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LIFEWAY - SADDLE RIDGE RANCH
DAY ONE - WHO AM I?

1 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - DAY - ESTABLISHING - WIDE - DAWN 1

The WESTERN SKY stretches as far as the eye can see -- puffy, white clouds float above the rolling foothills of the Rocky Mountains as our THEME MUSIC plays.

CALEB (V.O.)

Big puffy clouds ... bright blue
skies ... rolling foothills ... God
created some beautiful country out
here . . . and it's my worst
nightmare. Now don't get me wrong---
I love looking at that stuff as
much as any of you, but I like
seeing it through a window, in the
air conditioning. Kinda like you're
doing right now.

TILT DOWN to establish "SADDLE RIDGE RANCH" [TITLE GRAPHIC],
an upscale, yet rustic, "dude ranch," laid out like a small
western town with a main street lined by wooden buildings ...
and filled with adventure.

GENTLE DISSOLVE
TO:

2 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - DAWN - THE EDGE OF MAIN STREET 2

CALEBTER exits his cabin in a polo shirt half tucked into his
shorts wearing flip flops. He is freeze framed tripping down
the stairs.

CALEB (V.O.)

That's me. Now I bet you're
wondering what's a guy like me
doing at Saddle Ridge Ranch. I'm
asking the same question.

We see a CLOUD OF DUST RISING into the sky as a HERD OF
HORSES are "driven" down Main Street -- several dozen Pintos,
Paints, Mustangs, Appaloosas, Palominos, etc. -- majestic
horses in a variety of colors and sizes, race through "town,"
guided by COWBOYS who are <yelling> and <hollering> as they
herd the "MORNING ROUND UP" toward the CORRAL at the end of
the dirt street.

THE NOISE is intense and exciting ... as the HORSES pass, the
camera catches MAX running out of his cabin. He's already
wearing a big black cowboy hat, plaid shirt, and chaps.

MAX

Horses!

Max is freeze framed as he jumps over CALEBter.

CALEB (V.O.)

That's Max. He's a lot of fun -

Max lands and calls over his shoulder.

MAX

Come on, CALEB! We're gonna be late. You know what they say--"the grass is always greener."

CALEB (V.O.)

But, I'm pretty sure he doesn't know what that means.

CALEBter slowly gets up just in time for JONI to come running past him, turns and tosses him his flip flop in one motion. Freeze-frame mid turn with flip flop in midair. She is in jeans and a pearl snap shirt.

CALEB (V.O.) (CONT'D)

That's Joni, Max's sister. She pretty much knows everything.

YVONNE comes out of her cabin and quietly closes the door behind her. Freeze frame as she turns around.

CALEB (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And last, but not least, Yvonne. Don't really know much about her yet.

All the kids meet at the fence as horses rumble by.

JONI

(over the rumble of horses)

Isn't this exciting!?

CALEB looks at Joni.

JONI (CONT'D)

What? Aren't you excited to be here? We get to be with the horses all day!

CALEB (V.O.)

(puts his hand up to block the sun)

I'll probably get a sunburn.

JONI (CONT'D)
There are animals everywhere!

CALEB (V.O.)
(slapping his neck)
Like mosquitoes.

JONI (CONT'D)
And we get to rough it just like in
the old days!

CALEB (V.O.)
I think I'm gonna be sick.

CALEB (CONT'D)
(his best "good attitude"
voice)
Sounds great!

JONI
I knew you were excited. This is
gonna be a blast!

As the HORSES <rumble> down the street, a grizzly young
wrangler, JED, ambles over toward the fence on horseback. He
stares at the campers.

JED
Welcome to Saddle Ridge Ranch. I'm
Jed, and I'll be working with you
cowpokes this week. Any questions,
any comments, concerns -- come to
me ... Any complaints, you tell
those to your horse. Now, let's
meet the horses.

JONI
We get to pick our own horses,
right?

JED
Well, something like that.

MAX
I want the biggest one!

JED
(laughs)
That's fine by me. What about you,
little lady?

YVONNE
I don't care which one I get.
They're all beautiful.

JED
Let's head to the corral.

Jed rides off to the corral; the kids walk.

3 EXT. CORRAL - MORNING

3

The kids reach the fence and look at all of the horses to choose from.

CALEB (V.O.)
I've never been this close to a
horse before -- they're really big!

CU of horse's eyelashes.

CALEB (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Check out those eyelashes!

JED
Have any of you ridden a horse
before?

Max and Joni raise their hands. Jed jumps down from his horse. He follows the actions he describes. Max mimics all of Jed's motions with his "air horse" like he already knows what he's doing. However, it does seem like he is half a beat behind everything Jed does.

