said that his mother was reminding him of the Enemy's craftiness, Genesis 3:1. Satan lets Mark live the way he does so he will continue to turn away from God and even blame God for his mother's illness.

We talked about how the movie showed how we are all connected and how Josh's decision to "defend God" positively affected a number of others that he didn't even know. We said that we constantly affect others either positively or negatively.

Finally, we talked about Pastor Dave, who was having his own faith issues and doubts that he was making any difference. He was not only affected by Josh, he was also affected by his visiting missionary friend who reminds him what faith is and also that things that seem small to us can have a great affect on others. We said that the Pastor's missionary friend was a great example of somebody who is truly "living their faith" and how he positively influences others not by his words but by his actions.

We concluded by saying that the movie was a really great Christian movie with a great message for everyone and we will likely discuss some of the other characters in future lessons.

**Matthew 10:32-33:** 32 "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

**Luke 12:48:** 48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

**Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT):** 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

**Genesis 3:1:** 3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"