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Read This First!

Let's get this out of the way right from the beginning: you're a kid. You probably would rather be *doing* something than *reading* something, right?

Awesome! This Activity Booklet is for you!

You've grown up watching movies. You've seen them in theaters, in classrooms, in your living room, and maybe even in your family's car. You've memorized the lines of your favorite films. There's no doubt about it, movies are a big part of your life!

Movies are more than what you see on the screen and hear through the sound system. Movies have *messages* – ideas and viewpoints that they want you to understand and experience. Now that you're old enough to figure these things out for yourself, you'll start noticing the messages in movies more and more. That's where this booklet comes in.

When you do the activities included here, you'll know what to look for in the movie, and you'll be better equipped to process the film after seeing it. You'll see *The Littlest Angel* with some insider info that will help you recognize the messages in the film. This material is kind of like one of those "secret decoder rings" you played with as a young kid – but more fun!

So, plan on seeing *The Littlest Angel* with your family and some friends. Before you watch, read through this booklet and do the different activities. You'll have more fun if you do the activities with a couple of friends. Or even better – make your parent's wonder what's gone wrong with you by asking them to go through these activities with you!

You'll have a blast!

Some Info About The Film

Based on the fifteenth best-selling children's book of all time, which has become an icon of faith and family, *The Littlest Angel* tells the story of a mischievous young boy who is homesick and lonely; he will travel back to earth, with his friendly pup Halo, to retrieve a most selfless and precious gift for The Baby Jesus. Experience the love, laughter and magic of one of the most popular children's stories of all time. From the classic book by Charles Tazewell comes the CGI animated film, The Littlest Angel. This movie will take you on a fun and heartwarming journey to heaven and back.



Do This BEFORE Seeing The Littlest Angel!

These activities will prepare you to get the most out of watching the movie!

Friendship

One of the key messages of *The Littlest Angel* is the importance of friendship. To help you start thinking about this subject, find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The words may be hidden in any direction.

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Now read this Scripture passage (quoted from *The Message* paraphrase of the Bible) and answer the questions:

1 Samuel 18:1-4 – By the time David had finished reporting to Saul, Jonathan was deeply impressed with David—an immediate bond was forged between them. He became totally committed to David. From that point on he would be David's number-one advocate and friend. Saul received David into his own household that day, no more to return to the home of his father. Jonathan, out of his deep love for David, made a covenant with him. He formalized it with solemn gifts: his own royal robe and weapons—armor, sword, bow, and belt.

• What makes you and your best friend such great friends?

- Jonathan became something like a "blood brother" with David. Do you have someone that close to you? _____ Who? _____ What led up to you becoming friends? ______
- An "advocate" is someone who talks very nicely about someone else even when that friend isn't around. Do you have an "advocate"? _____ Who? _____ Who? _____ What makes you think that person talks nicely about you even when you're not there? _____





Do These AFTER Seeing The Littlest Angel!

Don't do these activities until you've seen the film – they won't make much sense before watching *The Littlest Angel*, and you don't wanna spoil anything!

Help Someone Who Has Been Mean To You

The Littlest Angel was in a real bind. He tried to get directions from a couple of angry animals: a bull and a goose. But, even though he was really really nice, they started chasing him and Halo. Luckily, the bull got stuck – The Littlest Angel and Halo were free to escape!



But, The Littlest Angel had compassion for the stuck bull. He went back, and talked Halo into helping free the bull. Once the bull was free, he and the goose were very helpful and kind to The Littlest Angel and Halo.

That was the first "selfless good deed" that The Littlest Angel did. He did what Jesus told us to do. Read this quote from Jesus (it's found in Matthew 5:43-48 from a paraphrase called *The Message*) and then answer the questions:

"You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that. In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you."

- Can you identify one person who is often not very nice to you? Write that person's name here:
- Now, with that person in mind, how can you ask God to BLESS him or her? Really, you're not just asking God to make that person nice, but to make that person happy. What would you ask God to do? Write that here:

• And now for the REALLY hard part: what can you do to make that person happy? What action, what sacrifice, what kinds of words can you give to that person that will make him or her feel loved? Write out your ideas here: Okay, so here's the deal: you've identified your "bull" and you've figured out how to pray for that person and what you could do as a selfless good deed for him or her. Big whoop. The REAL test is when you actually pray for that person, and really do what you can to make him or her feel loved. So the question is, will you? When? Write your answers here:

Take A Risk To Benefit Someone Else

The Creepedeep's were cruel people. They held a helpless snake and chicken in cages, and forced them to "perform" in the circus. When they captured The Littlest Angel, they treated him the same as the snake and chicken. They put him in a cage, and laughed at his helplessness.