JED (CONT'D)
Let's go over some basics. Horses
are very smart. Always approach a
horse from the front so they know
you're there -- give 'em a little
pat, and show them that you're a
friend.

Now, we ride western saddle
here. To mount up -- grab the
reins, put your left foot in the
stirrup and take a few little
jumps, then pull yourself over the
saddle with one big move. The reins
are attached to a bridle, and the
bridle to a "bit" in the horses's
mouth -- that bit is what controls
the horse. You pull to the right
and he goes right, to the left and
he goes left.

CALEB
That's a lot to remember.

JED
 Soon it'll be second nature to you -
 - just like falling off a horse.

CALEB
 Huh?!?

JED
 (laughs)
 Cowboy humor. Now before we go out
 there. I want you to know that
 there's a saying in the Old West--
 "A cowboy doesn't pick a horse, the
 horse picks a cowboy."

MAX
 Whatever that means.

JED
 (to the girls)
 Ladies first!

Jed brings some horses over to meet the girls.

CALEB
 I hope none of the horses choose
 me.

MAX
 Awww, CALEB, nothing to be 'fraid
 of. Just follow my lead.

Max jumps over the fence and heads towards MIDNIGHT -- a
 beautiful black Arabian. The Horse is huge compared to Max.
 Max tries to approach Midnight, but he backs up every time
 Max gets close.

Jed delivers Ranger to Joni -- then notices Max in the middle
 of the corral.

JED
 Now, what's he doin'?

MAX
 (pointing at Midnight)
 I want this one, but he won't --

Max turns around and Three O'Clock is right there and nuzzles
 him. Three O'Clock grunts. Jed rides up.

JED
 Looks like you've been chosen, Max.

Max turns around to look at Midnight, but he's gone. We notice in the background CALEB is being followed by BUTTERCUP -- a spotted APPALOOSA with a kind spirit. CALEB's gait becomes faster and faster.

JED (CONT'D)
He isn't the biggest horse, but
he's the most stubborn.

MAX
Whatever. . . . I didn't want the
black one anyway.

CALEB
(a loud whisper)
Hellllllpppp!

REACTION SHOT ON JED - He just shakes his head and rides over to CALEB and his horse.

CALEB (CONT'D)
This horse has gone crazy!

FOLLOW ACTION as Jed reaches Buttercup and CALEB, who is now pinned against the fence.

CALEB (CONT'D)
She wants to EAT ME!

JED
Nawww, Buttercup just smells
something she likes. What do you
have in your knapsack?

Buttercup nuzzles her snout up close. CALEB carefully hands the backpack to Jed as he cowers. Jed opens it up. He pulls out an apple or two.

JED (CONT'D)
Apples -- that's all she wants. Do
you mind?

CALEB
Take them.

Jed throws an apple to CALEB, who feeds Buttercup. CALEB smiles.

JED
Looks like you've met your horse.

CALEBTER
(smiling) I think horses must be
God's greatest creation!

PULL BACK INTO A WIDE SHOT as each kid is sitting on the fence, petting and bonding with his horse.

JED

They are beautiful creatures. But, you, my friend, are God's greatest creation. The Bible tells us that.

Looks like everyone found their match. All right, let's head into the barn.

Yvonne and Max immediately jump down and lead off their horse.

CALEB (V.O.)

I never thought about being God's greatest creation. That's pretty cool. Maybe this week won't be so bad after all.

CALEB jumps off the fence and lands in manure.

CALEB (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Or, maybe it will be just like I expected.

JONI

Rough dismount, but you really stuck the landing.

Max trots back over and pats him on the shoulder.

MAX

Don't worry. The grass will be greener tomorrow.

PULL BACK....

LIFEWAY - SADDLE RIDGE RANCH
DAY TWO - DOES GOD CARE ABOUT ME?

The WESTERN SKY stretches as far as the eye can see -- puffy, white clouds float above the rolling foothills of the Rocky Mountains as our THEME MUSIC captures the grandeur and excitement of landscape.

WE TILT DOWN to establish "SADDLE RIDGE RANCH" [TITLE GRAPHIC], an upscale, yet rustic, "dude ranch," laid out like a small western town with a main street lined by wooden buildings ... and filled with adventure.

GENTLE DISSOLVE
TO:

4 EXT./INT. TACK ROOM - MORNING

4

The kids have bonded with their horses. Jed is showing them how to care for each one. CALEBter is in jeans today but he is barely patting the horse with the brush while the other kids are really brushing them down.

CALEB (V.O.)

Day Two, I'm still here. (beat) I know . . . I'm surprised, too.

Jed crosses to a black and white Paint horse named Empress. This is Yvonne's horse that is in its stall, unsaddled. Yvonne seems depressed (nothing over-dramatic).

FOLLOW ACTION.

