

Home Alone 1990 PG

Director Chris Columbus

Starring

Macaulay Culkin

Catherine O'Hara

Peter Heard

Joe Pesci

Daniel Stern

Synopsis

Home Alone is the story of Kevin, a little eight year old kid in a large wealthy American family who accidentally gets left behind when his family go to Paris for Christmas. Kevin doesn't know that he got overlooked. He thinks that because he got annoyed with his parents and brothers and sisters and was angry when he unfairly got sent to bed, he made his family disappear by wishing them gone.

At first, the idea of being able to do what he likes without people telling him off is fun. He spends time eating junk food, bouncing on the bed, watching movies and messing about with his brother's room, but the novelty soon wears off and Kevin realizes that being without his family at Christmas is horrible.

Meanwhile two bungling burglars have their eye on Kevin's house. Knowing that the family is going away, they determine to rob it, not realizing Kevin is there. Kevin, discovering their plot, determines to outwit the burglars with a series of boobytraps.

Kevin isn't afraid of the burglars, but he is afraid of Marley, his neighbour, - an elderly man who generously shovels snow off the road to help those around him. Kevin's brother tells him that the man is a murderer who has killed people with his snow shovel.

As the story unfolds, Kevin foils the burglars, his family fight to get back from Europe to be with him and Kevin learns something about his neighbour. Kevin drops into his local church where a choir is rehearsing for a Christmas concert, and Marley comes across to talk to him. Kevin learns that the Marley does indeed have a secret, but it is not that he is a murderer but that he has had an argument with his son and doesn't talk to him any more. He has come to the church because his granddaughter is in the choir and this is his only chance to see her.

Kevin, realizing how much he misses his own family urges the man to contact his son, to get over his pride and his fear and try to get a reconciliation.

All works out for the best. On Christmas Day Kevin wakes up thinking at first that his family will never come back only to be surprised by all of them. And out of the window he sees Marley embracing his son as that family are reunited too.

Some excerpts to watch:

Kevin kisses his family's photograph

Kevin talks to his neighbour in the church

The reunion scenes

Some Bible passages

The Prodigal Son: Luke 15.11-32

Matthew 18.12-14

Matthew 7.1-5

Some questions

What does this film tell us about the importance of family life?

What does the film say about outcasts or scapegoats?

What does Kevin learn from Marley and what does Marley learn from Kevin?

What does this film tell us about salvation?

What does this film tell us about material things and people?