

The Ride

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Psalm 1

Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise. Proverbs 20:1 ESV

Smokey Banks had been a rodeo star, but by the beginning of the movie he was a rodeo has-been. Drinking, partying and gambling had taken a toll on his life. Smokey had no roots and no future. When Smokey stole a pick-up to get his trailer back he heard Billy Graham on the radio, "You're always searching for something and you can't find it. Where can you look?"

Have you found the direction that you want in life? Where are you looking? Is it working?

Smokey Banks had more of a past than a future. Although he still had the talent to be good as a bull rider, he lost the commitment to making it work. When nobody had faith in Smokey, Danny believed in him and helped Smokey rekindle his dream.

What dreams do you have for the future? Are you working towards them?

In the Special Features, Behind the Scenes, some of the actors say how pleased they were to be part of a film that has lasting positive values.

What are some of the values that this movie teaches?
What are some movies or TV shows that will have a positive effect on the future?

When Smokey wanted to give his championship belt-buckle to Danny, Danny replied, "But if you don't mind, I'd like to win one of my own." There's a big difference between watching someone else riding a bull and in doing it yourself. Many people idolize movie stars, sports heroes, and music performers, but none of those people will live your life for you. There's a big difference between watching and doing.

What do you want to do with your life?

Danny told Smokey, "Tonight I read about a different prize. One that will last forever. You see it's not about how long I'm on, but how well I ride." Danny knew he wouldn't have a long life, but wanted to live each day the best that he could. He knew that soon he would be living with God forever.

If you've been struggling, trust God. He will put the pieces of your life back together. He wants to help you find a purpose and plan for your life.

Smokey Banks was a has-been. He failed again and again. When he didn't even care about life Danny believed in him. Danny's faith in him turned his life around.

Has someone believed in you and made a difference in your life?
Is there someone that needs your encouragement?

Dear Lord we thank You for Your faith in us. Even when we don't have confidence in ourselves, You encourage us and tell us not to be afraid. You are our strength and refuge. When we are weak, hold us up. When we are discouraged, give us hope. Take away our fears and set us free to be the people You created us to be. In Jesus name, Amen.