JED

Okay, Yvonne, we've combed down Empress to make sure we got off all the dirt and so that her hair is nice and flat -- now we put on a saddle pad ... and the saddle -- make sure we attach the belt snug, but not too tight. Now we put on the bridle and her bit -- and she's pretty much ready to go!

CALEB

You have to do that every day? That's a lot of work.

JED

Yep, but its important work. When you care about something, you take care of it. Okay, now you guys can do that for your horses.

LONG BEAT while everyone looks around. Yvonne smiles.

JED (CONT'D)

Nawwww -- I'm kiddin'. I'll help you.

DISSOLVE TO:

5 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - DAY - MAIN STREET

5

JED leads MAX on his horse MIDNIGHT, followed by JONI on her horse RANGER, and YVONNE on EMPRESS, and CALEBTER on BUTTERCUP down the Main street as they head out into the fields. Camera catches Jed.

6 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - DAY - FIELDS - FOLLOW ACTION 6

WE FOLLOW the conversation as they ride on horseback
(TRACKING SHOT).

JED
Anybody know what the shodeo is?

JONI
It's kind of like a rodeo, isn't
it?

JED
That's right. It's the big whoop-de-
doo here at Saddle Ridge Ranch. So,
today I want to make sure you get
real comfortable with your horses.
We'll develop your riding skills,
then you'll compete in the shodeo
at the end of the week.

CALEB
Do we all have to do it?

CALEB and his horse begin to go in circles.

CALEB (V.O.) (CONT'D)
(announcer voice)
And now in the center ring, the boy
who can only ride in circles!

Jed gets them going straight. Everyone continues.

JED
Don't you worry. By the end of the
week you'll be ready to go.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - DAY - FIELDS - LATER 7

MAX
(starts singing)
*Ohhhh - Home on the range, where
the deer and the canteloupe play --*

CALEB
I think that's antelope, Max.

MAX
Oh -- what's an antelope?

YVONNE

It's kind of like a deer . . . with horns.

JED

Back in the Old West, this place was filled with bison, elk, moose, even cougars.

CALEB

I'm glad some of that has changed. It sounds kinda dangerous to me.

MAX

You mean kind of awesome! Sounds like the grass was definitely greener back then.

JED

Let's pick up the pace and get some grub.

Jed leads the way at a little quicker pace. The rest follow.

8 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - DAY - RIDING SEQUENCE 8

Jed leads ... Max rides proudly ... Joni ambles along ... Yvonne is enjoying the scenery, but is a bit down... and CALEB slowly follows on Buttercup.

The sweeping landscape is magnificent ... tall grass, lazy streams, big clouds throwing shadows on the ground. We get a real sense of the old west.

9 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - DAY - CHUCK WAGON 9

The riders pull up to an chuckwagon and dismount their horses. CALEB is a bit bow-legged. They sit around on the ground near a cooking campfire. GABBY, the cook, joins them.

GABBY

How many orders of rattler? Filet of Rabbit? Vulture Stew?

The kids look at each other.

CALEB

I think I'm allergic to all of that . Can I get a grilled cheese?

GABBY
(grunts)
 Arggg.

YVONNE
 Do you really serve rabbit -- like
 little bunnies with floppy ears?

GABBY
 We don't usually serve the ears,
 but I can fry some up if you want
 'em.

Yvonne and Joni make a sour face and turn away.

JED
 Slow down, Gabby. These cowpokes
 are new to the ranch. Why don't we
 start them off with the Saddle
 Ranch Surprise?

GABBY
 Comin' right up.

Gabby leaves.

MAX
 You guys are wimps. I've eaten frog
 legs and alligator. This'll be a
 snap.

Gabby returns with a sample plate of snake (white meat
 wrapped in a snake skin) and a bowl of Vulture Stew with some
 feathers on the side. She puts the food down in the middle of
 the table and smiles at the group.

JED
 This here's one of a kind.

JONI
 I don't think I can eat any of
 that.

JED
 Sure, you can! Just like the
 cowboys of the Old West. Max, why
 don't you go first and tell
 everyone how good it tastes?

MAX

Yes. I would love to. But . . . I actually had a really big breakfast and I just don't think I could eat another bite of anything.

JED

Interesting. . . . CALEB, you want to give it a try?

Slow push into EXTREME CLOSE UP of CALEB.

CALEB (V.O.)

I didn't want to try it, not even a little bit. But I knew Jed wouldn't give us something gross, so I fought everything my brain was saying and did it anyway.

CALEB pops a snake bite into his mouth. SLOW MOTION: Chewing, chewing. The girls' eyes get big.

JED

What's the verdict?

CALEB

Tastes like chicken.

Gabby brings out a plate of grilled cheese sandwiches.

