



GOD IN FILM

STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY

“Life is about courage and going into the unknown.”

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 discussions around key themes of the film.



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.



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Film Synopsis

The manager of the negative-assets sector of Life magazine, Walter Mitty, has been working for 16 years for the magazine and has a tedious life, not going anywhere but to and from work. He is an escapist, daydreaming into a fantasy world many times a day. Walter has a crush on recently-hired Cheryl Melhoff but he is too shy to invite her out and he is trying to contact her via online dating. The magazine is preparing to release its last printed edition and the loathsome manager of transition Ted Hendricks is preparing an inevitable downsizing over the next few days.

Walter has been the liaison between the magazine and the mysterious independent photographer Sean O'Connell, who has sent to him a package of negatives and a wallet as a gift for his work. Sean also suggests to the senior management the use of negative 25 for the cover of the last edition. However, Walter cannot find the missing negative. Walter has no means to contact Sean and finds a clue that he might be in Greenland. He decides to travel to Greenland to track Sean down in the beginning of an unbelievable adventure.



Discussion points

Could you connect with Walter Mitty's character in the workplace and life? Why?

What were some of the themes you could see in the story? Courage, transitions and taking a stand

Was there one thing that challenged you to change you own life? Why?



Close the Curtain

Are you in a rut in your own life? How do you think you can get out of it? Walter had someone to challenge him, do you?

"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." —Proverbs 3:6

How do you make decisions in life? Books, signs, prayer, chance... what is your path to wisdom?

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. - Proverbs 1:7

Does God factor into your life and how you make decisions? How?