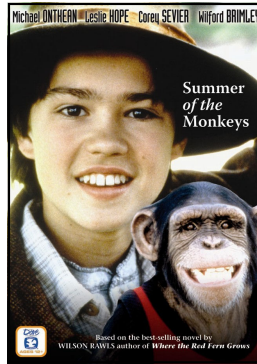


Scripture-Based Discussion Guide



SUMMER of the MONKEYS

\$12.98 UPC 798576428167 / Running Time 101 minutes / Rated G / Dove Family Approved

Movie synopsis:

Impetuous 14-year-old, Jay Berry Lee, has his heart set on buying a riding horse, which he plans to purchase by working in his grandfather's store. A reward is offered for monkeys that escaped after a train accident, and Jay sees an opportunity. Much hilarity follows as he tries to capture the monkeys. The film depicts his desire, choices, consequences, and the lessons he learns along the way.

1. What is the main conflict in the movie?

- Jay's greatest desire is to own a pony and he is willing to do almost anything to get it.
- What does he do that is right or wrong in his quest; does he find that it is "worth it"?
- What are some things that Jay should not have done; did he bring on some of his own problems?
- Has your desire for something ever caused you to overcome fears or perceived dangers?
- What is your greatest desire, and what do you want most out of life?

2. What are the themes of the movie?

- Relationships with family, peers and even strangers, and how the choices that Jay made impacted those relationships.
- Were Jay's parents too strict or too lax with him, and how do you think he should have been treated when he failed to obey?
- What do you think of Jay's relationship with his sister, Daisy, and her disability?
- When Jay gives Daisy a ride on his horse, he tells her that riding makes him feel free as a bird. What do you think about Jay's actions to set Daisy free?
- What about Jay's relationship with Mr. Hatcher? Mr. Hatcher was a man who had lost much, including his home, his family and friends because of his addiction to alcohol. He had reached a point where he felt he had no self-worth so he threatened anyone who tried to come near him.
- What are some ways to help such a person who has withdrawn from associating with others?

3. How is the world view of the problems/solutions presented in this story different than God's view?

Helpful passages from the Bible:

"I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." -Psalm 40:8

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said 'Never will I leave you, and never will I forsake you.'" -Hebrews 13:5

"If you live as I tell you to, you will learn the truth, and the truth will set you free". -John 8:32

"You should practice tenderhearted mercy and kindness to others. Don't worry about making a good impression on them; be ready to suffer quietly and patiently." -Colossians 3:12