GABBY

I brought some grilled cheese for the weak stomachs.

JONI

I think I'm gonna try the snake.

She takes a bite.

JONI (CONT'D)

Come on, Yvonne. It's pretty good.

YVONNE

Okay.

Max grabs a grilled cheese and starts eating.

JONI

Max, I thought you weren't hungry.

MAX

It's strange. That's what I thought, too.

JONI

Well, there's still some snake left.

MAX

I've already started this. I don't want to be wasteful.

JED

That's alright. There's snake in the grilled cheese.

Max gags a little and runs from the table.

JED (CONT'D)

I'll go check on him. You kids finish up.

CALEB and Joni reach for a grilled cheese.

CALEB

Yvonne, do you want one?

YVONNE

Nah!

CALEB

You don't want to be here either, do you?

YVONNE

No, I love it here.
(pausing, and taking a deep breath)
I got a call from my best friend last night. She told me her parents are getting a divorce.

JONI

Oh, I'm sorry.

YVONNE

I just can't believe it. My friend is so upset. I love her parents. . . . It's a total surprise.

JONI

That's tough. It's hard to understand why things like this happen. Especially to people we love.

YVONNE

Yeah.

JONI

My grandma died last year. My dad told me that even in tough times I need to remember that God does care about me. And no matter how I feel, I can trust Him no matter what.

CALEB (V.O.)

I didn't say anything. I just sat there thinking about what Joni said. Maybe being out here isn't the worst thing that could happen to me.

DISSOLVE TO:

10

EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - DAY - WIDE

10

WE PULL BACK kids are all on horseback and TILT TOWARDS THE SKY.

LIFEWAY - SADDLE RIDGE RANCH
DAY THREE - WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR ME?

11 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - DAY - ESTABLISHING - WIDE - DAY 11

The WESTERN SKY stretches as far as the eye can see -- puffy, white clouds float above the rolling foothills of the Rocky Mountains as our THEME MUSIC fills the cool air.

WE TILT DOWN to establish "SADDLE RIDGE RANCH" [TITLE GRAPHIC], an upscale, yet rustic, "dude ranch," laid out like a small western town with a main street lined by wooden buildings ... and filled with adventure.

GENTLE DISSOLVE
TO:

12 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - DAY - FIELDS 12

They ride across the fields, like a scene out of Bonanza - except it appears that CALEB bounces up and down in the saddle while the other kids seem in total control.

JED
How you doing over there, CALEB?

CALEB
I actually think I'm getting the
hang of th --

CALEB takes his eye off his horse to look at Jed and loses his balance a bit.

Joni, Max and Yvonne join them on their horses -- they seem pretty much in control.

They pick up speed to a gallop. CALEB's eyes widen at the thought of his horse galloping.

CALEBTER
Oh, boy. . . . Here we go.

They continue down the hillside and across the field.

13 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - DAY - OUTDOOR PRACTICE CORRAL 13

Jed leads them galloping into the show ring. They all follow and stop, as Jed turns his horse toward them.

JED

Okay, you young guns learned a lot yesterday. So, lets talk about the shodeo.

CALEB

I just want to make sure I have this straight. Like, two days from now we have to perform stunts -- on horses -- in front of people.

JED dismounts as the conversation continues. The kids dismount also.

JED

Yep. In two days, we're going to win the event by racing barrels, dodging poles, and shooting arrows.

CALEB (V.O.)

I began to think of things that might happen that could get me out of this. Tornado -- too scary. Abduction by aliens -- not possible. Bad weather, like thunderstorms -- Bingo!

CALEB looks up into the sky for clouds.

CALEB (CONT'D)

What if there's bad weather?

JED

We go on rain or shine, but don't you worry. I feel like it'll be sunny the rest of the week. Max -- ya think you can try the poles?

MAX

Please, I majored in poles.

JONI

You majored in poles? When, in third grade?

JED

Great. Max'll wrangle the poles. Joni, talk to me about archery. You think you can hit the mark?

JONI

Bullseye is my middle name!

CALEB (V.O.)
Well, that's out of the ordinary.

JED
Okay, Yvonne. What would you like to do?

YVONNE
Well, I sing.

JED
Do you now?

JONI
I didn't know that.

YVONNE
Yeah, I could ride and sing. Would that be okay?

JED
That could be great. Does anyone play an instrument?

Joni shoots her hand into the air. CALEB has disappeared from view.

JONI
I play guitar, mandolin, and cello.

MAX
Why don't you play your cello on horseback? THAT I'd like to see.

JONI
(to Max)
And what instruments do you play?

JED
Okay, cowpokes, let's focus on the shodeo. So that only leaves CALEB. What event do you want to do?

CALEB uncrouches from behind the horse trough.

