

4 Actors You Didn't Know Were Pastors' Kids

1. J. Michael Finley (pictured above)

J. Michael Finley gained recognition for his first on-screen role as Bart Millard, playing the lead singer of the band MercyMe in the faith-based movie *I Can Only Imagine*. Finley was raised in Missouri, where his father, Wayne Finley, was a Baptist minister. In a recent interview with Movieguide®, Finley said he connected with his childhood faith with *I Can Only Imagine*, stating, "for me this whole project ... it's kind of a coming home story."

Finley married his wife in December of 2017 and is up for a Movieguide® Award for his performance in *I Can Only Imagine*. Make sure to watch the program on the Hallmark Channel on Monday, Feb. 25, at 10 p.m. Eastern, 9 p.m. Central or 10 p.m. Pacific to find out if he wins.

2. John Boyega

British actor John Boyega starred as Finn in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. Boyega's parents, Samson and Abigail, immigrated from Nigeria to London, England, where they raised John and his siblings, Blessing and Grace. Boyega's father is a Pentecostal preacher, and his mother works with the disabled. For a time, Boyega strayed from his faith, but returned with a renewed sense of peace. The actor has opened up about how his parents implemented prayer in his childhood.

Currently, John is gearing up to produce a new movie called *God Is Good* and is filming the next Star Wars movie, directed by J.J. Abrams.

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How Social Media Impacts Teen Suicide

New evidence suggests there's a link between teenage suicide and social media use.

From 2007 through 2015, suicide rates doubled among teenage girls, reaching a 40-year high. Among teenage boys, they rose by 30 percent.

At the same time, social media use has exploded.

For example, the Pew Research Center found 90 percent of people age 18-29 now use social media compared to just 12 percent 10 years earlier.

According to a study in the November issue of *Clinical Psychological Science*, teenagers spending five hours a day on social media were 70 percent more likely to have suicidal thoughts than those reporting only one hour of daily use.

So what are parents to do?

While there isn't one perfect solution for parents, there are helpful tips that can protect your children from these negative influences.

Here are a few:

1. Enact parental controls on your children's devices, computers, and your home TV.
2. Engage with your children about the dangers that come with being on social media. Just as you'd talk about safety while driving, show them safety measures you put in place while online, such as not talking to strangers

or giving out your personal information. Also, discuss the dangers of cyberbullying.

3. Show your children by example that human interaction is more beneficial than texting and instant messaging. Show this by making the dinner table a “phone-free zone,” or enjoying nature together with your family.
4. Limit the amount of time you allow your children to be on their phones or tablets.
5. When it comes to consuming entertainment, keep movies and TV a communal family experience instead of individual experiences that separate children from their parents, and parents from the children.
6. Read and implement: THE MEDIA WISE FAMILY and THE CULTURE WISE FAMILY

This article originally appeared on Movieguide®. Find out what God’s doing in Hollywood!

Where’s the Christian Message in Tyler Perry’s ‘The Single Moms Club’?

The Single Moms Club is a Tyler Perry movie about the lives of five single mothers who bond together. The film has mediocre acting but some nice elements, though it doesn’t have the strong Christian elements Perry included in his earlier movies.

Jan (Wendi McLendon-Covey) is a successful businesswoman who’s also decided to raise a child on her own. Jan goes to a meeting with the principal of her child’s school and meets four other mothers with their own stories.

Hillary (Amy Smart) is in the midst of a divorce, having three children to take care of but not knowing how. At the same, May (Nia Long) has been raising a child by herself for some time, as her husband has been out of the picture. Lytia (Cocoa Brown) works at Waffle House and has several children, two of whom are in prison while she tries to protect the younger three from the same fate. Esperanza (Zulay Henao) has a child with a man who has married another woman but is still paying for all of Esperanza's expenses along with their child's.

The principal has called each mom because their children have acted up by tagging the walls of the school. The principal tells the moms that the prestigious school requires the parents to get involved while the children are disciplined after such incidents.

