

Angela's Christmas



It's a blustery Christmas Eve in Limerick, Ireland, when ANGELA'S CHRISTMAS begins. Angela is almost 6 years old. Her harried widowed mom is struggling to get her four kids ready for church. Angela is fighting with Pat one of her two big brothers, which doesn't make things any easier. And the fact that they don't even have enough coats to fit everyone is troubling as well. It's very cold in St. Joseph's Catholic Church as Angela's family joins the worshippers. The little girl can't help but notice that baby Jesus, who lies only in a diaper in the nativity scene's manger, must be freezing. It worries her so much that after the service, she secretly vows to make sure he's warm. As the narrator says, "Little ideas are often the seeds of big trouble." And so it is with Angela, who finds that her best intentions lead to an adventure she never expected.

Questions: Angela comes from a difficult situation, what is hard in her life? Do we all have hard times? What should we do when we are going through difficulties? How do we find thankfulness and joy, even when we do not get everything we want? Why did Angela take the Baby? Do you think she should have gotten in trouble? How do we make decisions on doing the right thing verses taking care of everyone? Psalm 82:3 says, Defend the weak and the fatherless, uphold the cause of the poor and oppressed. What does that mean and how are you going to do so, this Christmas?

Parent notes: Kids tease each other by calling one another, "Maggot"; a priest says, "Dear Lord" in laughter; a woman prays, "Mother of God" and "Oh, Jesus". A girl is almost taken away from her home for taking the baby Jesus but when an officer learns the truth about her reason he convinces the priest to not press charges. Talking about doing the right thing— justice and accepting the consequences is a great extra for this movie. For kids 4 years old and up.

Closing Prayer: *Thank You God for this day and this movie that we can enjoy and learn from! Put the message You want me (us) to learn and put it into our heart. May the birth of Jesus be the present and presence of this time. Amen*