CALEB (V.O.)
I was always bad at the hiding part of hide-and-peek.

CALEB (CONT'D)
I'm not trying to brag, but I've always been told I'm a really good spectator.

JONI
Come on, we're all nervous.

MAX
I'm not scared.

JONI
OK. Everyone with half a brain is
scared, but we can do it.

JED
How about the barrels?

CALEB looks around.

CALEB
(half laughing)
I think this is a bad idea.

JED
You'll be surprised by what you can
do.

YVONNE
I'm kinda scared, too.

JED
Yvonne, you'll be a star. You all
will be. Now, everybody, follow me.

FOLLOW ACTION of Jed showing the kids the poles, the archery
range, anything shodeo-related. Music plays over this action.

14 EXT. CORRAL - DAY - MAX AT THE FENCE

14

Three O'Clock comes to the poles and comes to a screeching
halt. He tries again and it happens again.

MAX
I think my horse is broken.

JED
Three O'Clock knows you're nervous.
You have to believe you can do it
before he'll try.

MAX
I'm not scared.

JED
Don't tell me. Talk to your horse.

MAX
(quietly to the horse)
 Okay, I'm a little scared, but I
 know we can do this. Let's try
 again.

Max walks the horse toward the poles and Three O'Clock starts
 right in with ease. .

15 EXT. CORRAL - DAY - CALEB AT BARRELS 15

CALEB and Buttercup walk through the barrels as directed by
 Jed.

CALEB (V.O.)
 Please don't die! Please don't
 die!

16 EXT. CORRAL - DAY - JONI AT ARCHERY RANGE 16

Jed watches as Joni hits the target once -- twice. The next
 arrow goes right through Jed's hat.

JED
 Well, two out of three isn't bad.

17 EXT. CORRAL - DAY - YVONNE ON HER HORSE 17

Yvonne's horse prances while she is practicing singing.

GENTLE DISSOLVE
 TO:

18 AT THE RIVERBANK. LATE AFTERNOON. 18

Joni and Yvonne stand at the riverbank. They are pitching
 rocks or doing something active. The conversation is slow and
 deliberate.

JONI
 I had no idea you could sing,
 Yvonne. You're going to be great.

YVONNE
 I really like to sing. I just never
 have the opportunity. I'm kind of
 excited about it.

JONI

Hey, did you talk to your friend last night?

YVONNE

I did. It's just hard to find the right words to say.

JONI

Do you know if your friend is a Christian?

YVONNE

She is. (pause) But, I'm . . . I'm not.

JONI

Oh. . . . Well, being a Christian doesn't make life perfect -- when bad stuff, like what your friend's going through happens, it still hurts. But when you know God has a plan for your life, it does make dealing with the tough stuff a little easier.

YVONNE

What do you mean?

JONI

Yvonne, God cares about you. He cares about your friend. When life gets tough, you can count on God to listen to you, to care.

YVONNE

I believe in God. I just . . . I don't know, I guess I just never have taken the steps to become a Christian.

JONI

Do you want to do that? If you do, I can help you.

YVONNE

You know, I think I've been ready to become a Christian for a long time. I just didn't know how.

JONI

You just have to remember the ABCs.

YVONNE

ABCs?

Joni stops what she's doing and focuses on Yvonne.

GENTLE DISSOLVE
TO:

19 CG OF ABCS

19

JONI (V.O.)

Right. A stands for ADMIT. You admit to God that you're a sinner. We all are sinners. . . .

YVONNE (V.O.)

Admit to God that I'm a sinner. . . .

JONI (V.O.)

And B stands for BELIEVE. You must believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son, and accept His gift of forgiveness.

YVONNE (V.O.)

I do believe that Jesus is God's Son. And I accept His gift of forgiveness.

JONI (V.O.)

C stands for CONFESS. You confess your faith--that means you tell others--that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Lord.

GENTLE DISSOLVE
TO:

20 AT THE RIVERBANK. LATE AFTERNOON.

20

YVONNE

A-B-C. Admit . . . believe . . . confess.

JONI

If you're ready to do that, we can pray together.

YVONNE

I am ready.

Joni takes Yvonne's hand and they begin to pray.

CUT TO:

21

EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - EVENING - WIDE

21

Everyone else has left the corral but CALEB is still out working the barrels.

CALEB (V.O.)

Everyone else is having dinner, but
I couldn't even think of eating
with the shodeo only two days away.
(pause) Don't tell anyone, but I'm
actually having fun.

CALEB turns and gives the camera a wink.

LIFEWAY - SADDLE RIDGE RANCH
DAY FOUR - HOW CAN I BE LIKE JESUS?

