

REEL GRACE

GOSPEL SHADOWS IN TODAY'S MOVIES

Gospel Shadows in *Luca*

Psalms 107:9

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Nick Shorts

What is so appealing about Luca and Alberto's

_____?

Jesus is the _____ friend.

Isn't it curious that the themes of Pixar's *Luca* resonate so closely with our own desires and feelings? Scripture shows us that the themes of longing, identity, and friendship were God's idea first, and that they all point us back to Jesus.

Why do we resonate with Luca's _____?

Our hearts long for _____.

Why do we care about Luca's authentic

_____?

Jesus _____ our identity.

NEXT STEPS: Sacrificially love a friend this week in one tangible way. Give time, money, or energy to them that you know would be received in love.

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Growth Groups are the glue that holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the perfect time to jump in at gracecentralcoast.org/groups

CONNECT *(ask this question to check-in with your group)*

What is a movie or show you have seen recently that you could identify a spiritual theme in it? What was it?

DISCUSS *(use some of these questions to process God's Word together)*

1. Did you enjoy *Luca*? What stood out to you when you watched it?
2. We all can relate to Luca yearning for a distant prize. Can you identify something that you have yearned for (and possibly received) that ultimately did not fully satisfy? Why does abiding in Christ (as referenced in John 15) offer a better alternative?

3. Luca has a happy ending when he can be fully accepted as a sea monster. Why is self-acceptance an incomplete virtue without the truth of the gospel?

4. Considering that Jesus models friendship to us better than anyone else, do you approach your friendships in similar ways? In other words, are there any signs of loving sacrifice in your relationships? What can you do to practically increase that quality?

PRAY *(use these prompts to pray in response to God's Word)*

- Submit your longings to God and ask Him to replace them with His.