When The Littlest Angel was able to escape, he could have run as far and as fast as he could away from the Creepedeeps – who were trying to capture him again. Instead, he put himself at risk, and went back to free the snake and the chicken.

That was the second "selfless good deed" that The Littlest Angel did.

You're probably thinking, "I'd do that too!" And, you probably would in that situation. But, you're not in that same situation. You DO have people and animals around you that are helpless and need you to take a risk in order to benefit them. So let's think about that for a minute.

"Compassion" is one of those words that come from jamming two words of an ancient language together to make a new word. In this case, it means "from the gut" (that feeling deep inside you when you see something very disturbing) and "in a panic to help." Jesus exhibited compassion a lot. In Mark 6:33-44 (from *The Message*) the "compassion" word is paraphrased "his heart broke."



Read this, and then answer the questions.

When Jesus arrived, he saw this huge crowd. At the sight of them, his heart broke—like sheep with no shepherd they were. He went right to work teaching them. When his disciples thought this had gone on long enough it was now quite late in the day—they interrupted: "We are a long way out in the country, and it's very late. Pronounce a benediction and send these folks off so they can get some supper."

Jesus said, "You do it. Fix supper for them."

They replied, "Are you serious? You want us to go spend a fortune on food for their supper?"

But he was quite serious. "How many loaves of bread do you have? Take an inventory."

That didn't take long. "Five," they said, "plus two fish."

Jesus got them all to sit down in groups of fifty or a hundred—they looked like a patchwork quilt of wildflowers spread out on the green grass! He took the five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the bread to the disciples, and the disciples in turn gave it to the people. He did the same with the fish. They all ate their fill. The disciples gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. More than five thousand were at the supper.



Did you notice how Jesus' heartbreak meant that "He went right to work"? He knew that what those people needed most was His leadership. And then, when they got really hungry, did you notice what He did? Yep, He got His buddies involved.

Compassion means action. It means you get in gear, AND you get others involved with you – just like The Littlest Angel got Halo involved in rescuing the chicken and the snake.

Here are three activities you can do take a risk to benefit someone else:

1. Volunteer to help at your local humane society. Animals don't have a voice. They can't say, "I need help" or "Please take me for a walk!" But we know that they really do need our help. So, what if you volunteered to take some dogs for a walk a few times each week? You'd be helping someone else, and doing a selfless good deed in the process!

- 2. Play with someone who is new at recess. You may have some kids at your school who sometimes play alone at recess. Plan now to play with one of those classmates at your next recess. You'll be taking a risk, that's for sure. Other kids might think you're weird. But, you'll soon discover that those all-alone kids are really nice. And, you'll be doing a selfless good deed!
- 3. Talk about Jesus with a friend who only uses His name when he or she is angry. Most kids don't have the kind of friendship with Jesus that you do. They think of Him as being far away and not very cool. But, you know different. So, start bringing Him up in your conversations. Doing so is VERY risky for you, but extremely helpful for your friends!

Give Away Something You Love To Someone Who Needs It

The Littlest Angle went through a LOT to retrieve his Treasure Box. That box, with its contents, was very important to him. Those things were more than important: they were his "priceless treasures."

When The Littlest Angel was discouraged that he had searched all over heaven but couldn't find anything nice enough to give to God's only Son, Halo took a look at the pile of gifts from all the other angels and exclaimed, "Wow! Look at all those *priceless treasures*!" And that gave The Littlest Angel the idea to give God's Son his own priceless treasure. The Bible is clear that giving something you love to someone who needs it is way cool. In



Luke 6:38, Jesus said, "Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity."

Here are some ideas to get you started on the path of giving to others.

- The easy part give away what you no longer use. You know that you have more stuff than you actually use. So, gather those things up, and figure out whom you're going to give it to. Maybe to a cousin, or a younger sibling, or to a friend at church, or the younger brother or sister of your friend. But give those things away, and watch what happens. You'll feel great, and so will the lucky recipient of your gift!
- 2. The not-so-easy part give away some stuff you like. If you think about it for a while, you will probably realize that you have some "stuff" that you really like, but

that you can do just fine without. You might have a friend who would really appreciate a gift from you of some of your really cool things. Talk with your parents first about this idea, and then make it happen!

3. The really hard part – give away your favorite thing. Remember, The Littlest Angel said, "I'm sure God's little boy is going to love them just as much as me!" In giving away your favorite item, you'll need to take two steps: 1) Identify what your "priceless treasure" is. 2) Figure out who might appreciate that item as much as you do. What is a priceless treasure to you might seem like "old junk" to someone else (like Headmaster Alban!) The sacrifice of what you love in order to make someone else happy will make you happy too. And, Jesus promises that when you give, you will get even more!

Thanks for participating with The Littlest Angel in one of life's greatest adventures – doing selfless good deeds that help others!



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