22 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING - WIDE 22

THOUSANDS OF BRIGHT STARS dot the WESTERN Night Sky as our
 THEME MUSIC fills the dark canyons.

CALEB (V.O.)

Ya' never notice the stars in the
 city. You see one or two, but there
 are thousands up there. I can't
 believe I'm saying this, but I'm
 gonna miss that when I go home.

WE TILT DOWN to establish "SADDLE RIDGE RANCH" [TITLE
 GRAPHIC] The moon is so bright it seems like a spotlight,
 casting its moonbeams across the hilly nightscape.

GENTLE DISSOLVE
 TO:

23 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - DUSK - CAMPFIRE 23

EXTREME CLOSE-UP OF a MARSHMALLOW that's being roasted on a
 stick over a ROARING CAMPFIRE -- it tans in the heat above
 the fire before it gets a little too close to the flame.
 Suddenly, the stick catches fire and Max is forced to stomp
 the fire out, losing a marshmallow.

JONI

Okay, there has to be a better way.
 Everyone check your bag for
 something to cook these things on.

The kids dig through their bags.

YVONNE

*(looking through her backpack or
 saddle bag)* Hey, I have skewers!

JONI

This pack has chocolate candy bars
 in it!

Joni turns back to the fire to see Max with a marshmallow on
 a skewer holding the marshmallow deep in the fire.

JONI (CONT'D)

You're going to burn it.

MAX
I like it that way.

JONI
But, Max, don't burn all of the
marshmallows. We have to share.

CALEB
*(looking through his backpack or
saddle bag)*
Hey! There are graham crackers in
my bag! You know what that means?!

Joni and Yvonne look at each other, getting the same idea at
the same time.

EVERYBODY
S'mores!

MAX
(at the same time)
Someone's been going through our
bags!

He looks around.

The marshmallow flames up and turns black as Max pulls it
towards him. Jed enters with more firewood.

JONI
Hey, Jed, someone put all the stuff
we need to make s'mores in our
bags!

JED
Hmmm! Someone must've known it
wouldn't be a campfire without 'em.

Max takes the burned marshmallow and eats it.

MAX
(mischievously) Yum ... but I'm
the guy who has the marshmallows. .
. . Maybe I'll share, maybe I
won't.

Jed throws some wood on the fire. Jed sits down and looks up
toward the sky filled with millions of stars.

JED
A lesson from the Old West, my
friend.

(MORE)

JED (CONT'D)

It's important that people help each other --neighbors helping neighbors ... building a barn, shoeing horses, branding cattle --

MAX

That sounds horrible. (pause) Can we try it?

JED

Why don't you start with sharing your marshmallows? We're a team, Mighty Max. And I want you to remember that at the shodeo tomorrow.

MAX

Mighty Max. . . . I like that.

JED

We win as a team or lose as a team, and each of you has to help each other.

CALEB

I just hope I don't let you guys down.

He holds out a graham cracker.

YVONNE

Same here.

She holds out a chocolate bar.

JONI

We'll have each others' backs.

She holds out a marshmallow.

They all look at Max.

MAX

What?!?

He shrugs and then puts out his skewer.

MAX (CONT'D)

Okay, okay -- I get it.

Jed smiles.

JONI

(singing)

*Oh, give me a home where the
buffalo roam,
Where the deer and the antelope
play,*

(looking at Max)

*Where seldom is heard a
discouraging word
And the skies are not cloudy all
day.*

What's the second verse?

Yvonne starts to sing...

YVONNE

(singing or speaking)

*Where the air is so pure, the
zephyrs so free,
The breezes so balmy and light,
That I would not exchange my home
on the range
For all of the cities so bright.*

They all smile ... and think in silence, staring at the night sky.

CALEB (V.O.)

The song is right. The city lights are so bright sometimes you miss stuff. Like stars and the sound of crickets.

(hits a mosquito)

But not those! Nope! Won't miss those one bit.

YVONNE

Hey, guys. I have a bit of an announcement to make.

MAX

(standing to his feet, and acting as if he's speaking through a megaphone) Announcement! Announcement! Give Yvonne the floor, please.

YVONNE

(begins sheepishly now that Max has embarrassed her) Well . . . I wanted to tell you guys that I became a Christian last night.

CALEB
That's great, Yvonne!

MAX
Awesome!

After Max makes this statement, he disappears without anyone noticing.

YVONNE
I knew I was ready to do it. I just didn't know how. So, Joni told me the ABCs of Becoming a Christian.

JED
That's great, Yvonne. I'm proud of you.

YVONNE
Now, I just have to figure out -- how can I be like Jesus? That seems like a tall order.

JED
You know the Bible is our guidebook. There are lots of lessons in there that help us know how to live our lives.

We hear <THE SOUND OF A RATTLESNAKE'S RATTLE>.

