Ernest Saves Christmas

Ernest P. Worrell, a well-meaning but mishap-prone cab driver who's in for a big surprise when he picks up Santa Claus from the Orlando airport. Santa's in town to find a replacement for his job, and he's got his sights set on a local TV personality named Joe Carruthers, but things don't go as planned when he offers him the position. One thing leads to another, and Santa lands in the slammer, so it falls on Ernest and a runaway teen named Harmony Starr to break him out so he can persuade Joe to take over the position. Fate seems to be working against him as time ticks down to their Christmas Eve deadline, and it's tough to tell if there will be enough Christmas spirit left to set everything straight in time.

Questions: What is Christmas spirit? Make a list of all the things that Christmas is all about? What is the most important part about Christmas? This movie is funny and lots of silly things happen– but what about the birth of Jesus? Luke 3:22 says, “the heavens opened and a voice came down and said, this is my much loved Son, my delight. And dove landed on His shoulder.” This story from John baptizing Jesus in the Jordan river, God obviously wanted everyone to know who Jesus was. How do we tell others?

Parent notes: There's no sex, violence, or language to speak of, which makes *Ernest Saves Christmas* a fairly safe, if not exactly heartwarming, option for families I am not a fan of slapstick goofy comedy but kids are. There is nothing wrong with this movie. It emphasizes Santa rather than Jesus, but sooooo does the world. It is funny and opens up a great conversation about the true meaning of Christmas.

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