

DECEMBER

2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...5&1 in the Forum -Life Groups in various homes	5	6 -6pm...LEAD committee meeting in Y16/17	7 -6:30pm...Uproot in the Forum -6:30pm...What if...? in Y5	8	9	10
11 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...5&1 in the Forum -Life Groups in various homes	12	13	14 -6:30pm...Uproot in the Forum -6:30pm...What if...? in Y5	15	16 -6:00pm - 9:00pm ..."Ye 'Olde Ugly Sweater" Christmas Party in Ferdinand Hall	17
18 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...5&1 in the Forum -6pm...The Expression in the Forum	19	20	21 -No Wednesday Activities...Boise Rescue Mission Dinner	22	23 -Church Offices close at noon	24
25 -10:45am... Combined service in the Sanctuary	26 -Church Offices closed	27	28 -No Wednesday Activities	29	30 -Church Offices close at noon	31

THE

PARENT LINK

DECEMBER 2011



Our kids: Holding our hand...or God's hand?

A big chunk of my adolescent years were during the 90's. At this time youth groups were operating under the attraction model. The attraction model was all about simply getting people in the doors of the church. Services were loud, bright, and often times shallow. Youth groups were a big show, constantly searching for ways to top what happened the week before. The youth pastor of these groups was often times a larger-than-life character with tons of charisma and charm. The whole youth group identity and existence was based on that pastor. Students in those groups were often times not necessarily connected to God, but to the

youth pastor. This got me thinking, am I, as a pastor, connecting students to me, or to God?

As I began to think about this even more I realized that this problem doesn't just exist for us pastors, it exists for parents as well. Above is a picture of my daughter holding on to my thumb. As I studied it and thought about this connection problem I realized that eventually, when Brileigh is older, she'll have to let go of my hand and take God's hand for her direction and identity. While this transition may be a bit painful for me to

observe, it is a crucial and necessary step in her spiritual development. As a parent, it is so easy to keep a hold of our kids' hands as they grow up and spoon-feed them our own Christianity without encouraging them to experience God themselves. Yet when a young adult moves out and tries to stand on their own two spiritual feet, they find their balance and posture difficult and strange. They may feel entitled or simply passion-less because they were never encouraged to cultivate their own relationship with God and find out who He is calling them to be. Any Christian parent would agree that this is not what they want for their child!

So here's the challenge and the tension. We, as parents, need to find ways to pass on our faith while still allowing room for our kids to experience God themselves, independent of our control. It's a fine line, but I know with God's help, we can walk it correctly. -Brian

"Ye 'Olde Ugly Sweater" CHRISTMAS PARTY



DINNER BY
KEVIN LUCAS
UGLY SWEATER CONTEST
CHRISTMAS TRIVIA
OLD-SCHOOL VIDEOS
WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT
EXCHANGE
GAMES

...DECEMBER 16...6 PM-9 PM...FERDINAND HALL...FREE...



by: Nate Roskam

Stories are powerful. They illustrate the depth and breadth of relationship. They embody the joy and the pain; the highs and the lows; the ashes and the beauty. One such story within our community of faith experienced the power and Presence of the restorative and redemptive love of the person of Jesus. It is the story of a family in crisis, running to the church as a last resort. It is a story that in all reality could be written into any one of our lives. The power of sin plays no favorites.

Almost two months ago I met this family and I was quickly brought into the depth of pain, hurt and struggle that was present. A family with several kids, the oldest knee-deep in rebellion and parents who were fearful for what would happen to their son and fearful of how they would keep the others from following suit. This family attended our "You Make Beautiful Things" Purity Conference on November 12, 2011. I had a conversation with them before the conference and the same fear and feelings of not being in control were present and dominant. Through tears, I was told that nothing had changed and it was as if there was a growing sense that this was just how it was going to be. They had begun to write the end of the story in their minds, yet God was still writing and His perspective was shrouded in the HOPE of the resurrected, forgiving, life-giving Jesus!

