



**Asbury Church**  
a United Methodist  
Community

**CHRISTMAS**  
IN THE  
**MOVIES**

**“It’s a Wonderful Life”**

December 13, 2015

Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 13:1-3

**I. George Bailey’s story**

- A. George was constantly thinking of the needs of others ahead of \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. George felt like his entire world was \_\_\_\_\_ in on him.

**II. Angels in the Bible**

- A. When God wants to announce \_\_\_\_\_ news that’s hard to believe and is part of God’s plan he sends angels.
- B. Angels show up when people are \_\_\_\_\_ and need encouragement.
- C. Hebrews 13:2 reminds us that angels may look like \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. A Change in perspective**

- A. Clarence is going to show George what the town would have looked like had he never been \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Every single one of us has an \_\_\_\_\_ that we can’t imagine.
- C. God sends \_\_\_\_\_, his angels, as instruments of healing, hope, and encouragement for others.

**Things I would like to remember about today’s message**

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## Asbury Daily Study Guide

### Monday: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

George Bailey contrasted his father's life and "wealth" with Mr. Potter's, saying, "Well, in my book he died a much richer man than you'll ever be!" Potter was wealthy, but he attained his wealth at the expense of others. George's father and George lived lives full of ups and downs, helping and serving others. When we view life in the light of eternity, George was right. Do you find an eternal perspective encouraging, or do you find it frustrating?

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### Tuesday: Luke 12:23-34

In the film, George Bailey cried, "You sit around here and spin your little webs and you think the whole world revolves around you and your money! Well, it doesn't, Mr. Potter!" Today, as when Frank Capra made *It's a Wonderful Life*, headlines often suggest that the whole world DOES revolve around money, and the power of people who have lots of it. What measures do you use to evaluate your own and others' significance? Are your measures closer to Mr. Potter's, or the ones Jesus suggested?

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### Wednesday: Proverbs 14:31, 31:8-9, Psalm 82:1-4

Mr. Potter referred to people like Ernie Bishop as "discontented, lazy rabble." To which George responded, "Just remember this, Mr. Potter—this rabble you're talking about, they do most of the working and paying and living and dying in this community. Well, is it too much to have them work and pay and live and die in a couple of decent rooms and a bath?" Do you ever have opportunities to speak up, to defend the poor and the voiceless? Are you willing to use them?

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### Thursday: Acts 5:17-20; 12:1-11; 27:21-26

In *It's a Wonderful Life*, we meet a charming, unusual character: "Clarence Odbody, Angel second class." Clarence gets a very serious task: to help George see his life's value clearly, so that he doesn't give up. What's interesting is that, without the theatrical touches, things like that really happen. Acts records at least three key times when divine messengers freed or saved an apostle facing prison or death. When has an angel, human or otherwise, turned your life from going down into darkness and toward God's light?

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### Friday: John 10:7-15

Jesus said he came "so that they could live life to the fullest." Sometimes we picture a life lived according to God's principles as dreary, dutiful, devoid of joy. That's how it began to seem to George Bailey, until Clarence showed him what his town would be like if he had never lived. In Clarence's words, "Each man's life touches so many other lives ... You see, George, you've really had a wonderful life" —the kind of "life to the fullest" Jesus promised. What voices have played the biggest role in lifting your vision above the empty promises of materialism?

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### MOVING FORWARD

George Bailey felt like his entire world was crashing down upon him when his uncle misplaced an \$8,000 deposit. George was contemplating suicide until his guardian angel help change his perspective on life by showing him what the world would have been like had he never been born. Every single one of us has an impact that we can't imagine. This week identify as many things as possible that have made your life wonderful.

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**Answers to the sermon notes:** IA) himself, B) crashing. IIA) big, B) discouraged, C) people. IIIA) born B) impact, C) us.