CALEB
What was that?

Jed listens closely.

JED
Don't move. Everybody stay put.

Jed grabs a FLASHLIGHT and enters the tack room.

The <RATTLE> becomes louder.

CLOSE ON JONI & YVONNE

JONI
That sounds like a rattler!

YVONNE
As in "snake"?

CALEB
(very quickly, like a reflex)
 Rattlesnakes -- otherwise known as
Crotalus Sistrurus -- use their
 venom to paralyze small prey.

Both of the girls stop being afraid and look at CALEB, puzzled.

JONI
 How do you know that?

CALEB
 Discovery Channel. I watched Snake
 Week before I came out here.

The <RATTLE> becomes even louder and the group remembers their fear.

YVONNE
(nervous)
 Do you remember what they said
 about the rattle getting louder and
 louder?

CALEB
(takes a gulp)
 No way! At this point I would
 change the channel.

They slowly back away and CALEB puts the girls behind him.

24 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - NIGHT - WOODS 24

We see the BEAM OF JED'S FLASHLIGHT scanning the woods -- then it stops.

JED
 I got ya!

We HEAR the <RATTLE> SHAKE and DROP.

25 INT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - BARN ATTIC 25

The girls <scream>.

JONI AND YVONNE
 Aaaaaahhhhhhh!

JED (O.S.)

I got him!

Jed comes back to the campfire. He is holding onto Max by the collar. Max is holding a CHEAP RATTLE (like a baby rattle).

JED (CONT'D)

Here's our rattler!

JONI

RAT is more like it!

CALEB

Max! Not cool!

MAX

C'mon, guys. Just a little campfire joke.

YVONNE

Not a very funny one.

CALEB

I protected the girls while you were gone, Jed.

Jed hands his cowboy hat to CALEB.

JED

You're becoming quite a cowboy, CALEB.

YVONNE

That'll help your sunburn, too.

The group chuckles and gives praise when CALEB puts on the hat. He gets caught up in the cowboy moment.

CALEB

Yeee haw!

MAX

Easy, CALEB. You know what they say...green grass comes before a fall.

The group looks at each other, puzzled by Max's statement.

CALEB (V.O.)

That one was probably the closest yet.

CAMERA GRADUALLY PULLS BACK FROM THE SCENE.

THE GROUP IS CHUCKLING, ALL IN GOOD HUMOR. They go back to making 'smores.

CALEB (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Max is getting closer to using that "grass is greener" thing correctly, Yvonne became a Christian, and Jed thinks I'm a real cowboy! I'd say we're all changing this week. The only thing left is to live through the shodeo. Guess we'll find out how that goes tomorrow.

26

EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - NIGHT SKY

26

We TILT UP towards the night sky.

LIFEWAY - SADDLE RIDGE RANCH
DAY FIVE - WHAT DO I DO NOW?

27 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - ESTABLISHING - WIDE - DAY 27

Our MAIN THEME MUSIC fills the WESTERN SKY that stretches as far as the eye can see -- big puffy white clouds float above the rolling foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

WE TILT DOWN to establish "SADDLE RIDGE RANCH" [TITLE GRAPHIC], an upscale, yet rustic, "dude ranch," laid out like a small western town with a main street lined by wooden buildings ... and filled with adventure. CALEBter is finally looking like a cowboy. He has on jeans a snap shirt and his new cowboy hat. He is getting everything straightened as he walks to the corral.

CALEB (V.O.)

Shodeo day. I didn't expect to survive this long, and I really didn't expect to be so excited about getting on a horse today.

CALEB (CONT'D)

(to camera)

But I am!

He begins to climb on and loses his balance and falls off. He gets up and dusts himself off.

CALEB (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Okay... still excited!

GENTLE DISSOLVE
TO:

28 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - DAY - CORRAL - BANNER 28

A HUGE BANNER is strung across the corral archway that reads: "SHODEO TODAY"

29 EXT. SADDLE RIDGE RANCH - DAY - CORRAL - BACKSTAGE 29

WE HEAR MUSIC AND CROWD NOISE in the background as Jed and his team gather "backstage." They have on matching shirts or vests or something alike. They get on their horses as we hear the P.A. Announcer begin.

P.A. ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, welcome to the shodeo!

JONI
Hey, we really look like a team!

CALEB
I've never been part of a team
before . . . unless you count
fantasy football teams!

MAX
Nope, we don't count those.

JED
You've all learned a lot this week.
Some of you had never seen a horse
before and now look at you. Now,
let's show the folks your skills!

P.A. ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
Next up we have Jed's Juniors.
Let's give them a warm welcome.

CROWD APPLAUSE

JONI
That's us!