As we wrapped up the conference that Saturday night, I saw this family pouring their heart out in prayer with Pastor Brian and sensed that God had faithfully intervened for them and they were at a place of total surrender. If every story has a climax, and they do, this story rocked the Richter scale. As I passed through the gym the next Sunday morning on my usual Early Church coffee/fellowship run, I spotted the eldest son in the bleachers. Our short conversation uncovered that something had changed, he was back home and working things out with his parents. There's no pretty red bow wrapped around this situation and there is still healing to be found. But a parents prayer was answered.

As I talked with the parents that Sunday, it was apparent that their prayers had changed along with their hearts. Prayers that before had focused solely on their son changing had grown into prayers for him to hear and follow God and for them to embrace the relationship with their son more than they embrace the rules they expect him to follow.

Rules are often imposed and not always owned. Relationship, however, is owned and never imposed. Jesus postures Himself in a way that offers live-giving, redemptive relationship. And then Jesus has the audacity to simply call us to do the same. And whether it's a parent-child relationship or a "Paul-Timothy" relationship, the call to disciple one another in the Way of the Master is still the benchmark.

This story illustrates several points, and they are all valid. But as I close, the point we want to leave you with is that NFC Student Ministries exists to journey with you as parents and continually point you and your students closer to Jesus.



-If you would like the Parent Resource Guide from our "You Make Beautiful Things" Purity Conference, e-mail Doni Otremba @ dotremba@nfcnaz.org

-If you would like to be a part of a Parent Reading Group with Pastor Nate, e-mail Doni Otremba @ dotremba@nfcnaz.org. It will be an 8-week book club-style group and we'll be reading the book Sticky Faith: everyday issues to build lasting faith in your kids...and the church will even pay for your book!



Throughout the Newsboys' history, the band has always kept an even balance between fun-loving excitement and reverent worship in their musical expertise. Even besides their two worship albums (2003's *Adoration: the Worship Album* and the following year's *Devotion*), the band has always included at least one or two songs of vertical praise on each album throughout their discography. Ever since Michael Tait began his tenure as the Newsboys' lead singer, the band has released quite a bit of music in a relatively short period of time, not to mention a very wide variety; this is evidenced by a Christmas project just last year and, most recently, this November's *God's Not Dead: the Newsboys'*

third worship album to date. Whether or not one has embraced the Newsboys' new sound after these past couple years, the band certainly sticks to it and delivers a worship record that's unmistakably their handiwork.

The song choices work for their purposes, and there's enough variety throughout that the album indeed feels complete. It's all shined up and polished, but it may be this very fact that keeps *God's Not Dead* from feeling especially endearing. Taking a few more chances may be the Newsboys' key to unlocking their true potential, because that's the band that everyone will come to know and love best. All notwithstanding, *God's Not Dead* does far more right than wrong, and is still well worth looking into for any worship fan. -jesusfreakhideout.com

RATING: ★★★★★



Real Steel is a movie about a former boxer who is down-on-his-luck and travels the country enrolling his own robotic boxer into matches for money. Charlie Kenton, played by Hugh Jackman, tends to put more on the line than he can afford to, which inevitably gets him into some serious trouble. Things change, however, when an ex-girlfriend passes away, leaving his eleven-year-old son Max in his care. Kenton literally makes a cash deal with his son's uncle to keep him over the summer until they return from a vacation (and can then take him into custody), and uses that money to invest in a new bot. What unfolds from here is not only a Rocky/Karate Kid kind of underdog story, but a touching father/son story as well.

The content for *Real Steel* was considerably more tame than I expected. If they'd either omitted or toned down a scene in which Charlie gets beat



up by some guys he owes money to in an alley, as well as toned down the language just a little bit more, there wouldn't really be any reason why this couldn't have been rated PG for wider audiences.

Overall, I was surprised by how much I actually enjoyed *Real Steel*. With Jackman's performance, along with some solid fight scenes, I found *Real Steel* to be quite entertaining. Fans of sci-fi/action films like *Transformers* and sports films like *Rocky* or *Karate Kid* would probably best enjoy this one. It's hardly a perfect film (and you really have to excuse its somewhat corny ending), but it's definitely an enjoyable one and a fun fall 2011 treat.

