



Jayne Sargeant – The Gospel According to Pixar: Toy Story

Welcome

Jayne showed a couple of clips from Toy Story, a couple of important scenes where the plot turns, the character reveal more about themselves and the themes of the film become clearer. What are your favourite films? And can you describe the important scenes?

Word

Early in the film, Woody’s problem was that he felt unworthy to be Andy’s favourite toy: he was jealous of Buzz. Buzz’s problem was that he thought he was too good to be just another toy: he was proud. Pride and jealousy are both real barriers to authentic relationship. Both Woody and Buzz were letting their identity be defined by their external circumstances. But external circumstances are real and sometimes very difficult. How does it feel when things seem to go wrong in our lives? In what ways can we let our external circumstances define us, rather than our relationship with God? How can we get beyond our natural human emotions, like pride and jealousy, so that we can build authentic relationships with God and others? And what difference does it make to us and to our external circumstances?

Read John 15:15-19 and 1 Pet 2:9

Something changed for Buzz when Woody helped him realise that he mattered to Andy, that Andy had written his name on his foot. Jayne said, “It doesn’t matter how important you are, it matters how important you are to someone.” If we are Christians, God has chosen us and calls us his friends: we matter to God. She said, “I finally understood who I was when I discovered whose I was,” and she asked the question, “When did you last check whose you are?” Maybe split up into pairs or threes and share your own personal answer to that question.

Gathering back together, read 2 Cor 1:21-22 and 1 Cor 6:19-20

Jayne talked about the value of things: the value of something is determined by how much someone is prepared to pay for it. How much did God pay for you, for me? Check the receipt! Our purpose in life is not to be important, it is to realise that we already are important! Each one of us is the most expensive purchase in history! How does this make you feel?

Jayne described how sharing this relationship with God doesn’t cheapen it, it deepens it. We don’t have to jostle for position, wasting energy. We all belong, we don’t have to compare.

But with belonging comes responsibility. **Read 1 Pet 2:9-12.** Some words related to belonging are

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| owned by | allied to | held by |
| associated with | at the disposal of | connected with |
| in the hand of | linked to | included by |

Which of these phrases feel comfortable and which less so, and why?

Prayer

God has called us his friends so we can be fruitful in his kingdom. Just as God is our friend, others need us to be their friends. Pray for us to be fruitful in his kingdom and to befriend others who need our friendship.

Is there an area of your life where you’ve forgotten that you are wanted by God, that you belong to him, that he paid the ultimate price for you? Maybe split up into twos or threes and share and pray about these things.