

Little Mermaid Q & A

In choosing the Little Mermaid Jr. production we realize it may cause some questions to come up. It is always nice to know that people are willing to keep us accountable to holding up biblical standards! Below are a few common questions we are glad to answer. (If you have any others we would love to discuss them with you too!)

“How will you handle the mermaid costumes?” We have a dedicated and sensitive costume team that has a passion for creating beautiful, modest, and God pleasing costumes. We plan to take a suggestive approach to the costumes of this underwater wonderland by putting the characters in coat tails, dresses, and free flowing materials to give an impression of being underwater, instead of actually having children climb into fish outfits. Let your mind rest at ease that potentially awkward costumes will be tastefully taken care of.

“Are you teaching children that disobeying will get them what they want?” Ariel is told directly by her father **NOT** to interfere with the human world. Ariel does not listen, and not only does she interfere with it, in the end she gets the prince, she gets her legs, and she gets her happily ever after. *We certainly do not want to send the message to any children that disobedience is the way to get what they want.* In fact we would like to point out the flaws in the story. We want them to look at it with a critical eye and teach them how to think with a biblical worldview. In asking them, “do you think Ariel did the right thing?” we want them to reflect on the story and realize that she did not deserve the prince, or her legs...but most importantly she did not deserve her father’s love. She deserved her father’s just wrath and punishment. Yet she was not punished. Her father did not let the witch keep her as a slave forever, instead he took her place and became the witches slave. In Isaiah 53 we read “...each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Isaiah was referencing sheep, we all like sheep have gone astray. We can understand sheep and realize they wander...but he was speaking to the culture of his day. We don’t see shepherds to often anymore, if at all. We can’t fully understand and relate to the “sheep” metaphor as the original readers would have.

So what does our culture understand and relate to? Disney. We have the opportunity to take a familiar story and share it with people who may never go to church or listen to a sermon, but they might take their family to see “The Little Mermaid” and if we can get them to understand that we all like Ariel have gone astray, we’ve all done our own thing, gone our own way and disobey are father God...yet God has piled all of our sins, everything we’ve done wrong, on Jesus. We don’t get the punishment we deserve. We don’t get the anger of our Father...we get His love.