DISSOLVE TO:

30 EXT. SHODEO CORRAL - DAY - POLES 30

There is a small reviewing stand, and some spectators
watching.

P.A. ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
First up, Max riding Three O'Clock
through the poles.

CROWD
(polite applause)

MAX rides out and races between the poles.

MAX
C'mon. Let's ride.

He goes fast and does well. The crowd applauds.

31 EXT. SHODEO CORRAL - DAY - ARCHERY 31

P.A. ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Next we'll see how Joni handles the
archery range.

Joni comes out and waves to the crowd. Jed is standing near the target and slowly inches away.

Joni hits the target once, twice, three times. The crowd cheers.

32

EXT. SHODEO CORRAL - DAY - BARRELS

32

P.A. ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Next up is CALEB and Buttercup.
Let's watch as they take on the
barrels!

CROWD
(polite applause)

The world begins to move in slow motion.

CALEB (V.O.)
We had practiced and were ready. I
knew I could trust Buttercup and
she knew she could trust me. But
now for the hard part -- starting.
It all felt like it was happening
in slow motion.

CLOSE on the horse that appears to be in slow motion but you pull back and see that CALEB and Buttercup are moving really slow but the rest of the world is in normal speed.

CALEB (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Yep, just me and Buttercup in slow
motion.
Come on, Buttercup -- you can do
it. We've practiced.

P.A. ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Well, those two are certainly
patient, but they're making every
barrel.

CALEB
(*leaning into the horse's
ear*)
Buttercup -- we can go a little
faster.

Suddenly Buttercup really starts to move -- racing between the barrels as CALEB holds on for dear life.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Whoo-hoo!

CALEB (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I should have been scared for my
 life, but this was fun! Ride 'em,
 cowboy!

They finish the routine to LOUD APPLAUSE.

33

EXT. SHODEO CORRAL - DAY - SINGING

33

P.A. ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 Rounding out Jed's team is Yvonne
 on Empress, singing us a song this
 afternoon. If you know the words
 feel free to sing along.

YVONNE
 (*singing*)
 Oh, give me a home where the
 buffalo roam,
 Where the deer and the antelope
 play,
 Where seldom is heard a
 discouraging word
 And the skies are not cloudy all
 day.
 Ohhhh Home, home on the range,
 Where the deer and the antelope
 play;
 Where seldom is heard a
 discouraging word
 And the skies are not cloudy all
 day.

The crowd applauds loudly as Yvonne dismounts.

P.A. ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 Well, how about that -- a real
 singing cowgirl -- take a bow,
 Yvonne.

Yvonne blushes a bit then does a small curtsy. (Is it possible to have the horse bow as well?)

As Yvonne ends, she's joined by Joni, CALEB, and Max. They pose together as the crowd goes wild. They are joined by Jed. Everyone is all smiles.

P.A. ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 What a great performance by Jed's
 Juniors! Just terrific!

FLASH CUT:

They all pose for a group photo holding prize ribbons as we freeze frame.

THE CROWD NOISE SLOWLY FADES AS SCENE CHANGES.

DISSOLVE TO:

34

EXT. THE FOUR KIDS RIVERSIDE

34

JONI

CALEB, you were awesome!

YVONNE

I can't believe we won those ribbons!

CALEB

There's a lot I can't believe. I can do so much more than I ever thought. I never thought I would make it through the week. It's funny . . . when I got here I wanted to be home, and when I get home, I know I'll wanna be right back here. I guess what they say is true--the grass is always greener on the other side. Right, Max?

MAX

I think you used that wrong.

All except Max laugh together.

MAX (CONT'D)

What's so funny?

YVONNE

You know . . . the best thing that happened to me this week . . . was becoming a Christian.

JONI

That's the most important decision of a person's life.

YVONNE

Yeah, I know my life will be different. So, what do I do now?

CALEB

Do you have a Sunday School class you can go to?

YVONNE

Yeah! I go to Sunday School . . .
well, sometimes.

CALEB

That's a great place to start.

JONI

And you can read your Bible. Like
Jed told us, it's our guidebook for
living.

CALEB

You could always email or text us
if you have questions. We're a team
now, and I'm not just talking about
the shodeo.

YVONNE

Yeah!

JONI

Totally!

THE GROUP BEGINS TO WALK OFF TOGETHER DOWN THE MAIN DRAG OF
THE RANCH OR ACROSS A FIELD. Max is just a step behind
everyone.

MAX

For sure...but remember I'm the
leader!

CALEB (V.O.)

I feel like a totally different
person. I can't wait to go camping
with my dad and take all my
friends. They aren't even going to
recognize me in this hat.

TILT UP OR PULL OUT TO WIDE SHOT OF RANCH

THEME MUSIC PLAYS

FADE OUT.