The moms show up at Hillary's house. Seeing that Hillary's breaking down after her divorce, they decide to form a club to support each other.

In each situation, the moms have become the parent who raises their children or child. What they find out is that, even though they come from different socio-economic backgrounds, they all deal with the same issues.

The Single Moms Club has some nice elements. However, it doesn't have enough direct conflict. Also, the child actors could have used better direction. That said, the movie concerns itself with the increase of single mothers in our society. It acknowledges that this scenario isn't preferred in any way, shape or form. Also, the mothers in the movie do have great hearts for their children and their children's needs.

In the story, the women find men to help fill the position of father for their children. However, *The Single Moms Club* contains some lewd dialogue and no really overt Christian content like earlier Tyler Perry movies.

The Single Moms Club could have been much better.

This article originally appeared on .

Disney, Please Stop Bowing to Gay Agenda

The July 20 issue of TV Guide announced the Disney Channel's plans to feature a lesbian couple on a 2014 episode of their children's sitcom, *Good Luck Charlie*. The article calls the episode "groundbreaking" and refers to Disney as "testing the water" with content that many Americans would label as immoral.

We strongly encourage Disney to not chase the whims of political correctness and instead to simply "Be Disney."

Disney represents good, fun and wholesome. Millions do not flock to Disneyland so they can experience edginess or groundbreaking political correctness. No, they go because Disneyland is good, fun and wholesome.

Every parent wants to find movies and television programs they feel good about letting their children watch. There simply has been no greater studio than Disney to deliver great stories for the whole family. It's no wonder that Movieguide has handed out more Best Family Movie awards to Disney than any other studio. That's because they are Disney, and Disney is good, fun and wholesome.

Yet it's a disappointment to millions of Americans that Disney would choose to become a groundbreaker in immorality. New concepts of morality have had a very negative impact on marriage, families, and children. Instead of becoming a leader in political correctness, we encourage Disney to hold on to

their title as the leader in good, fun and wholesome.

It will also be good for business, that's for sure. The research shows time and again that movies and programs that have moral content (though some consider old fashioned) actually make MORE money at the box office and on television than their more raunchier and politically correct competition. That's because most people want the kind of programs that Disney has become legendary in creating.

We hope Disney realizes the legacy and, yes, the obligation, that they have to the millions of parents around the world that want Disney to simply be Disney.

We will know the future of Disney by whether they elect to air this episode on the Disney Channel or whether they choose to stand with millions who look to Disney to give us the good, the fun and the wholesome.

How Does Steve Jobs Movie Handle Apple Founder's Buddhism?

Jobs is a biographical movie based on the life of technological icon and founder of Apple Computers Steve Jobs. Spanning from 1971 to 2001, with Ashton Kutcher playing the title role, *Jobs* tries to show the passion and motivation behind the complex innovator.

In the 1970s, Jobs, a college dropout, is trying to figure out his life. Looking for purpose, he experiments with drugs and even travels to India, only to find himself working for an

intolerable video-game maker.

When his childhood friend Steve Wozniak (aka Woz) shows Jobs his new computer board, Jobs sees the potential in it. Together, he and Woz form a small team, building computer boards and selling them. They call their new little company Apple. Before long, Jobs finds an investor to give their startup company the proper financial backing it needs.

In 1977, Apple launches the Apple II personal computer, and it's a massive hit. Now at the helm of a multimillion-dollar company, Jobs finds himself facing new problems, especially with board members who see him as a liability to the company due to his tough working manner. His perfectionism and obsession with details begins to destroy longtime relationships and worries the financially minded board. Eventually, the board sees fit to kick Jobs out of Apple. Angered by their lack of vision, he ventures on his own, creating the computer company NeXT.

Years pass, and Apple is on a downward spiral. Jobs, now in a stable marriage and emotionally under control, is asked to come back to Apple, this time as interim CEO. The rest is history.

Jobs succeeds in many aspects, but it isn't perfect. In one respect, it tries to bite off more than it can chew in terms of plot. Yet in character, it oversimplifies a complex man and only scratches the surface of his story. Though the climax may have been clear in the screenwriter's eye, it fails to communicate to the audience emotionally.

