

OVERVIEW

This is the true story of Chris Gardner (played by Will Smith), who is struggling to make it financially in this world. When things get tough, his girlfriend leaves him to move across the country. Chris insists on keeping his son and assumes custody of him. When Chris takes an unpaid internship, he and his son soon get evicted from their apartment and end up living on the streets. Through hard work, determination and a bond of love, they eventually make it.

MORAL OF THE STORY

True happiness is not found in money. Rather, it is found in the satisfaction of achieving something positive in this world and loving our families.

SELECTED SCENES

Scenes 11-15 (41:20 – 57:28)	16 minutes
Scene 17	3 minutes
Scene 22-end (1:21:05 – 1:53:18)	<u>32 minutes</u>
Total	51 minutes

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) In the conversation with Chris Gardner, he tells us the real meaning of this movie. He says that it is not a rags to riches story. He says the theme of this movie is his commitment to his son and his commitment to break the cycle of men who abandon their children. Why do you think it was so important for Chris to take on his responsibility when so many dads avoid their responsibilities? Do you think he should have taken a job that paid money to keep his son from living on the streets? Should he have just given up custody of his son?
- 2) One of the themes of this movie is that happiness is not found in wealth. It seems the director is telling us that happiness is found in the satisfaction of accomplishing something positive in this world and sharing that joy with those you love. Do you agree or disagree with this perspective?
- 3) While money doesn't equal happiness, poverty puts a huge strain on an individual and a family. Talk about the sequence of events that put Chris and his son on the streets.
- 4) This movie highlights the difficulties of living paycheck to paycheck, and the fact that many families are just a few bad breaks away from living on the streets. List the top five things you can do in the next 10 years to diminish the likelihood of this happening to you?
- 5) At the end of the movie, Chris experiences that one moment of happiness after all those tough times. Do you think it was worth it? Would you enter an internship without pay, and compete against 30 other people for one spot in a company? Why or why not?