



The Gospel According to *Elf* | December 16, 2015

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

The movie *Elf* is arguably the best Christmas movie ever, or at the very least the best of the 21st Century. It has become a part of many people's holiday traditions for a number of reasons...and now you can add the Gospel to the list. If we apply the Code of Elves to the basics of the Gospel, this movie is about way more than Santa and his elves!

Discussion

As one would imagine, there is a lot to learn about elves from the movie *Elf*: the different jobs an elf can have, the 4 major food groups of elves, and that they exist in a land where snowmen, narwhals, and arctic puffins speak. When it comes to faith, the most important thing we learn is that there is a code among elves...

THE CODE OF ELVES

1. TREAT EVERYDAY LIKE CHRISTMAS
2. THERE IS ROOM FOR EVERYONE ON THE NICE LIST
3. THE BEST WAY TO SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER IS SINGING LOUD FOR ALL TO HEAR

TREAT EVERYDAY LIKE CHRISTMAS *(Read John 10:10)*

Christmas is a celebration because it is the beginning of God's beautiful plan to save us by becoming one of us. What if everyday could reflect the hope, joy, and humility found in celebrating Christ's birth?

1. What things do you do at Christmas that you do not do the rest of the year?

THERE IS ROOM FOR EVERYONE ON THE NICE LIST *(Read Matthew 9:12)*

We tend to live our everyday lives as if God's grace is reserved for those we like, understand, and are just like us, but the Gospel is not reserved for an exclusive group.

2. If you were to consider the people in your life who you have hurt, wronged, or don't get along with, who would leave you off their nice list?

THE BEST WAY TO SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER IS SINGING LOUD FOR ALL TO HEAR *(Read 1 John 4:12)*

The good news of the Gospel is meant to be shared. Since most of us learn through experience, we should go the extra mile all year long like we do at Christmas. Smiling, laughter, generosity, giving, and overall joy are a regular part of Christmas...why not everyday?

3. What are some ways to share faith with other people? Have you ever shared your faith with anyone? How? Why or Why not?

What's Next?

The only reasonable response to this discussion is to go watch *Elf*. Additionally, make a list of things that you do at Christmas that you could try to do more often. Make a list of people that you think are a stretch for the "nice list" and have an honest conversation with God about them. Consider your faith, how you would share it with another person, what story you would tell, or what other things constitute sharing that don't involve words.