Factually, *Jobs* isn't entirely accurate, but it properly portrays Steve Jobs' unstoppable drive and unprecedented passion for quality. The movie lacks a certain amount of emotion and heart until its final moments. However, much of this is due to the fact that Jobs led a complicated, nontransformational life until his recent death. Instead of

having a large fictitious character arc, *Jobs* shows both the inspiring aspects and destructive elements of the inventor's life. It also leaves the final judgment up to viewers.

Jobs has a mixed pagan worldview. Though Steve Jobs was a Buddhist in real life, this is ignored for the most part in the movie and only hints at New Age Hinduism in his early years. Still, most of the movie is pagan.

However, this is combined with some strong moral, capitalist and even pro-life sentiments. Jobs' drive for creating quality products relates to the biblical mandate in Ecclesiastes 9:10, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (NIV). On the other hand, Jobs fails to balance this sentiment with family and friends, so the movie shows the negative effect of his obsession with work.

Steve Jobs was adopted. In the movie, he struggles with the fact that his biological parents didn't want him. He laments in one instance, "Who has a baby and throws it away like it's nothing?"

In *Jobs*, though Steve is not meant to be a role model per se, he is an inspiration for many due to his desire to change the world with the talents he had. *Jobs* contains plenty of foul language, some implied sexuality and drug use, so extreme caution is advised.

This article originally appeared on .

Review: Learning to Establish

Lifelong Friendships in 'Monsters University'

Two of our favorite characters, Mike and Sulley, return to the big screen, this time to go to school, in the new animated family comedy from Pixar and Disney, *Monsters University*. *Monsters University* has a lot of heart with a strong moral worldview, though some monsters may be scary for very young children.

Mike has always wanted to be a “scarer,” the top line of monsters who scare human children at night. Ever since being a young monster, he has dreamed of getting into the best scarer school, called Monsters University, and that day has finally come.

Attending his very first class as a screaming major, Mike is extremely excited—until he comes across James Sullivan. Sulley comes from a famous family line of scarers. Sulley is the opposite of Mike. He’s in the program because his whole family is known to be good scarers, but Sulley himself has become very lackadaisical. He never tries very hard, while Mike studies and works extremely hard. Even so, it is Sulley who gets into the best fraternity.

One day Mike and Sulley get into such an argument that they tip over the dean’s biggest accomplishment. The dean, named Hardscrabble, isn’t amused. As punishment, he kicks Mike and Sulley out of the program.

Completely in distress, Mike is saddened—until he is reminded of the scare competition. Mike convinces Dean Hardscrabble that if he and his team win the scare competition, he can come back to the scare program. However, if they lose, Mike will be thrown out of the university altogether.

In order to get more team members, Mike allows Sulley on his

team, but the rest of the team is filled with underdogs. Huge odds are against their team, but they must learn to get along, work hard and strive for something together.

Monsters University is a great family movie, with plenty of wholesome laughs, heart and soul. The animation is great, and the plotline is clear. Mike and Sulley are great characters that must learn to work together even in the midst of their differences. They also learn that friendship and taking care of others are keys to success. However, some of the monsters may be too scary for very young children, so light caution is advised.

Content Watch: Very strong, wholesome moral worldview about working together, hard work, perseverance, friendship, taking care of others and rooting for the underdog, plus one monster is a New Age hippie; no foul language; some action violence, with monsters tripping and falling; no sexual content; no nudity; no alcohol use, but monsters have a college party; no smoking or drug use; revenge that's rebuked; and lying.

This article was originally posted on .

Mark Burnett, Roma Downey Discuss Epic New Miniseries, 'The Bible'

Evy Baehr, of Movieguide TV, talks to Mark Burnett and Roma Downey about their new television miniseries *The Bible*, which premiered Sunday on the History Channel. Find out more about *The Bible* and what the couple hopes to accomplish with the series.