

Tanglewoods' Secret

TANGLEWOODS' SECRET is a dramatic story about friendship and obedience, about the mystery of death and grief, based on the best-selling book by Patricia St. John (Moody Press). The fear of losing a parent or close friend to death will usually have an enormous impact on a child's faith. This story can help a child (and even adults) to understand the mystery of death and of life hereafter, of the comfort that faith in God can bring. There are many key biblical principles presented here and a discussion following the movie will help your children and everyone in your family or group to understand and apply more of these principles. Repeated viewings will help to imprint them in everyone's memory.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

After viewing the movie.

1. When Ruth dropped the wet clothes and made her Aunt Margaret angry, Ruth asked herself, Why can't I be good? Do you ever feel that you can't be good and your parents or friends won't like you? What would you say to Ruth? Stop getting angry so often! Do your chores before playing!
2. Sometimes it isn't only parents or friends that we think don't like us unless we're good. Ruth told her brother about the Good Shepherd? Who does the Good Shepherd symbolize? Philip said he thought God didn't listen to him because he wasn't a good boy. Do you think that is true? When Ruth ran away and talked to the pastor in the church, he told her that the Good Shepherd loved lost sheep and even naughty girls like her.
3. The pastor told Ruth that we are all like lost sheep and we all want to do what we want to do. In what ways was Ruth like a lost sheep?
4. The pastor also told Ruth that she could ask the Good Shepherd to be her friend and help her in life. How could the Good Shepherd help Ruth?
5. After Terry fell from the tree, Ruth prayed Please Good Shepherd, make Terry better. Don't let him die. Have you ever prayed to God about something very important to you? Did God answer your prayer the way you wanted?

6. Have you ever felt like Philip who said, When I say prayers, nothing much happens? Why? Ruth said that after you belong to the Good Shepherd, he listens to everything you say, even if you are sometimes naughty. What do you think?

7. After Terry fell, Ruth and Philip were counting money they had saved to buy a camera. They decided to use some of the money to help Terry and then Philip said he thought they should give all of the money to help Philip. After all, the Good Shepherd gave us his all. In what ways has the Good Shepherd done this?

8. While Terry was sick, Ruth showed him a picture of the Good Shepherd reaching for the lamb that had fallen over the cliff. He said he didn't like that picture - maybe the lamb had gone too far and the Shepherd couldn't reach it. What do you think?

9. When Terry died, Ruth was angry and sad. Have you known someone or a pet that died? How did you feel?

10. Mr. Tandy comforted Ruth by telling her that Terry was with the Good Shepherd. But Ruth did not understand. We buried Terry in the earth and left him there. How can Terry be with the Shepherd? Did it help you to understand when Mr. Tandy compared death with a seed planted in the ground that must die before it can sprout and grow into a tall tree? What do you think about yourself going to live in Heaven when you die?

11. What did you learn about the Good Shepherd from this story? (He cares about everyone, he hears our prayers, he searches for those who are lost)

12. Would you like to know the Good Shepherd yourself and to know that he cares for you and will always look after you? Why not pray and ask him as Ruth did?

A Glenray Communications presentation of an International Films (UK) production.
TANGLEWOODS' SECRET

Produced by Nigel A. M. Cooke Directed by Michael J. Pritchard
Screenplay by Michael J. Pritchard Based on book by Patricia M. St. John
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