

At the Movies 2018

Life Group Leaders Guide

Objective

This guide contains the information and questions you will need to lead a life group study during our current sermon series. Our aim is to spark Spirit-led, Bible-centered conversations that anyone can participate in regardless of how biblically literate they may or may not be. **The win** that we want you to experience is when your group members **connect** more closely with each other and with God so that they are encouraged to move forward in living out their faith.

Directions

The *Purpose* and *Move* sections are for the leader to read to the group to provide clarity. **Do not feel pressured to cover all the questions.** Decide which ones may work best for your group. You will see brief notes interspersed between groups of questions to help give the group context for their answers. The *Notes and Commentary* section (when included) is optional reading for the leader to get background information and better understanding of the passages before leading the discussion.

Series Overview

We believe all great stories find their source in God's story. Movies in many ways are the dreams of our culture, and we believe the church is meant to be the interpreter of these dreams. As we dive into the stories embedded in movies over the next 4 weeks, we believe that you will be further drawn into God's story.

At the Movies 2018 Series Schedule

Week	Sermon Date	Topic of sermon and life group
1	7/15/18	The Greatest Showman
2	7/22/18	Jumanji
3	7/29/18	Dunkirk
4	8/5/18	Black Panther

The Point Church Life Group Curriculum

The Greatest Showman

Purpose of Study

The purpose of today's study is to address the insecurities within us and embrace the way God sees us.

Flow of Study

Icebreaker: If you saw the movie *The Greatest Showman*, what did you like or dislike about it? Did you have a favorite scene? What interested you about the story?

Move #1: Since the sermon series and life groups are covering similar topics, it might be a good idea (both for content and time) to begin the discussion with some unpacking questions from this Sunday's sermon.

1. Did anything stand out to you from the message this weekend?
2. Is there anything from the message this weekend that you want to apply?

Move #2: Next we will revisit the main text from the sermon, the story of David being anointed king.

Read 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-13 (NIV)

1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."....

6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord."

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." 9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these."

11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

12 So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

1. When Jesse was instructed to bring his sons to meet with Samuel to see which one the Lord had chosen as the future King of Israel, why do you think Jesse might have left David out?
2. If you were in David's shoes, how might you have been feeling when Dad told you to stay home and tend the sheep?
3. Describe a situation in your own life in which you have felt overlooked, unwanted, inferior or undervalued. How did the way others treated you affect the way you viewed your potential?
4. What does the text say Samuel was looking for in Israel's next leader? What was God looking for (also compare Acts 13:22)?

Move #3: Next let's look at a psalm that David wrote in which he expresses his self-image.

Read Psalm 139:1-4, 13-18 (NIV)

- 1 You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.
- 2 You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
- 4 Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.....
- 13 For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
- 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!
- 18 Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.

5. What stands out to you from this text about the way David saw himself?

6. David poetically describes God's work in creating him as a master artist at work, thoughtfully crafting every detail with precision. How does that image square with your own view of yourself?

Note: David says that God's thoughts are precious to him (verse 17). Contextually, he is likely referring specifically to God's thoughts about him.

7. Honestly, how much weight have you given to God's view of you in comparison to other people's view of you? Why?
8. Do you find God's intimate knowledge of you comforting or intimidating, or both? Explain.
9. Describe someone you know whose external flaws were eclipsed by their inner beauty. How did they impact you?
10. If we tend to be self-critical or heavily influenced by others' opinions of us, what are some practical ways we could go about making a shift to fully embracing God's view of us?
11. How does what Jesus did for you in coming and dying on the cross affect the way you see yourself?

Next Steps: The following are things you could challenge your members to do in order to take what you studied in this curriculum further.

- Challenge your group to memorize Psalm 139:14 and pray it back to God every day this week.
- Spend personal quiet time in Psalm 139 repeatedly over the next month, journaling your thoughts.

Prayer: End your study with a time of praying with and for each other. Take requests, but be sure to pray also about what you've discussed today.