

## McGee and Me - 3

*Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long. Psalm 25:4-5 ESV*

*How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your word. With my whole heart I seek You; let me not wander from Your commandments! I have stored up Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:9-11 ESV*

*Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18 ESV*

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 ESV*

**Do the Bright Thing** - Nick wanted to buy a new drawing table. Louis thought Nick should buy a bike. The art table was important to Nick as an artist. The salesman didn't push Nick to buy it but suggested that Nick talk with his parents. Nick's parents said that he saved the money and if he wanted to buy an art table he should. Nick still wasn't sure if it was the right decision. He parents told him he should pray about it.

Do you let other people help you with your decisions? Do you pray about decisions?

**Do the Bright Thing** - What is the right thing to do? There are always several things to consider when making a decision. Sometimes in the middle of trying to decide our emotions take over and we think we need something that isn't really that important to us or maybe something that we cannot afford. It takes time to make wise decisions. It also helps to talk to someone we respect.

Who do you talk to when you make big decisions?

**Take Me Out of the Ballgame** - Thurmond was a good baseball player but all he could talk about was himself. Whatever Thurmond wanted Nick would do for him. Even though Nick and his dad were excited about having Thurmond on their team, Nick's sister could see through his selfish ways. She said, "God is supposed to be the center of our attention; He is the One we put our trust in."

Is there a person you put too much trust in?

**Take Me Out of the Ballgame** - "No single player can do it all. It takes a whole team to win a game." Everyone was putting their faith in Thurmond, that he would win the game for them. Thurmond thought he couldn't lose and carelessly struck out. The Bible says that "*pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.*" God wants us to trust in Him instead of ourselves.

Do you know someone with an arrogant attitude?

**'Twas the Fight Before Christmas** - Nick believed that without a doubt the best time of the year was Christmas. Nick couldn't understand how Derek could hate Christmas. Nick said he always knew that Derek was headed for real trouble, but now that it was happening it was hard for Nick to see. When Nick tried to tell Derek about Christmas it made a difference in Derek's life.

Do you know that God loves you? Is there someone in your life who needs to know that God loves them?

**'Twas the Fight Before Christmas** - Nick told his mom that it was too bad that everyone couldn't experience the joy of Christmas. She replied, "But they can. Christmas is about God's love and it is for everyone -- from poor ragged shepherds to rich and power kings -- even thieves. Remember the thief on the cross and how Jesus loved him and forgave him. No matter what we've done God will forgive us if we ask Him. The message of Christmas is for everyone all year long."

We've all done wrong things but Jesus will forgive us and help us straighten out our lives if we ask Him.

*Dear Lord, please come into our hearts. Live in us and help us to be the people You created us to be. Forgive our sins and fill us with You Holy Spirit. Replace our fears with Your hope. Take away our sadness and fill us with Your joy. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*