

McGee and Me - 4

Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Psalm 37:4-6 ESV

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7 ESV

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27 ESV

In the Nick of Time - Nick, Renee, and Philip's fathers planned a surprise trip with their children, mountain climbing and a wilderness survival trip. Renee hadn't seen her father much since he and her mother divorced. He had lots of advice for her as she began her Jr. High School years. Philip's father loved to play tricks and make jokes which annoyed Philip. Nick just didn't want to climb mountains.

Why did the dads think the survival trip would be good for their children?

In the Nick of Time - Nobody believed Philip's father when he saw a bear because he had tricked them so many times before. Philip's dad needed to learn how to build his son's trust. One of the lessons the instructors taught in mountain climbing was to "lean back on the rope and trust that it could hold them." God asks us to trust in Him. When we commit our lives to Him, He will lead us and guide us.

Do you trust in God? Ask Him to help you have the courage you need.

The Blunder Years - Nick wanted to be cool and fit in with the "in crowd". Nick was embarrassed by McGee and his family and friends. When his parents were asked to be the MCs for the Battle of the Bands they dressed up in 60s clothes. When Nick came to the Battle of the Bands dressed up like Rex Derek took Nick aside and told him to be himself. He told Nick, "You used to know what was important."

What is important in your life? When you get off track ask God to help you.

The Blunder Years - Nick's dad told the students that it was important to get a good start in Jr. High. He said that the students should believe in themselves, their families, and their friends that really care about them. He said above all they should know what they really believe inside. Be yourself. True friends will accept you for yourself. God wants to make our lives into something beautiful if we will let Him.

Do you like who you are or are you always wishing for something different?

Beauty in the Least - Nick's pen pal, Elia, and his father, Michael, came to visit from Romania. Even though Nick and Elia liked each other as pen pals Nick felt like they didn't have anything in common in person. When Nick was talking on the phone to a friend he said that he wished that Elia had never come. When Nick realized that Elia overheard the conversation he was sorry for what he said.

Have you ever found it difficult to get along with someone even though they liked you?

Beauty in the Least - Mrs. Martin said that Thanksgiving was a time to share with those who were less fortunate. Michael and Elia went to volunteer at a mission and soup kitchen for a few days. They gave away their extra clothes to people who needed it. They also invited people in need to share Thanksgiving dinner at the Martin home. At first the Martin's were surprised, but then realized it was the right thing to do.

What are some ways you can share with others in need?

Dear Lord, we have been given many blessings. We thank You for Your love for us. Take away our fears and fill us with confidence in You. Help us to live for You and not worry about other people's expectation. Teach us how to be ourselves and love the life that You have given us. Make us mindful of the needs of other. Bless and keep us for Jesus' sake, Amen.