

Ten-year-old Chick Flick

By Preston Gillham

I'm not usually one to split hairs on film genres, but there are chick flicks and then there are chick flicks. If the only thing a movie has in it is romance, then it is a chick flick, pure and simple. But my world has expanded. My niece introduced me to a new concept: ten-year-old chick flicks.

Not only is our niece ten years old, but the actors in *"Little Manhattan"*¹ are ten-years old, as well. I was prepared to slog through a poor movie, but there was a good fight scene, and the story was fun. But what was especially nice was our niece being with us, sitting between Dianne and me, building memories.

Reminiscing is one of the universal activities that bonds families. Most of the fun conversations, heartiest laughs, and greatest points of connection occur with a recounting of memories at reunions, around the dinner table, or sitting together after a family event.

One of these days of eating pizza and watching *"Little Manhattan"* will be one of the reminiscences that our niece and Dianne and I share. It will be part of the fabric that weaves our hearts and souls together and makes meaningful conversation likely. The ten-year-old chick flick is part of setting the stage for the coming years. As the future unfolds, our bond will tighten because we have built memories together.

And what is the secret ingredient? A quantity of time together. Nothing fancy, just a solid investment of time in each other.

After studying the structure of the Bible, I'm convinced God created relationships on earth so we could comprehend His idea of relationship. While it is important to God that our sins are forgiven and our names written in heaven's roll, the only explanation for why this world exists is that God desires relationship. We certainly have nothing to contribute to Him beyond our engagement with Him.

But God is large and intimidating. He knows everything, is never wrong, and is the richest person in the world. Spending time with God is preposterous when you think about it. But He knew this and came up with ingenious ways of helping us embrace relationship with Him. At a basic level, He gave us earthly relationships to mirror His idea of a spiritual relationship.

When you define it this way, it becomes clear that spending time with God and building a relationship with Him is akin to watching TV together, taking walks, relaxing, going on drives, enjoying dinner, and so forth. Relationship is about time and lots of it. Invest quantity time and you will gain quality time enhanced with shared experiences that prompt reminiscence. This is true here, it is true in heaven.

¹ *Little Manhattan*. Written and directed by Mark Levin and Jennifer Flackett. Produced by Regency Enterprises and Pariah Films. Distributed by 20th Century Fox, 2005.

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