



GOD IN FILM

STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

THE BAD GUYS

Is it possible for people (or animated animals) to change?

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10

GOD IN FILM STUDY GUIDES



God in Film study guides combine your two favourite things, God and movies. Upskill yourself for group discussions that explores deep themes. Learn to be the Producer, Director and Reviewer of your own film discussion group.



PRODUCER

Prep for the discussion

How can you make the most use of your time?

- Watch the movie first alone to prepare to facilitate the discussion
- Read the guide for the movie you are watching, decide what your group needs
- Have a running sheet for the way the event will run, or use our template.
- Arrange your physical or online space for group dynamics
- Pray for the group before you meet.



DIRECTOR

Keep the discussion rolling...

How can you make sure the night runs smoothly?

- As the "director", you are not the expert but the person who makes sure the night runs smoothly, not the final authority on film or God.
- Ask an opening question, to get people thinking.
- Watch the movie together all the way through to allow people to develop their own ideas
- Prepare key clips to re-watch and discuss (provided in guides). These help with engagement



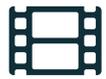
REVIEWER

Help your group members become reviewers

How can you encourage your group to engage with deeper questions?

- Establish a positive culture. Affirm people's comments and encourage respectful listening from the whole group through your example.
- Don't correct ideas but listen, mirror their response and then ask for the group's opinions to keep discussion flowing
- Encourage experiential comments and opinions. When people become more analytical, try and bring it back to the person's experience of the film by asking questions. Use your pre-prepared clips to refresh their initial reactions

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Film Synopsis

Set in Gloucester, Massachusetts, in the United States, the Rossi family make their living within the fishing community. Ruby (Emilia Jones) is 17 years old and is the only hearing member of her culturally deaf family. She serves as the interpreter and negotiator in their business dealings and within the community. Her parents and brother work hard to scrape by in the competitive industry, but their daughter hopes to sing. Because she has not been heard by her family, they have difficulty connecting with her dream or understanding her struggles in life. Their days begin at three o'clock each day and they put in a full day of hard work. Still, after the haul at sea, Ruby must go to school smelling of fish, looking forward to her time in the choir room with Bernardo Villalobos (Eugenio Derbez) and the choir.

Her teacher sees her talent and does all he can to invest in her aspirations of attending the Berklee College of Music in Boston, despite challenges at home where everything is changing in the family business. Even though her family is exceptionally close, they rely heavily on Ruby. Frank (Troy Kotsur) and Jessie (Marlee Matlin) need their daughter to help them with a new business venture. This all leads to tensions and frustrations within the home and at school, mainly as she develops strong feelings for Miles (Ferdia Walsh-Peelo), her new singing partner.



Produce

Planning List

- 1) Watch the Film, what themes can you see? What will your group connect with?
- 2) Prepare some discussion points to highlight these themes (suggested clips (p, 3)
- 3) Prepare a run sheet or adapt the template
- 4) Pray and prepare your space (online or physical)



Direct

Discussion Questions

1. What is your favourite animated series? Why?
2. Where is the line between good and bad? How do you determine the line?
3. Can people change?



Review

In a world where humans and animals coexist, a legendary group of criminals collectively called 'The Bad Guys' roams the streets. The diabolical team is led by pick-pocket Mr. Wolf (Sam Rockwell) with safe-cracker Mr. Snake (Marc Maron) by his side. They are joined by the sharp-tongued hacker Ms. Tarantula (Awkwafina), the master-of-disguise Mr. Shark (Craig Robinson) and the short-fused 'muscle' Mr. Piranha (Anthony Ramos). Wolf is the brains of the outfit and has successfully led several heists with his team. His leadership has helped them attain legendary status due to the audacity of their crimes. He is always trying to be one step ahead of everyone else. The canine leader's mind works like a seasoned chess player planning his moves ahead of time. When he and his team are caught stealing the golden dolphin, he is rattled for the first time when things do not work out exactly as he had planned. - Cliff Philipiah



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Discussion points

Good deeds

During this heist scene, Wolf experiences the effects of a good deed. This potential change of heart leads to a turning point in the film.

Can a simple act of kindness change the direction of someone's life?

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. - 2 Corinthians 5: 17

Can we put someone else's needs ahead of our own?

One of the first tests for the bad guys is to see if they can make unselfish choices. They fail in this clip, but things change towards the conclusion.

Can we put someone else's needs before our own? Is this a learned trait or something within our humanity?

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. - Philippians 2:4



Close the Curtain

What is the catalyst to change?

Turning from your old ways does take more than a therapy session, it does mean that you need to choose to walk the other way.

Can people change their path in life? Is it possible for it to be permanent change? If the answer is yes, is this done through sheer will or is something deeper involved?

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. - Romans 12:2